



Olathe Residents' Number One Source for City of Olathe Information—DirectionFinder®

AUTUMN 2017



New City of Olathe entry feature near 119th Street and I-35

Your City, Your Government: Always Open for Business

Olathe residents consistently choose the *Olathe Link* as their number one source for City of Olathe information, yet sometimes residents want the latest, up-to-date information on a more frequent basis. In addition to important citizen interactions on advisory boards and at City Council meetings or other public gatherings, the City of Olathe offers residents a number of ways to interact or receive information as quickly as possible.

One of the best ways to engage with the City of Olathe is through social media. Important updates and information are shared through a variety of social media platforms. Staff respond to questions and requests as quickly as possible.

CONNECT WITH US



/CityofOlatheKS



City of Olathe, KS -Official



/gov/CityofOlatheKS



Through City of Olathe eNotifications, you choose the information topics you want to receive and how you receive them. Select from seven areas of interest ranging from City news alerts to Parks and Recreation updates. Among interest areas, you can choose from additional subcategories. Sign up to receive eNotifications via email and/or SMS text at OlatheKS.org/OlatheUpdate.



OlatheConnect is a “virtual City Hall” that gives you access to City information or the ability to make a request from the comfort of your own home or on the go. An extensive list of topics and FAQs

are available for you to access 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. 24/7. Please note: Requests are addressed during business hours. If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1.

The Olathe **TrashDay**



mobile app is a great way to look up your specific collection day and find answers to your questions about trash, recycling, and yard waste. Need to know what goes where? The Waste Wizard allows you to search by item to determine in which bin, trash or recycling, to place your item.

Download the OlatheConnect and the TrashDay apps in the App Store, the Google Play store, or via OlatheKS.org.

Stay current on what is happening in Olathe at OlatheKS.org. **Select Meetings & Events** to see the City event calendar.

Watch City Council and Planning Commission meetings via live stream or on demand at OlatheKS.org/OGN, or on Comcast channel 7, and AT&T U-verse channel 99. Olathe is the only Johnson County city broadcasting and streaming these meetings. Johnson County Commission meetings are also shown at OlatheKS.org/OGN. And, visit YouTube.com/CityofOlatheKS to catch the latest news and information on video.

Olathe will continue to adopt new methods to keep you connected, informed, and engaged.

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



Mayor's Message

We Can Be Thankful for Much in Olathe

The holiday season is approaching, and it's always a good time to reflect on the many blessings we can be thankful for as a community.

We can be thankful for the quality of life that makes Olathe one of the best places in the country to raise a family, go to school, and earn a living. It seems the entire nation now knows this, given our continued recognition in top community rankings. Olathe is among America's 50 Best Cities to Live, based on the unemployment rate, home values, and job market, according to 24/7 Wall St., just announced in October.

Olathe residents continue to say they feel safe in our city. We can thank our first responders, who are second to none, for their excellence in providing public safety services. Our Fire and Police Departments continuously look for ways to make Olathe an even safer place for all of us.

We can be grateful for a community known for attracting high-quality educators, reflected in the outstanding young people graduating from both our secondary schools and institutions of higher education. We can thank City employees who truly have a heart for public service, revealed every day in their commitment to the residents they serve.

Our community's compassion and generosity are ever apparent in how we meet the critical needs of our children through the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund. Olathe is fortunate to have wonderful local charities, and many of them are supported by the Fund. Our 2018 beneficiaries include:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City
- Catholic Charities
- Center of Grace – Children's Shoe Fund
- Center of Grace – Clothing Closet
- El Centro
- Friends of the Olathe Public Library
- Health Partnership Clinic
- Inclusion Connections
- Johnson County Christmas Bureau
- KVC Kansas
- Mission Southside
- Olathe Family YMCA
- Olathe Public Schools Foundation
- Preferred Family Healthcare
- SAFEHOME
- Salvation Army

We are a city that serves others, with dedicated volunteers in our vibrant faith community, City organization, schools, and many other agencies. Our unity shines as we demonstrate compassion for those affected by recent tragedies. We are so thankful for those who have assisted the thousands impacted by this year's hurricanes, wildfires, and tragic acts of violence.

Most of all, I am incredibly thankful for YOU, our residents, for making Olathe the very special community we are.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving,

Michael Copeland
Mayor

#OlatheThankful
Tell us what You are Thankful for in Olathe

Show us what makes you thankful to be a part of our community.

Using **#OlatheThankful**, submit your photos to **Photos@OlatheKS.org** or on social.

