

City of Olathe Always Seeking Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness

Optimizing the City of Olathe's resources in the most efficient and effective manner is a City Council priority that is producing impactful results throughout the community.

- The Olathe Police Department's **Mental Health Co-Responder** initiative is better serving residents and increasing efficiency. The initiative sends a mental health professional along with a police officer to the scene of a crisis. This provides early intervention, referrals to appropriate resources, and follow-up. Since the Mental Health Co-Responder initiative began, the Police Department's repeat calls from the same citizens have decreased by approximately 20 percent.
- In Olathe, 76 percent of all 9-1-1 calls for fire/EMS services are dispatched for medical reasons. The Olathe Fire Department implemented the **Mobile Integrated Health (MIH)** Program to provide the best resources at the right time for those in need.

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Firefighter-paramedic Kevin Harris responds to medical calls as part of the Mobile Integrated Health Program.

National Recognition for Olathe Memorial Cemetery



A shelter house was constructed of native limestone as part of a 1937 Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. By the 1980s, the structure was converted into a chapel, and now houses the cemetery office.

The Olathe Memorial Cemetery is now on the National Register of Historic Places, recognizing the magnitude of its history to the community. The National Park Service approved the nomination on Jan. 11, 2017. Established in 1865, it is the oldest, active cemetery in Olathe. Additionally, it is the only standalone cemetery currently listed on the State and National Registers in Johnson County, Kan. It is located at Woodland and Harold Streets.

The Olathe Memorial Cemetery's foundation for national recognition is represented with early exploration, settlement, and Olathe's development. It also reflects significant aspects of history, including resting places of individuals of exceptional historical prominence.

Olathe resident Watts Beckwith established the cemetery in 1865, plotting 10-acres of his private land in order to alleviate crowding at Church Square. The City has owned the cemetery since 1879. The 26-acre site has several areas of distinguished groups, including the Civil War Circle, a governor's section, and an area known as Potter's Field, which includes graves of some of Olathe's earliest settlers.



Find additional Olathe news at OlatheKS.org. Click on NEWS.

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Mayor's Message

Olathe's Civic-Minded Residents Contribute in Many Ways

The City of Olathe greatly values a transparent local government and an engaged citizenry. To support these values, we have numerous civic engagement and volunteer opportunities available.

Since 2002, 137 individuals have graduated from the Olathe Civic Academy, a program that offers a close-up view of City operations. Academy participants enjoy informative presentations and tours of departments throughout the City organization.

"I am so grateful to have the chance to participate in the Olathe Civic Academy. It has opened my eyes to the need for citizens to get involved in municipal government, as well as the wide range of opportunities available. Everyone has something they can do to contribute, and they should," says Bill Riek, a 2017 Civic Academy member.



Olathe Civic Academy

The Olathe Citizens Police Academy is a similar education program. It gives residents an inside look at various units of the Police Department and a chance to experience a police ride-along. Our Chamber of Commerce offers Leadership Olathe, a community engagement program which has produced numerous city leaders. You'll find these dedicated leaders throughout our community, with some serving on the City's 11 appointed boards, commissions, and committees.



Olathe Teen Council



Vivian Avery with Rich Bott, Bott Radio Network, a presenting sponsor of Olathe's Martin Luther King Celebration.
Photo: Mark McDonald

Vivian Avery, now serving her sixth term on the Olathe Human Relations Commission, understands how volunteering can ignite in residents a greater passion for their community.

"Giving back is among the most important and valuable things a person can do, and I am very passionate about this. Community service and volunteerism are an investment in our community and the people who live in it. My goal is to unite people from diverse backgrounds to work toward a common goal and prove that knowledge, determination, hard work, and sacrifice can make a difference," she says.

Volunteers may serve year-round or support a number of different programs or activities. They represent all ages and backgrounds and bring a variety of skill sets to make a positive difference. Grace Seger, a member of the Olathe Teen Council, shares why she's involved. "It is important for youth to give back to the community that has given us so much already. The rewards of participating in our local government are endless. Becoming involved prepares us for the future, as we garner knowledge necessary to be successful. It also allows the voice of Olathe youth to be heard."

