

Bald eagles frequently visit Lake Olathe and the Cedar Creek corridor in west Olathe.

## OLATHECONNECT JUST GOT BETTER

Residents can now access an all-new OlatheConnect system designed to provide a more streamlined and efficient communication experience for all users.

The new OlatheConnect provides residents, businesses, and visitors a virtual City Hall, giving them the opportunity to access City Hall, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, from a computer, mobile device, and in the comfort of their own home. In 2023, OlatheConnect users made more than 4,000 submissions to City Hall.

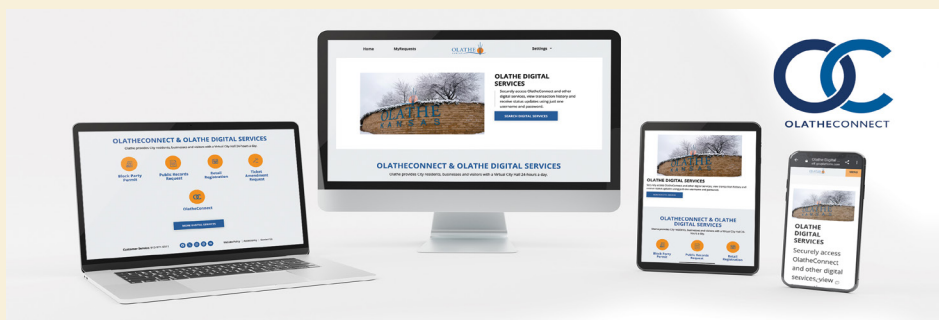
With OlatheConnect users can submit questions, requests, concerns, and

more across dozens of topics requests throughout the City's operations. A pull down menu offers quick access to the most requested topics.

Users will need to create an account to access the new OlatheConnect, giving them more ability to track open requests and previous requests that have been closed.

**Please note:** OlatheConnect is not for emergencies. Please use 911. Requests are not monitored on a 24/7 basis.

Visit [OlatheKS.gov/OlatheConnect](https://OlatheKS.gov/OlatheConnect) to begin using the new system.



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



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

In January, two new City Councilmembers and two members retained by voters were sworn in to “faithfully discharge” their City Council leadership duties. This is an exciting time. New Councilmembers bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the table, and I believe that can make us stronger. As returning mayor, I am looking forward to working together with this great group of individuals. Each shares a true

## MOVING FORWARD

commitment to Olathe, and together, we share a dedication to making sure Olathe remains the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

In a changing world, it's important that we're ready and can adapt to ensure Olathe remains one of the best cities around. Our city continues to plan and prepare to be future ready with the best city services, quality parks, and traffic solutions. It will be necessary for us to think critically and act strategically as we work for this community.

Your City Council maintains our commitment to focus on your priorities identified in the community surveys. If you get a survey, please take it. The surveys provide important guidance as we plan and allocate resources for your City of Olathe priorities. Your valuable input allows City Councilmembers and staff to continue making our community top notch.

We will continue to prioritize your top areas for City services from recent input: street and infrastructure maintenance, traffic flow, public safety, and quality parks. To keep Olathe moving forward the City Council will work collaboratively with neighborhoods, schools, businesses, faith community, health partners, community groups, and others.

Olathe's place as one of the best cities in the nation doesn't mean we stop now. With a strong group of City Councilmembers and dedication to providing excellent City services, together we will continue to ensure the best for our Olathe community. I can't wait to see what the future holds for Olathe.

Sincerely,

*John Bacon*  
John Bacon  
Mayor

## OLATHE CITY COUNCIL SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Welcome At-Large Councilmember Matthew Schoonover and Ward 2 Councilmember Dean Vakas to the City Council. Mayor John Bacon and Ward 1 Councilmember Robyn Essex won their elections to retain their seats on the Council. Additionally, current Ward 4 Councilmember Marge Vogt was sworn in as Mayor Pro Tem.



Matthew Schoonover  
At Large City Councilmember



Dean Vakas  
Ward 2 City Councilmember



Mayor John Bacon



Robyn Essex  
Ward 1 City Councilmember



Mayor Pro Tem Marge Vogt



# KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

Olathe’s 23rd annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration focused on the theme “Know Your Neighbor,” based on King’s 1962 speech at Cornell College. This year, 868 Olathe middle and high school students submitted their interpretations of the theme in visual arts, written, and multimedia in the King legacy contest. The top three winners in each category received cash prizes.



