

In this new outdoor mural detail at the Olathe Downtown Library, artists Isaac Tapia and Rico Alvarez depicted a magical forest where the paths and bridges are made of books and the only limit is one's imagination. Leopold Gallery, Art Consultant

## CITY OF OLATHE ELECTION RESULTS

On Nov. 7, Olathe voters retained John Bacon as mayor and Robyn Essex as Ward 1 City Councilmember. Voters elected Matthew Schoonover to an At-Large City Council position and Dean Vakas to the Ward 2 position. Their swearing in ceremony is planned at the Jan. 9, 2024 City Council meeting.

Olathe City Council elections occur in odd numbered years with elected City Councilmembers to serve four-year, staggered terms.



**John Bacon**  
Mayor



**Robyn Essex**  
Ward 1  
City Council



**Matthew Schoonover**  
At-Large  
City Council



**Dean Vakas**  
Ward 2  
City Council

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Visit [OlatheKS.gov](http://OlatheKS.gov) and click on **NEWS** for additional Olathe news.

# OLATHE'S SUCCESS SHINES IN 2023



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

2024 is almost here, and it's going to be another exciting year for Olathe! That, of course, wouldn't be possible without everything we accomplished in 2023.

More than 153,000 people now call Olathe their home and we continue growing. Once again, we lead Johnson County in residential building permits. The attraction businesses have for making Olathe home is also strong. In 2023, investments in Olathe include a new \$257 million Walmart packaging plant, a \$405 million Coca Cola bottling plant, and a \$31 million Chick-Fil-A distribution center.

### Making Strong Connections Downtown and Across Town

In April, the new Olathe Downtown Library opened to further support learning, new experiences, and connecting people. More than 105,000 people have already discovered the new library's opportunities for their growth. This is just one way our beautiful downtown is evolving into a destination for residents and visitors. This fall, thousands gathered at the new Johnson County Square to enjoy the Johnson County Old Settlers Days and the Olathe Arts Festival, and much more is scheduled for this new park in the coming year.

We also hope to welcome more businesses downtown next year. The City of Olathe purchased two downtown properties in 2023 with a

third property's purchase set for early 2024. This supports new dining and retail development in the heart of our city.

In addition to connecting people downtown, we're also making it easier for people to get from place to place. This year we continued working on another safe, reliable, and train-free travel connection with the 119th Street extension project. This addresses residents' priority for greater efficiency for east-west travel through our city. It is scheduled to be completed in 2026. Increased travel efficiency and safety is also in the works for the I-35 and Santa Fe area. This fall, the State of Kansas announced a \$122 million grant for the work, which is a significant boost for the improvement project. A construction timeline has not yet been set for this project.

### Keeping a Safe, Quality City

Your priority to keep Olathe a safe city is a job we take seriously. We're investing in a state-of-the-art Police Headquarters, opening soon, and a new Fire Station No. 9 for the city's growing north central area.

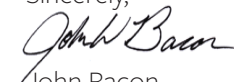
In 2023, the vote to renew the Street Maintenance Sales Tax and the Park Sales Tax told us you value these quality-of-life areas. Your approval helps ensure good streets and one of the best parks systems in the state. We will be good stewards of sales tax renewal funds, just as we are mindful of other ways we allocate your City of Olathe resources.

We approved a financially responsible 2024 City operating budget and five-year Capital Improvement Plan based on resident priorities.

### Thank You

Finally, I am honored you have entrusted me as your mayor for the next four years. We have accomplished much together and I'm excited to work for more extraordinary days ahead for Olathe. Working with you, dedicated City officials, and an amazing staff, we can expect the best. Please reach out to me with any concerns, questions, and your aspirations as we move Olathe forward.

Sincerely,

  
John Bacon  
Mayor

## COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD TO TVH

TVH was honored with the City of Olathe's Community Champion Award, recognizing its community involvement as a significant business partner. TVH supports community events and local needs with resources, personnel, and time. Mayor Bacon announced the new Community Champion Award to honor Olathe businesses at the recent State of the City event.

TVH is a global company that provides parts for material handling, industry, construction, and agriculture equipment.

*Pictured from left: Mayor Bacon, Libby Allman, TVH vice president operations; Simon Witdouck, TVH chief operating officer and senior vice president Americas; Brian Zamzow, TVH vice president human resources; and Brian Hamilton, TVH chief financial officer.*



# CITY OF OLATHE NOV. 7 ELECTION RESULTS

## John Bacon

MAYOR

Mayor John Bacon was elected mayor, beginning his 10th term on the Olathe City Council. He has served as mayor since August 2020, filling the position after Mayor Michael Copeland's passing. Mayor Bacon's other service includes the Kansas State Board of Education (past vice chair), National Association of Boards of Education Finance Committee, Kansas State High School Activities Association Executive Board, and the Board of Directors for the Kansas Foundation for Ag in the Classroom. Mayor Bacon has lived in Olathe for 42 years and is a MNU graduate. He and his wife, Melanie, have three children and four grandchildren.