A core group of dedicated Olathe residents checks on elderly residents every day through the Police Department's Operation Lifeline Program. Many assist the elderly or those with disabilities with spring cleaning or minor home repairs. Others support the Olathe Public Library, volunteer in our parks, or serve the Public Works, Police, or Fire Departments.

We want our residents to learn more about their government and find rewarding ways to make Olathe a better place. When your talents and passion are matched with the needs in our community, great things always happen! If you have a desire to serve your City and community, you can learn more by searching "volunteer" at OlatheKS.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland
Mayor



The City of Olathe wants to hear from you as the 2003 Envision Olathe Downtown Masterplan is updated. Share your ideas to make downtown a better place to visit, live, work, and play.

Visit EnvisionOlathe.com and take a few minutes to learn more about this important project and provide your

thoughts through the online survey. Additionally, if you missed the public kickoff meeting, mark your calendars for the Public Design Studio opportunities scheduled April 18 and 19 in downtown Olathe. Discuss ideas, ask questions, and

even draw your own ideas for the future of downtown Olathe. Participants can stay 15 minutes or the entire session. Check the website for more details. We look forward to hearing from you!



What's Being Built in Olathe

Casey's General Store

A new gas station/convenience store is scheduled to be developed on the northeast corner of 151st Street and Pflumm Road. The convenience store consists of a 4,300 square foot retail building and gas canopy with eight double-sided fuel dispensers.

Cedar Creek Marketplace

The Planning Commission recently approved a preliminary site plan for a new shopping center at the southeast corner of K-10 Highway and Cedar Creek Parkway. The development includes a Hen House grocery store, multi-tenant retail buildings, drive-through bank, and free-standing retail buildings with a total of 90,000 square feet in commercial building area.

Chuy's Restaurant

A new Mexican restaurant is planned on the former Joe's Crab Shack site on Strang Line Road, south of 119th Street.

Lone Elm Senior Community

A new three-story senior apartment development was approved at 117th Street and Lone Elm Road. The residential community includes a total of 173 dwelling units, a pool, clubhouse, and enclosed garages.

SurePoint Self Storage

The City Council approved a new climate controlled self-storage building near 134th Place and Black Bob Road. The three-story building includes approximately 650 indoor storage units with computerized access, individual alarms, and 24/7 video recording.

St. Paul Church and School

A new Catholic church and school have been approved on the northwest corner of 115th Street and Lone Elm Road. The two-story school includes 22 classrooms, offices, a gym, and multi-purpose room. A future phase includes a free-standing sanctuary for the church.

Important City Phone Numbers

Regular Business Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Except for Emergency 911, and unless otherwise noted

EMERGENCY 911

Emergency TDD/TTY Calls 911

GENERAL INFORMATION (TDD/Voice) 971-8600

CUSTOMER SERVICE

1385 S. Robinson 971-9311

Billing, Trash, Water & Sewer

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

1225 S. Hamilton Circle (Non-Emergency) 971-7900

Printed on recyclable paper.



OlatheKS.org/ServicesDirectory

OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY

201 E. Park St. 971-6850

13511 S. Mur-Len Rd. 971-6835

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

OLATHE COMMUNITY CENTER

1205 E. Kansas City Rd. (TDD/Voice) ... 971-8563

POLICE DEPARTMENT

501 E. 56 Highway 971-7500

HUMAN RESOURCES

100 E. Santa Fe 971-8735

Olathe City Council

Larry Campbell
Ward 1

913-488-7278
lcampbell@olatheks.org

Michael Copeland
Mayor

913-971-8500
(City office)
mccopeland@olatheks.org

Jim Randall
Ward 2

and Mayor Pro Tem
913-424-3999
jrandall@olatheks.org

John Bacon
At Large

913-269-6305
jbacon@olatheks.org

Wes McCoy
Ward 3

913-269-1035
rwmccoy@olatheks.org

Ron Ryckman
At Large

913-927-5333
rryckman@olatheks.org

Marge Vogt
Ward 4

913-269-0625
mvogt@olatheks.org

Stay Connected With Us



The MIH Program is more effectively providing services and eliminates sending a full-size fire truck on medical calls. Firefighter paramedics and a nurse practitioner medically assess individuals, and make medical referrals for those who do not need to visit an emergency room.