/CityofOlatheKS



Citizens Honored with Community Awards

The Olathe Human Relations Commission and the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Board presented the City of Olathe Community and Accessible Community Awards on Oct. 12.

Community Awards celebrate businesses, civic organizations, and individuals who have made a significant contribution to enhance human rights, equality, cultural diversity and the pursuit

of disability inclusiveness.

The 14th Annual Community Awards event, attended by nearly 200 people, took place at the Olathe Community Center to honor the distinguished citizens.

Music was provided by the Ayllu Band and the Buffalo Soldiers presented the flag.



2017 Community Awards Recipients

Front row, from left: Daytona Hodson, Amanda Yoksh, Angela Parks, Darren Odum, Jennifer O’Gorman, Amy Leuszler, and Zachary Kulphongpatana

Back row, from left: Bryan Reagan, George Dunmore, Ian Grillot, Gary Kendall, Jason Herman, Spencer Child, and Henry Basile

Not pictured: Zelma Richardson and David West, accepting on behalf of Humanitarian Award Winner James R. West (posthumous award)

See all Community Awards winner photos and bios at OlatheKS.org/CommunityAwards.

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

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Ward 1
913-488-7278
lcampbell@olatheks.org

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913-424-3999
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Marge Vogt
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913-269-0625
mvogt@olatheks.org

CONNECT WITH US



Apps available on the App Store and Google Play

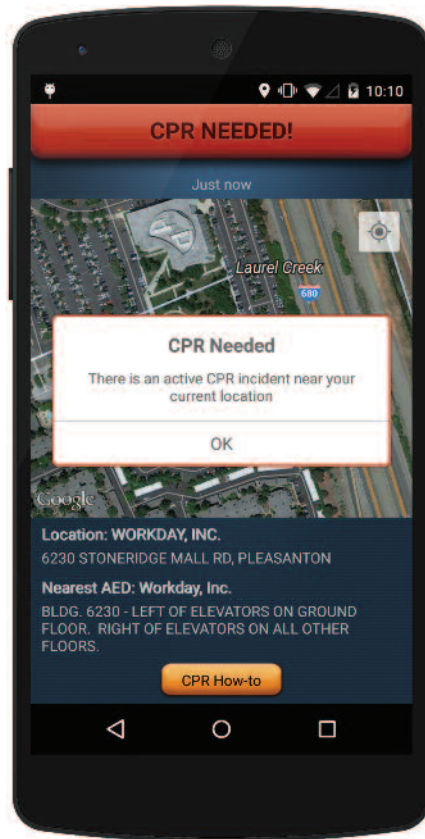
OLATHE CONNECT TrashDay

Life Saving PulsePoint App Available

PulsePoint! It's a free mobile app now available to help save lives in Olathe and throughout the Kansas City region. This innovative technology alerts citizens who are trained in hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) when someone in a nearby public place suffers cardiac arrest. When first responders are dispatched to a scene, public safety communicators send simultaneous alerts to those with the PulsePoint app.

The app also alerts users of the closest available automated external defibrillator (AED).

"It can take minutes for emergency responders to arrive, and since seconds count when sudden cardiac arrest occurs, technology like PulsePoint can be life-saving," says Olathe Fire Chief Jeff DeGraffenreid. During 2016, the Olathe



Fire Department trained hundreds of people in CPR, adds DeGraffenreid.

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States and it affects more than 350,000 people every year. Effective hands-only CPR provided immediately after a cardiac emergency can double or triple a person's chance of survival, according to estimates from the American Heart Association. Only 46 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims received bystander CPR in 2016. Even fewer received a potentially lifesaving therapeutic shock from a public access AED.

The free PulsePoint Respond app can be downloaded through the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. Once the app is installed, select the agency serving the area where you live or work to receive alerts. Users may follow more than one agency.

143rd Street Improvements

A newly-improved 143rd Street, Pflumm to Quivira, has opened to traffic. The street now has three-lanes (two through lanes and a center turn lane), with two bike lanes, a multi-use path on the north side of the street, and a five-foot sidewalk on the south side. Final cleanup on the project will continue through fall.



Thank these Women for Olathe's Public Library



The Olathe Ladies Reading Circle was instrumental in starting Olathe's Public Library. The Ladies Reading Circle was the first federated women's club in Olathe, and the group remains active. Photo courtesy of Johnson County Museum

The Olathe Public Library through the Years

- 1889 – Olathe Ladies Reading Circle establishes a lending library in a member's home.
- 1909 – Mayor and City Council appoint a 12-member library board. Andrew Carnegie donates \$10,000 for public library building, City Council agrees to maintain library.
- 1911 – City donates lot at 124 N. Chestnut, current post office site.
- 1914 – Carnegie library dedicated.
- 1971 – Library moves to 125 S. Cherry.
- 1979 – New downtown library building opens, remodeled in 1996.
- 2000 – Indian Creek Library opens near Indian Creek Parkway and Black Bob Road.
- 2016 – Waterline break damages Indian Creek Library. Indian Creek Library moves to interim location, 13511 S. Mur-Len Rd., during renovations to former Hy-Vee location on 135th Street.