## Matthew Schoonover

AT-LARGE CITY COUNCIL

Matthew Schoonover is a long-time Olathe resident, having moved here as a child more than three decades ago. Now living in Downtown Olathe with his wife Nicole and two kids, he is excited to get to work on the City Council to help Olathe continue its growth. Schoonover is the founder and managing member of Schoonover & Moriarty LLC, an Olathe-based law firm. He's a member of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection and enjoys volunteering at his kids' school.

## Robyn Essex

WARD 1 CITY COUNCIL

Voters approved Robyn Essex's continued service as Olathe Ward 1 City Councilmember. In 2022, the City Council appointed her to finish Larry Campbell's term, who retired in Dec. 2021. Councilmember Essex is Kansas Representative, District 78, and has served on the Olathe Planning Commission, as precinct committee woman, in Olathe Rotary Club, and on the Certified Emergency Response Team. Councilmember Essex has called Olathe home for 37 years. She and her husband, Steve, have three sons.

## Dean Vakas

WARD 2 CITY COUNCIL

Dean Vakas is a 30-year military veteran and retired Army colonel. Since moving to Olathe, he has worked as vice president of URS Corporation KC regional engineering operations, associate vice president of Park University, and most recently as chief operating officer of K-State's Olathe Campus. Vakas is past chair of Olathe's Planning Commission, and past president of the Olathe Citizens Association. He and his wife, Julie, have called Olathe home since 2006.



Olathe  
**MAYOR'S  
CHILDREN'S  
Fund**

Meeting Basic Needs

**Caring and providing  
for Olathe children's  
needs for 17 years!**

Visit [OlatheCares.org](https://OlatheCares.org)

Learn about the 14 local charities that help care for our kids and more.

This year we expect to surpass \$2 million in all-time donations!

Help us reach this milestone to change an Olathe child's life today.

**Donate at [OlatheCares.org](https://OlatheCares.org)  
or send a check to:**

City of Olathe Mayor's Office  
P.O. Box 768  
Olathe, KS 66051



## IMPORTANT CITY PHONE NUMBERS

Regular Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

[OlatheKS.gov/Government/Facilities-Directory](https://OlatheKS.gov/Government/Facilities-Directory)

**EMERGENCY** .....911

**Emergency TDD/TTY Calls** .....911

### GENERAL INFORMATION

(TDD/Voice) ..... 971-8600

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

(Billing, Trash, Water & Sewer)

1385 S. Robinson..... 971-9311

### FIRE ADMINISTRATION

(Non-Emergency)

1225 S. Hamilton Circle .....971-7900

### OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Indian Creek**

16100 W. 135th St. .... 971-6835

**Downtown**

260 E. Santa Fe St. .... 971-6850

### OLATHE PARKS & RECREATION

**/COMMUNITY CENTER (TDD/Voice)**

1205 E. Kansas City Rd. .... 971-8563

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

501 E. 56 Highway ..... 971-7500

### HUMAN RESOURCES

100 E. Santa Fe St. .... 971-8735

## OLATHE CITY COUNCIL

### John Bacon Mayor

913-971-8500  
(City office)  
jbacon@olatheks.gov

### Wes McCoy

At-Large  
913-269-1035  
rwmccoy@olatheks.gov

### Kevin Gilmore

At-Large  
Mayor Pro Tem  
913-768-8285  
kpgilmore@olatheks.gov

### Robyn Essex

Ward 1  
913-971-6368  
rressex@olatheks.gov

### Adam Mickelson

Ward 2  
913-538-1197  
amickelson@olatheks.gov

### LeEtta Felter

Ward 3  
913-971-6995  
lfelter@olatheks.gov

### Marge Vogt

Ward 4  
913-269-0625  
mvogt@olatheks.gov

## COMING SOON



### CULVER'S

Culver's is opening its second location in Olathe at 13515 S. Mur-Len Rd. The new restaurant will include double-lane drive-through service, indoor seating, and an outdoor patio area.



### ELEVATE SAFEPOINT SENIOR LIVING

Elevate Safepoint Senior Living is currently under construction west of K-7 Highway at 635 N. Millridge St. The community will include assisted living, memory care, and independent living along with many planned amenities for residents. Those include on-site walking paths, outdoor courtyard, dining bistro, clubhouse, salon, and exercise room.