- Building on increasing efficiency and cost effectiveness, the Fire Department placed in service **two squads** of smaller units in 2016. These two-firefighter squads help meet the growing response demands to medical calls. The squads work from two of the busiest fire stations during the days and times most medical calls are received.
- Partnerships and cooperation provide cost savings, efficiencies, and better services to residents.
 - Olathe's partnership with **Johnson County** government is building a shared Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station. This partnership also provides enhanced communications services, such as Notify JoCo, to alert residents about time sensitive information. In addition, the county dispatches services for emergency and non-emergency calls.
 - Collaboration with **schools** offers multiple City-school student development programs, and safer environments with School Resource Officers and crossing guards.
- Replacing Olathe streetlights' high pressure sodium fixtures with light emitting diode (LED) fixtures is cost-effective. The **LED conversion**, and the recent **purchase of streetlights from KCPL**, will save approximately \$225,000 through 2017. More savings are expected as additional LED replacements continue in future years. The LED streetlight fixtures are also longer lasting and more reliable.
- Olathe residents directly contribute to the cost-effectiveness of Olathe's solid waste operation by diverting more waste from the landfill. **Residents' recycling efforts** are helping stabilize operational costs.*
- The City of Olathe is constantly **analyzing the organization's workforce and the way services are provided** to optimize efficiencies and cost-effectiveness. Each time a position becomes vacant, the city manager, assistant city manager, human resources, and budget staff review information from the position's department. If the position is a front-line service provider, such as a police officer or firefighter, the position generally gets approved with adequate justification. If the position provides internal services, such as a professional or managerial job, the department evaluates if the position should continue, or if it can be provided by other staff, or privatized.

*See article on page 6 - **Residents Set New Waste Diversion Record**

Spring Events

Celebrate Olathe Easter Egg Find



Friday, April 7

5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Face painting, games, and more!

Olathe Community Center
1205 E. Kansas City Rd.

Tower 2 Tower 5K

Saturday, May 6, 8 a.m.

Free kids run 8:55 a.m.

Participants receive a free water bottle, t-shirt and a medal upon race completion.

Register at Tower2Tower5K.org.

The Tower 2 Tower 5K supports Water For People, a non-profit that works to bring clean, safe, drinking water to communities in other countries who need it most.



Cathedral Builder Awards

Olathe Cathedral Builder Award recipients were honored for their extraordinary vision, service, and contributions in building our great community at the State of the City event on March 3.




Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland presented Bob and Lila Courtney a Cathedral Builder Award for their dedicated work in preserving the Olathe community's history.



The Olathe Public Schools Foundation was recognized with a Cathedral Builder Award for its strong support of Olathe's excellent public schools. Pictured with Mayor Copeland are Foundation Executive Director Cindy VonFeldt and Board Member Brian Geary.

More Traffic Improvement Projects

143rd Street, Pflumm to Quivira

Construction begins this year to improve 143rd Street to three lanes (two through lanes and a center turn lane), with bike lanes, a multi-use path on the north side of the roadway, and a sidewalk on the south side of the roadway.

151st Street and Mur-Len Intersection

The project will add a right turn lane to all four legs of the intersection and a left turn lane at Scarborough. A new traffic signal will replace the outdated signal. Utility relocations are planned this year with construction in 2018.

Santa Fe and Ridgeview Intersection

Utility relocations are planned to start later this year with construction beginning in 2018. Upon completion, improvements will include:

- two left turn and two through lanes for each quadrant of the intersection
- dedicated right turn lanes for southbound and westbound traffic
- a shared through/right turn lane for northbound and eastbound traffic

Woodland Road, Northgate to K-10

This year, additional turn lane improvements will be constructed at Woodland Road and College Boulevard. A traffic signal will be designed for installation on the south side of the K-10 interchange with Woodland.