## STUDENT CONTEST WINNERS

### BEST IN SHOW

**Skylar Saragusa**, Olathe South High School, Writing entry titled “The Waiting Room”

### MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-MEDIA

**First place: Delaney Bellamy and Lorelei Modrell**, Santa Fe Trail, “Connect and Communicate”

**Second place: Ashley Enow**, Chisholm Trail, “The Relationship Between Jazz and Civil Rights”

**Third place: Ava Conklin and Olivia Carella**, Mission Trail, “Learning to Love: Lyrical Duet”

### MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING

**First place: Mikayla T. Druzhinin**, Prairie Trail, “Boy In the Blinds”

**Second place: Ellen Kalihamwe**, Pioneer Trail, “The Fear of Hello”

**Third place: Reagan Young**, Prairie Trail, “Ask Them, They Will Answer”

### MIDDLE SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS

**First place: Marleigh Call**, Frontier Trail, “Tree of Unity”

**Second place: Emilia Huerta Torres**, Pioneer Trail, “Connecting to Grow as One”

**Third place: Lily Holthus**, Mission Trail, “Words Can Fly Like Wings”

### HIGH SCHOOL MULTI-MEDIA

**First place: Olivia Kulzer, Braydon Whitlock and Addison Ham**

Olathe South, “I Wish I Knew You Better”

**Second place: Marin Sheehe and Bella Edwards**, Olathe South, “What You Don’t See”

**Third place: Gabrielle Evans**, Olathe North, “With One Accord”

### HIGH SCHOOL WRITING

**First place: Skylar Saragusa**, Olathe South, “The Waiting Room”

**Second place: Gillian Todd**, Olathe East, “The Pulse’s Speech: Poems”

**Third place: Cassidy Rogers**, Olathe East, “Do You Dare”

### HIGH SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS

**First place: George Newham**, Olathe North, “Walk A Mile”

**Second place: Sadi Cleveland**, Olathe North, “An Entangled Community”

**Third place: Ainsley Steenhard**, Olathe North, “What Are We Losing”

*The City of Olathe’s Human Relations Commission partners with the Olathe Public Library, Olathe Public Schools, and Garmin to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

## IMPORTANT CITY PHONE NUMBERS

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

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

**Matthew Schoonover**  
At-Large  
913-971-8797  
mschoonover@olatheks.gov

**Kevin Gilmore**  
At-Large  
913-768-8285  
kpgilmore@olatheks.gov

**Robyn Essex**  
Ward 1  
913-971-6368  
rressex@olatheks.gov

**Dean Vakas**  
Ward 2  
913-971-8773  
dvakas@olatheks.gov

**LeEtta Felter**  
Ward 3  
913-971-6995  
lfelter@olatheks.gov

**Marge Vogt**  
Ward 4  
Mayor Pro Tem  
913-269-0625  
mvogt@olatheks.gov

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Three City of Olathe snowplows displayed new designs this season, thanks to three young artists. Congratulations to Emi, Cassadee, and Katie on their contest-winning plow entrees!



Emi



Cassadee



Katie

## RESIDENTS SUBMIT CREATIVE NAMES FOR CITY OF OLATHE SNOWPLOWS

- |                    |                     |               |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Salter White       | Scoopy              | Dr. Snowflake |
| Fast and Flurrious | Push and Shove      | Ice Jockey    |
| Naploweon Dynamite | Drift Away          | Buzz Iceclear |
| Frosty Flakes      | Jon Snow            | Best in Snow  |
| Ice Ice Baby       | Cool as Ice         |               |
| The Plower Express | Snowbody's Business |               |

## PEAK PERFORMANCE AWARDS FOR OLATHE WASTEWATER OPERATIONS

The people who ensure wastewater collection and treatment and the return of clean water to our waterways received recognition for their efforts. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies tapped the City of Olathe with Gold Peak Performance Awards and the Excellence in Management Award.



Wastewater collection and treatment team with the awards, from left: Mark Higgs, plant maintenance superintendent; Tony Kurkowski, wastewater treatment superintendent; Ira Speer, utility maintenance assistant superintendent; Heather Phillips, wastewater operations manager; and Patrick Karashin, wastewater treatment superintendent.



## OLATHE RESIDENTS DIVERT FOOD WASTE FROM LANDFILL

During 2023, 2,868 residents participated in Olathe's newest recycling program. Through the concerted efforts of residents, they diverted **38,220 pounds of food waste** from landfills.