### McALISTER'S DELI

McAlister's Deli, restaurant and sandwich shop, will be constructed at 12025 S. Strang Line Rd., just east of Strang Line Court. The restaurant will include a drive-up window for pick-up orders and covered outdoor dining.

# OLATHE COMMUNITY CENTER KIDS CLUB



Parents have an opportunity to reach their fitness goals at the Olathe Community Center without the worry of finding a babysitter or daycare. On-site Kids Club care is available for children six months to 10 years old for Olathe Community Center members and day pass customers.

Please visit [OlatheKS.gov/OCCKidsClub](https://OlatheKS.gov/OCCKidsClub) for more details.

## HAVE A SAY IN CEDAR LAKE PARK'S FUTURE

5:30-7 p.m., Jan. 11, 2024

Olathe Community Center, 1205 E. Kansas City Rd.



We want to hear what you want in an improved Cedar Lake Park. We will discuss options and concepts for the park's site plan.

City snowplows have names, courtesy of names residents submitted. See those names, access a plow truck tracking map during winter weather events, learn about snow removal operations, and more at [OlatheKS.gov/snOlathe](http://OlatheKS.gov/snOlathe).

**SNOLATHE**  
**MERCHANDISE FOR SALE AT OCC**  
**(OLATHE COMMUNITY CENTER)**

Items for sale include:

- Blue knit beanie: \$8
- Blue snow brush: \$5
- Blue quilted blanket: \$35
- White travel mug: \$20
- Knit hat with pom-pom: \$12
- Blue scarf: \$7

Proceeds benefit the Olathe Mayor's Children's Fund

## YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SNOW REMOVAL

- Park vehicles in your driveway when possible, making sure no part of vehicles extend into the street.
- Remove portable basketball goals, hockey goals, skate board ramps, or other structures to enable plow trucks to reach the curb.
- Avoid shoveling driveway snow into the street. Shovel snow to the downstream side (the direction traffic flows past your driveway) to minimize snow buildup at the bottom of the driveway.
- Shovel the sidewalk adjacent to your property — per Olathe Municipal Code 12.12.030.

## ABOVE ALL — STAY SAFE

- If possible, stay off the roads during snow removal.
- Stay back at least 50 feet from snowplows and avoid passing them. Larger trucks can plow multiple lanes at once.
- Do not build snow forts near streets, and never near snow windrows. Plow trucks may come by again.
- If you have an emergency, dial 911. Dispatchers will contact snow removal operations if needed to assist emergency vehicles.

## PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM OLD MAN WINTER

Old Man Winter already visited Olathe in November, but it's not too late to prevent household headaches. Winter can wreak havoc on your pipes. Here are a few tips:

- Locate your water shut off valve and ensure it's working properly prior to the first freeze.
- Winterize sprinklers before the first freeze.
- Insulate pipes on outer walls with insulation tape or foaming wrap during cold temperatures.

Just in case issues concerning your pipes occur, save the City of Olathe's customer service number in your phone – 913-971-9311.

# LOW INCOME RESIDENTS MAY QUALIFY FOR CITY PROPERTY TAX REBATE

A property tax rebate program is available to income eligible Olathe residents to offset the City property tax. The program’s intent is to help those in need of assistance and ensure living in Olathe remains affordable. A 100% rebate of the City of Olathe property tax portion, up to \$750 (excluding special assessments) may be provided.

## Rebate Eligibility

- Applicant must be a current City of Olathe resident.
- Applicant must currently live in and own their home.
- Applicant must be current on property taxes and special assessments and free of code violations.
- Applicant’s maximum total household income must be at

or below HUD low-income guidelines (considered 80% of area median income) for the fiscal year. (Current 2023 guidelines are below.)

- Applicant will be required to provide a copy of their federal tax return as proof of income. For household members who are not required to file a federal income tax return, proof of social security, veteran, or other benefit payments will be accepted.
- Applicants who have applied for state property tax rebate programs may still qualify for City relief in full (up to \$750).

Visit [OlatheKS.gov](http://OlatheKS.gov) for more information about the Property Tax Rebate Program.

PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
LOW INCOME	\$54,250	\$62,000	\$69,750	\$77,450	\$83,650	\$89,850	\$96,050	\$102,250

## CITY WRAPS UP WATER SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

The City of Olathe has completed the water service line material survey and inspections in cooperation with residents and identified those lines that need replacement. The work was finished more than a year early as required by the Environmental Protection Agency’s revised lead and copper rule. Water service line inspections found 234 private

galvanized steel lines for replacement, which are scheduled to begin in 2024. There is no cost to homeowners for replacements. In addition, replacements will occur on 29 public service lines identified. Beginning in 2025, the City will start sampling with schools and all licensed day care providers.