College Boulevard, Elm to Woodland

Completed construction of College Boulevard's widening to four lanes is expected by early summer.

For more information, contact Nate Baldwin, assistant city engineer, 913-971-9102.



New Cardio Equipment for Olathe Community Center

This spring, upgraded cardio equipment will be available at the Olathe Community Center. All cardio equipment will be included in the upgrade, such as cycle and upright bikes, elliptical cross trainers, steppers, and a new flexstrider. A new SciFit Total Body Recumbent stepper, a fully accessible piece, will provide safe, comfortable exercise for users of all ages and abilities.

The Life Fitness equipment will have an app to monitor usage and progress, along with new Pandora and Netflix apps. The City of Olathe leases the fitness equipment, which makes possible regular updates to the latest equipment.

Faith Community Part of Olathe's Early Years



Olathe's church history coincided with its early years of settlement. By the 1860s, several denominations were organized and a few began building places of worship. Early congregations included the Methodist Episcopal Church, Christian Church, St. Paul Catholic Church, the Congregational Church, Presbyterian Churches, and the Emmanuel Episcopal Church. The Church of the Brethren has the longest continuous history in Olathe.

Although a few congregations built churches before the Civil War, more were able to construct places of worship following the war. The Kansas School for the Deaf moved to Olathe in 1866 and had a chapel for its residents.



Original Cornerstone

Painting of Early Second Baptist Church by R. Messersmith, 2009

Second Baptist Church was organized in 1868 as First Baptist Church of Olathe Colored. The first church building was dedicated in 1882 near Spruce and Kansas Avenue. An expanded building still serves the community at this location.

New Interactive Options Available at OlatheKS.org

The redesigned OlatheKS.org is offering more interactive choices for users with its enhanced e-notification system. Residents can subscribe to customized e-notifications on selected topics of interest, and choose whether to receive notices via email or text. E-notification subscribers need only enter their contact information once to receive various selected topics.

Another new feature, is a "tagged" agenda for viewers of archived City Council and Planning Commission meeting videos. This on-screen addition will allow viewers to easily follow and find specific meeting topics within the video recordings. Closed captioning of the meetings will continue via the cable broadcast and soon be implemented within the online stream.

OlatheKS.org is built to evolve with new and site user desired communication needs. The City of Olathe welcomes and appreciates suggestions for the website. Residents are also encouraged to send their best videos, photos, and stories to Photos@OlatheKS.org. They may be featured on the website and social media.

Earth News

from the City of Olathe, Kansas

Residents Set New Waste Diversion Record

Olathe residents are keeping more recyclable materials out of the landfill. During 2016, residents diverted a record 44.60 percent of waste from Olathe's waste stream.

This reflects Olathe residents' eco-friendly values, and contributes to waste management cost-efficiency. These recycling efforts translate into a \$252,000 savings of avoided landfill disposal costs for 9,000 tons of materials.

"Increasing waste diversion allows us we to spend less, and keep rates at a reasonable level for our customers," says Kent Seyfried, Olathe solid waste manager.

In Johnson County, Olathe has the only municipally-owned solid waste collection service, which means operational savings provide benefits to our local customers. Whereas, privately-owned solid waste companies return economic benefits to the company, and may not benefit local customers.

Surveys show that 90 percent of Olathe households recycle with the curbside collection service.



Free Mulch and Compost

Olathe residents can pick up free compost and wood-chip mulch processed through yard waste recycling.

Residents should bring a shovel and container to self-load the materials at the Composting Facility, 1100 Hedge Lane. The material is intended for use at residences and it is not to be used for commercial purposes.

This service is available Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Call 913-971-5178 to confirm availability of processed materials and hours of operation.

Need a Larger Recycling or Trash Cart?

Residents can upsize to a 95-gallon blue recycling cart, free of charge, upon request. The trash cart size may also be exchanged, and if residents want a second trash cart it is \$5/month.



Direct any questions and place requests to Customer Service, 913-971-9311. Cart change-outs are normally completed on the next regular trash/recycling service day unless demand exceeds the supply.

Note: Yard waste carts are available for \$75 plus tax. Or, customers may use yard waste bags.