The food waste drop-off is open to all Olathe residents at the Olathe Community Recycling Center, 1100 N. Hedge Lane.

**TIP:** Bring your photo ID, since the Food Waste program is currently open only to Olathe residents.

Visit [OlatheKS.gov/FoodWaste](https://OlatheKS.gov/FoodWaste) to learn more.



# HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

The City of Olathe provides several housing assistance programs for eligible residents. Each program has specific policies and application procedures to ensure effective assistance to those in need.

The **Housing Rehabilitation Program** offers income-qualified homeowners interest-free, zero percent deferred loans for major home repairs. Deferred loans do not require monthly payments and are only repaid when the property is sold, the title transfers, or there is a change in property use.

The **Critical Home Repair Grant Program** addresses health

and safety concerns by offering grants to income-eligible homeowners for essential repairs such as collapsed sewers, damaged roofs, or faulty furnaces.

**Exterior maintenance** issues identified through the **Community Enhancement Program** can also be addressed.

The **Accessibility Modification Program** provides grants for income-eligible homeowners with physical limitations to remove structural barriers from their homes.

Please visit [OlatheKS.gov/Housing](http://OlatheKS.gov/Housing) or call 913-971-6268 for more information.

## HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS

- HOUSEHOLD OF 1 = \$57,400
- HOUSEHOLD OF 2 = \$65,600
- HOUSEHOLD OF 3 = \$73,800
- HOUSEHOLD OF 4 = \$82,000
- HOUSEHOLD OF 5 = \$88,600
- HOUSEHOLD OF 6 = \$95,150

(HUD.GOV)



City of Olathe  
Housing Rehab Program



## CELEBRATE SPRING AT MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP & FARM HISTORIC SITE

### Spring Break Living History

March 14 – 16  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day.

Admission is \$7 per child ages 5-11, \$9 per adult, and free for children ages 4 and younger. Olathe residents receive \$2 off admission.

Beginning April 6, **Living History** will be offered every Saturday through Aug. 31.

### Spring Homeschool Days

April 25 and April 26

Registration is required and can be done at [Mahaffie.org](http://Mahaffie.org).



### Spring Scout Day

April 27

Scouts should register ahead at [Mahaffie.org](http://Mahaffie.org). Scouts can earn their Mahaffie patch.



### Spring on the Farm

April 27

Activities include sheep shearing and planting in Mrs. Mahaffie's garden. Registration not required.





## REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMPS

### CAMP OLATHE

**Incoming 1st-Incoming 5th Grades**  
**May 28-Aug. 2**

Arts, crafts, nature, sports, games, swimming, and field trips  
 Various locations

[OlatheKS.gov/CampOlathe](https://OlatheKS.gov/CampOlathe)

Interested in swimming lessons? Check the variety of classes offered at [OlatheKS.gov/SwimSafeOlathe](https://OlatheKS.gov/SwimSafeOlathe)

### NEW CAMP OLATHE: CHALLENGE!

**Grades 1-6, June 3-July 26**

Different sports focus each week  
 Meet at the Olathe Community Center

### NEW CAMP OLATHE: PATHFINDERS

**Grades 6-8, May 28-July 27**

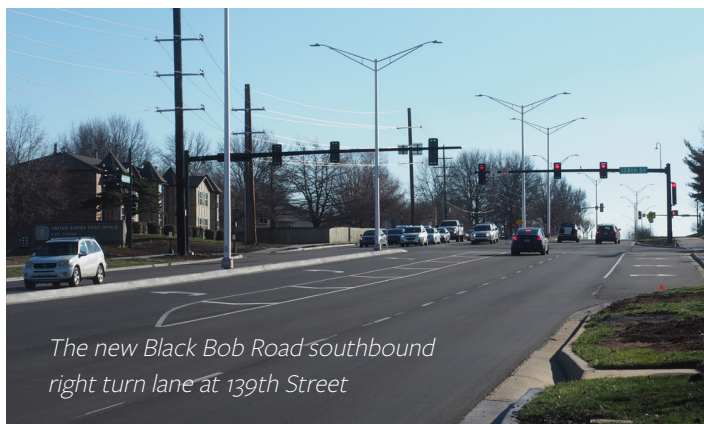
Arts, crafts, nature, sports, games, swimming, and field trips  
 Lone Elm Park



## BLACK BOB ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Black Bob Road improvements are substantially complete from 135th Street to 151st Street. In addition to new pavement surface, new traffic signals were added at 138th Street, right turn lanes were added in all directions at 138th Street, and a southbound right turn lane was added at 139th Street. Other improvements include:

- Asphalt base repair
- Concrete curb and gutter replacement
- Sidewalk and ADA ramp replacements
- Stormwater improvements
- Signal detection improvements
- Pavement marking placements
- Median modifications at 146th Terrace.