Questions? Call 913-444-0624 or email [OPREP@OlatheKS.gov](mailto:OPREP@OlatheKS.gov).



Olathe Infrastructure staff Dionte Collins, Jon Anderson, and Kyle Patton verify a water service line inside a meter pit.

*The City of Olathe produces safe, quality drinking water that continues to meet or exceed state and federal health regulations.*



## UTILITIES RATE CHANGES IN 2024

The City of Olathe is experiencing greater costs to provide customers utilities services. Cost hikes for electricity, gas, chemicals, fuel, and construction materials have led to the need for a 2024 utilities service rate increase. Rates for water, sewer, solid waste, and stormwater were raised by a small percentage, impacting the average household by an estimated \$5.82 per month.

Please visit [OlatheKS.gov/Fees](http://OlatheKS.gov/Fees) to see information about individual utilities rates or scan this QR code.





## IN PRAISE OF NEW FOOD WASTE PROGRAM

The City of Olathe's Food Waste Drop-off Program won the 2023 Outstanding Solid Waste Program Award from the Kansas Solid Waste Association of North America, Kansas Sunflower Chapter.

"Food waste is a significant concern as it constitutes a substantial portion of the waste stream, contributing to landfills and environmental degradation," said Olathe Solid Waste Manager Darren Gilbert. "It's heartening to see Olathe residents taking proactive steps to address this issue by using a convenient food waste drop-off location at Olathe's Community Recycling Center."

The Community Recycling Center is located at 1100 N. Hedge Lane.

Pictured above with the 2023 Outstanding Solid Waste Program Award from left are Solid Waste Superintendent Clayton Duffin and Solid Waste Manager Darren Gilbert.

## HOW TO RECYCLE HOLIDAY ITEMS

**Food Waste** from your holiday events can be composted at the Community Recycling Center's new Food Waste facility, 1100 N. Hedge Lane. Visit [OlatheKS.gov/FoodWaste](https://OlatheKS.gov/FoodWaste) for details.

**Holiday lights** can be recycled at the City's HHW facility, 1420 S. Robinson Dr. Call 913-971-9311 to make a drop-off appointment, schedule one online at [OlatheKS.gov/HHW](https://OlatheKS.gov/HHW) or stop by a Saturday drop-off event from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. without an appointment. Find full details at [OlatheKS.gov/HHW](https://OlatheKS.gov/HHW) and on the TrashDay app.

**Artificial trees** must be discarded in the trash, while broken strings of lights can be recycled at the Household Hazardous Waste facility.

**Real trees** can be recycled two ways once free of ornaments

## FOOD WASTE KITS AVAILABLE AT THE OLATHE RECYCLING CENTER

Food waste kits can be purchased at the Olathe Community Recycling Center for \$30, plus tax. You must be an Olathe resident to purchase a kit. Cash is not accepted and the cost will be added directly to your City of Olathe utilities account.

Or, collect your food waste with your own container, using only biodegradable bags/liners, which are available free at the food waste kiosk. NO PLASTIC sacks.

For more information, please visit [OlatheKS.gov/FoodWaste](https://OlatheKS.gov/FoodWaste) or call 913-971-9311.



and lights.

- Place it at the curb for collection on your trash day.
- Drop it off at the Compost Facility located at 127th and Hedge Lane.

**Holiday wrapping** can sometimes be recycled if it's clean, free of glitter, and not made of a shiny material.

**Boxes** should be flattened. If they don't fit in the recycling cart, place them next to it. If the box displays an expensive item that's inside your home, drop the cardboard off at one of Olathe's recycling sites to ensure your safety.

More holiday recycling information can be found at [OlatheKS.gov/Recycling](https://OlatheKS.gov/Recycling).

### OlatheConnect

Look up information or submit a service request 24/7.  
[OlatheKS.gov/OlatheConnect](http://OlatheKS.gov/OlatheConnect)

### Stay Informed

Visit [OlatheKS.gov](http://OlatheKS.gov) and sign up for Olathe news and updates by email or text messages.

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Olathe, KS

CONNECT WITH US



Apps available on the App Store and Google Play

OLATHE CONNECT **TrashDay**



# 1860s Dance Party

CELEBRATE KANSAS STATEHOOD AT MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP & FARM

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

6:30 P.M.

INCLUDES 2  
DRINK  
TICKETS

\$20 PRE-PAY  
MAHAFFIE.ORG  
\$25 AT DOOR



HELP BRING A NEW STAGECOACH TO MAHAFFIE.  
VISIT MAHAFFIE.ORG FOR DETAILS.