Olathe Snow Brigade Seeks Volunteers

Many elderly Olathe residents and individuals with disabilities need help clearing snow from their driveways and sidewalks after a snow storm. Volunteers in the Olathe Snow

Brigade program assist community members who have no one in the home to remove snow.

Marty Birch has served as a volunteer for the Snow Brigade for 10 years. "I enjoy doing it. There's satisfaction in doing something for somebody," says Birch.

Dan and Janet Minter are senior residents who are grateful for the Snow Brigade volunteers. Before this service, Dan Minter was forced to clear snow himself. "Every time I shoveled, I felt there was a good chance I might have a heart attack," says Minter.

Minter works with Meals on Wheels and helps at church, but says snow removal is something he needs help with. "I know there are others like us who need this help. If there is any way you could help, please contact the "Snow Brigade," he says.

If you're interested in volunteering with the Snow Brigade, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 913-971-8788.



Remember these simple tips this fall to help keep you and your property safe:

Always lock your vehicle. Keep your valuables in the house. Never leave valuable electronics like laptops and GPS units in your car.

Always take your keys! Never leave your vehicle running and unattended, even for warming it up in the driveway for a few minutes in the morning.

Install motion-activated lights in your front and back yards. That way, when someone approaches your home, the lights automatically come on, illuminating that person.

Document your serial numbers. When the Police Department solves a burglary, one of their priorities is returning property to the rightful owner. That is why it is important to keep those serial numbers listed somewhere.

Don't be afraid to call! You know what is normal for your neighborhood and what is out of the ordinary. If you see any suspicious activities, don't hesitate to call the Olathe Police Department at 913-782-0720.



Envision Olathe Downtown Plan Update

The City of Olathe is wrapping up a nearly year-long process of updating the downtown master plan. After months of public meetings, stakeholder interviews, focus groups, surveys, design workshops, and in-depth analysis, the City of Olathe will be presenting concepts and recommendations for the development and enhancement of Downtown Olathe.

The current Envision Olathe Downtown Plan was completed in 2003. The update should be complete by the end of 2017. Visit the project website at EnvisionOlathe.com for up-to-date information.

Downtown Storefront Improvement Grant

In conjunction with the Envision Downtown Plan completion, the City's Planning Division will launch a new Storefront Improvement Grant for downtown businesses in 2018. The grant will target downtown Olathe businesses, offices, retail, and food establishments.

Downtown Olathe offers historic architecture, a human-scaled street grid, and unique, locally-owned businesses. The Downtown Storefront Improvement Grant is a program designed to complement these strengths by encouraging and assisting commercial property owners to enhance the design and appearance of their storefront façades.

Eligible improvements include the restoration of the exterior of the building including, but not limited to, the improvements to the exterior walls or structure, replacement, or addition of awnings, windows, doors, lighting, paint, landscaping, or signs.

The program will be established as a matching grant in which the City of Olathe can contribute up to 50 percent of the cost of eligible (exterior) improvements, to a maximum of \$10,000 for a single property. All projects submitted for the matching grant program must meet all City code and ordinance requirements.

For more information, please contact the Planning Division at (913) 971-8956.

Earth News

from the City of Olathe, Kansas

Changes Coming Soon for Recycling

In 2018, Olathe residents as well as other recyclers across the country, will see changes to the type of plastic and paper that can be recycled. China, the largest export market for recycled materials generated in the United States, will prohibit certain recycled materials. Olathe residents can expect to see more emphasis about what recycling materials will be marketable.

Right now, we need to be conscious of what items we're recycling in order to generate high-quality recycling materials," says Kent Seyfried, Olathe solid waste manager. Seyfried says the new restriction from China comes as a result of contamination of mixed paper and plastics.

Stay tuned to receive updates about recycling in Olathe, at OlatheKS.org as well as on the TrashDay App.



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Snow Removal and You

The City's top priorities during winter weather are the safety of motorists and pedestrians, and ensuring emergency responders can reach those in need. Snow removal efforts first focus on major roadways and collector streets, along with a concentration on hills, hazardous intersections, commercial and school areas. Following completion of priority areas, snow removal begins on cul-de-sacs.