*The new Black Bob Road southbound right turn lane at 139th Street*



**Join the Conversation**  
**Black Bob Park Improvements**  
**Feb. 29, 2024 • 5:30-7 p.m.**

### Virtual Public Meeting via Zoom

**Zoom webinar link:**

<https://zoom.us/j/94968162537>

**Webinar ID: 949 6816 2537**

The City of Olathe is planning a new playground, a new picnic shelter, and restroom near the entrance to Black Bob Park. Plus, a new 78-stall parking lot is planned near Black Bob Bay.

Questions?

Contact Park Project Manager Tod Hueser, [tehueser@olatheks.gov](mailto:tehueser@olatheks.gov)





## NEW RECYCLING TRUCK WRAPS REMIND US

Two City of Olathe recycling collection trucks have new designs to remind us of the crews' biggest challenges.



### REMEMBER:

While trash should be bagged before throwing it in the cart, this is not necessary for recycling and can actually lead to recyclables being thrown out. Please leave recyclable items loose in the cart for recycling.



### REMEMBER:

Take non-disposable batteries to the HHW facility at a second Saturday drop-off event or with a weekday appointment. Schedule easily with the Olathe TrashDay app.

**BE THE  
FUTURE  
OF OLATHE**  
YOUR SUMMER STARTS HERE

Spend your summer with us! Apply for a job as a camp counselor, a youth sports official or a lifeguard and start your path with Olathe Parks & Rec. Visit us online for more employment info at [OlatheKS.gov/Jobs](http://OlatheKS.gov/Jobs).



**OLATHE**  
KANSAS

P.O. Box 768  
Olathe, Kansas 66051-0768  
913-971-8700

### 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.

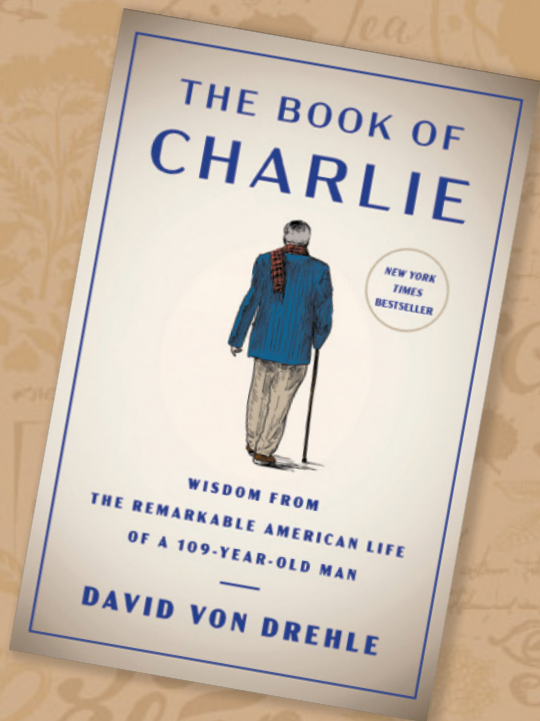
PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 323  
Olathe, KS

CONNECT WITH US



App available on the App Store and Google Play

**OLATHE** TrashDay



## FRIENDS OF THE OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY **NOVEL TEA**

**APRIL 6**  
**2-4 p.m. at Indian Creek Library**

Hear from bestselling author David Von Drehle about “The Book of Charlie,” a story of Charlie White, a 109-year-old Kansas City resident.

Enjoy tea, light refreshments, giveaways, and creative table settings at the Novel Tea.

Tickets on sale beginning March 9 at the Indian Creek Library - \$20 each.

After March 9, any remaining tickets will be sold in the Indian Creek Library bookstore.



David Von Drehle is deputy opinion editor and columnist for The Washington Post, writing on a wide range of topics. “The Book of Charlie” spent several weeks on The New York Times best seller list.