Use the Olathe TrashDay Mobile App

- Get trash day reminders
- What goes where? Find where to dispose various items
- Request a bulk item pick-up
- Report a problem

Help Improve Water Quality with Cost Share Reimbursement



Spring's arrival may have residents thinking about landscape improvements for the yard. The City of Olathe would like you to consider using stormwater management practices while making improvements. This includes strategically placing native plants, stream buffers, rain gardens, and rain barrels. Managing the water coming from impervious surfaces, such as roofs and driveways, decreases stream bank erosion and flooding. It can also reduce untreated pollutants going directly to our waterways, ultimately flowing downstream to the Marais Des Cygnes River, Blue River, and Kansas River.

Olathe residents can participate in a Cost Share Reimbursement program that will provide a 50 percent match, up to \$1,000, on rain gardens, bioswales, stream buffers, or native plantings. A 50 percent match is also available for rain barrels, up to \$75 each (limit two rain barrels per application).

More information and applications are available by visiting OlatheKS.org and searching "Stormwater Cost Sharing."



Rain barrels collect and store rainwater from gutter downspouts for watering lawns and gardens.

Testing Lawn Irrigation Systems a Spring Ritual

Before activating lawn irrigation systems for the season, property owners must have their backflow prevention devices assembly(ies) tested. Letters were recently mailed to remind those with irrigation systems to perform this annual test. Included in the letter is a Hazard ID Number that is unique to each backflow. Please be sure to give this ID number to your tech/company performing the test. This allows for test results to be entered more easily online. Even if you are not planning to use your system this year, the test is still required.

Testing ensures safe water for all water customers by eliminating potential water contamination through cross-connections. Contaminants such as lawn fertilizers, chemicals, and pesticides can enter the public water supply with connections between the irrigation system and the water supply.

For more information about backflow prevention testing, visit OlatheKS.org and search "Backflow Prevention" or call 913-971-9055.



Sign Up for Free Electronic Billing

City of Olathe water, wastewater, and solid waste customers are encouraged to sign up for free electronic billing.

Electronic billing customers receive an email link to their online account login page when the bill is generated each month. Customers have the option to pay their bill in person, online, or mail their payment through the postal service.

Sign up at OlatheKS.org/ElectronicBilling. Once an online account is set up, customers can track water and sewer usage and account balances.

Reader Feedback
Please send your comments to:
Olathe Link
P.O. Box 768
Olathe, KS 66051-0768
linkcomments@OlatheKS.org
913-971-8700

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OlatheConnect

Look for information or submit a service request 24/7.

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Active Agers "On the Go"



For more information about Active Agers, contact Lisa Sewalson, 913-971-8795.

Olathe Parks & Recreation's Active Agers program encourages older residents to stay fit. These popular classes at the Olathe Community Center are now also offered "On the Go" at two of Olathe's senior living facilities.

"We can tailor a fitness program to the residents' abilities, especially for those who cannot get to the Community Center," says Lisa Sewalson, fitness and wellness specialist.

Residents at the Olathe Towers and College Way Village are moving with yoga—SilverSneakers style, and Tai Chi is available at The Gardens at Creekside. Sewalson says expanding "On the Go" to other senior living facilities is one of the program's goals.

Active Agers fitness classes at the Olathe Community Center are available five days a week. Seniors with a SilverSneakers health insurance card can take the classes free, and non-members can participate with a small fee.

Avoid Car Burglaries

During the spring and summer months, the Olathe Police Department sees an increase in thefts from vehicles. Please consider these tips to avoid becoming a victim.

- The best advice: do not leave any valuables in your vehicle in plain sight.
- Always lock your vehicle doors, even if you plan to be away from your vehicle for only a minute.
- When shopping, always place purchases in the trunk before going to the next shopping area to park.
- If you are going to the gym, do not leave any valuables in your vehicle in plain sight. Store valuables in a protected locker. If that is not an option, lock valuables in the vehicle trunk.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- If you don't park your vehicle in a garage at night, remove the door opener.

Visit OlatheKS.org/CrimePrevention to find more crime prevention tips.