Residents also have important roles during winter storms. Please remember:

- Stay off roads as much as possible. The fewer vehicles on the road, the faster they can be cleared.
- Park your vehicles in the driveway. If there is no driveway, park vehicles on the same side of the street.
- Remain patient. Clearing roads is our priority and we will clear them as soon as possible.
- Teach children to stay behind sidewalks when plows come.
- Keep snow forts and structures away from the snow plow's path.
- Give snow plow trucks plenty of room. Avoid passing or driving beside snow plow trucks. Stay back at least 50 feet from the rear of trucks so drivers can see you.
- Redirect sump pumps that discharge across sidewalks or public streets to eliminate icy areas.
- Remove portable basketball goals, hockey goals, skateboard ramps, and other structures from the street. This will eliminate damage to trucks and portable structures.
- Keep tree branches trimmed along the street.
- Clear snow from sidewalks and fire hydrants adjacent to your property, including sidewalks located behind rear fences.
- Call 911 if you have an emergency. Dispatchers will contact the snow removal operation if emergency vehicles need assistance reaching you.

See real-time tracking of snow removal operations throughout Olathe during snow events at OlatheKS.org.

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, by telephone, 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.

New Environmental Laboratory

The opening of the Olathe Environmental Laboratory underscores the City's commitment to protect water quality and public health now and for future generations. The new laboratory is located near the Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant at 25851 W. 119th St.

A 2009 space study identified the need to expand the City's environmental laboratory to meet requirements of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Standards, including growing demands for more sampling, analyses, equipment, and staff. The previous laboratory building was converted office space with deficient space, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning requirements for microbial, organic, and inorganic laboratory analyses.

"We are now a self-sufficient laboratory, where we previously outsourced more than 80 percent of our analyses because we lacked the equipment and staff," says DeWayne McAllister, laboratory manager.

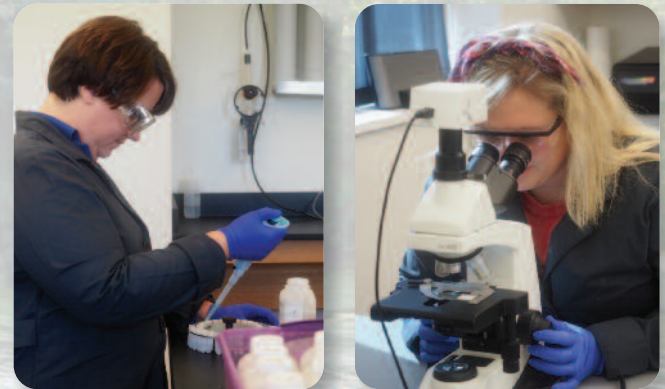
The new laboratory has separate spaces to isolate the different analyses including areas for metals, volatiles, semi-volatiles, and microbiology.

Laboratory Offers Community Education Component

The new Environmental Laboratory's design is supporting the critical need for a future workforce in water quality and stormwater services. Through a partnership with Olathe schools, these work areas currently offer high school students internships to explore and experience future job opportunities.

Olathe Environmental Laboratory

- Performs approximately 90,000 analyses per year
- Responds to approximately 60 customer water quality concerns annually
- Complies with Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act
- Conducts post-closure landfill sampling - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- Provides analytical services for new distribution line disinfections



Chemists Jennifer Bauman and Darla Geary test water samples.



Laboratory intern Kylie Cox, Olathe North High School senior, tests turbidity of water.



The mechanical equipment room supports correct environmental conditions for the new laboratory.

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.

OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect



Receive Olathe news and updates by email or text message. Click on E-notification or the envelope icon at OlatheKS.org.



Nov. 24 - Dec. 31
Monday - Thursday
5:30 to 10 p.m.
Friday - Sunday
5:30 to 11 p.m.

Stagecoach Park
1205 E. Kansas City Rd.

Tune into FM 100.9 to hear music synchronized to the display.

Donations accepted for the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund.



Celebrate Olathe and Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday, Dec. 1
6 to 8:30 p.m.

Olathe Community Center
1205 E. Kansas City Rd.

Free event.
For a full schedule, visit OlatheKS.org/CelebrateOlathe



Saturday, Nov. 25, Dec. 2, and Dec. 9

Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm
1200 E. Kansas City Rd.

Join Mahaffie for Breakfast with Santa
Nov. 25 and Dec. 9
\$8 per person.

Free annual Christmas Open House Dec. 2.

For details on each event, visit Mahaffie.org