

# Olathe LINK

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

EARLY AUTUMN 2017

Harvesting pumpkins at Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site

## City Council Adopts 2018/19 Budget

The Olathe City Council recently adopted the 2018/2019 Operating Budget and 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Plan. The adopted 2018 General Fund Budget is \$102,561,390; the 2019 General Fund Budget is \$107,467,357.

City Manager Michael Wilkes presented the 2018/2019 budget within a “What is Olathe” framework to show allocation of resources supporting community priorities. Those include “Olathe is” safe, innovative, moving, active, and a community.

A quarter mill property tax reduction is included per the City Council’s direction.

To address Olathe residents' public safety and transportation priorities, these service areas comprise 69 percent of the General Fund Budget. Major projects and initiatives include new fire and police personnel; the new Indian Creek Library; 151st Street improvements, Lone Elm Road to 56 Highway; street preservation; street reconstruction; park improvements; and a Healthy Neighborhood Initiative to support community revitalization.

Learn more about the 2018/2019 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan at [OlatheKS.org/Budget](http://OlatheKS.org/Budget).



### Open House

Monday, Oct. 30, 2017

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Presentation 5:45-6 p.m.

Open House until 7 p.m.

Following months of public input, the City of Olathe is presenting concepts for Downtown Olathe’s development and enhancement.

Learn more and share feedback and ideas. Olathe Community Center • 1205 E. Kansas City Rd.

Visit [EnvisionOlathe.com](http://EnvisionOlathe.com)

## New Public Safety Academy at Olathe West High School

The Olathe Fire and Police Departments are partners in the Public Safety Academy at Olathe West High School.

On Sept. 11, 2017, the Academy students and staff honored those who served, protected, and sacrificed during the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. A ceremony dedicated a World Trade Center steel beam, recovered from one of the Twin Towers. It is now on permanent display at Olathe West High School.



Find additional Olathe news at [OlatheKS.org](http://OlatheKS.org). Click on NEWS.

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## Mayor's Message

# We're Setting the Standard for Excellence in Public Services



The City of Olathe is known for setting standards of excellence in public service. This is affirmed by our citizens, numerous recognitions, and the feedback we continuously

receive from outside groups and peers. Assessments by peer professionals and other knowledgeable third parties confirm we are working smarter and more efficiently in providing the highest-quality City services for our residents.

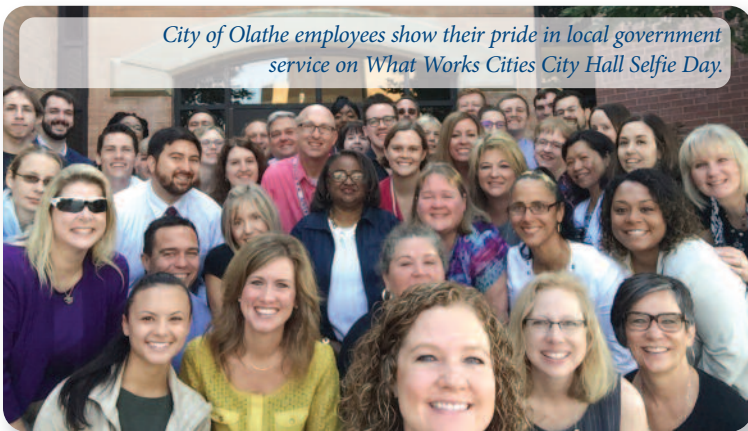
Our **Fire** and **Public Works Departments** complete **rigorous accreditation assessments** by outside agencies on a regular basis. Both of these departments were re-accredited this year — placing them in an elite class for public services.



*The Olathe Fire Department receives a second accredited agency status from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.*

Each year, our Police Department evaluates their performance, in part, by comparing important public safety measures with other high-performing benchmark cities. We analyze areas such as crime, crime clearance rates, and response times to emergency calls. Our **Police Department** has been meeting our crime rate goals and **outperforming** the crime rate average for benchmark cities for the past several years.

Our commitment to the national What Works Cities initiative continues, with employee training in performance management principles, management techniques, and the use of analytics for the greatest effectiveness.



*City of Olathe employees show their pride in local government service on What Works Cities City Hall Selfie Day.*



*The Olathe Public Works Department was the first in Kansas awarded accreditation from the American Public Works Association.*

Our leadership in the **Alliance for Innovation** is providing additional tools for excellence. This year, 12 employees representing nearly all City departments were selected for the Olathe Innovation Academy. They, in turn, will share their knowledge of innovation principles with their own work groups.

**Stewardship of our resources** is a key component of excellence in our City organization. Olathe is consistently honored by the Government Finance Officers Association and the National Procurement Institute for our excellence in budgeting, financial reporting, and public purchasing. Our City's strong financial management practices are validated by bond rating agencies, who continue to affirm our solid fiscal position. We use a variety of models to develop five and ten-year revenue and expenditure forecasts to ensure our economic health and vitality, now and in the future.

**Data driven decision-making** is at the forefront of any new City investment. The City aligns resources with public values to meet the needs and expectations of our community. Budget additions must demonstrate their impact on our performance, allowing us to best allocate resources to meet citizen priorities. We measure our progress in achieving efficiency and excellence in service delivery to provide the most value for every tax dollar. The International City/County Management Association has recognized those efforts with a Certificate of Excellence in Performance Management.

The City of Olathe nurtures a culture that is resilient, progressive, and always striving for excellence. We seek to move forward by learning from experts and peers, listening to your priorities, and making improvements to ensure you receive the best services and the best value.

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland  
Mayor

# What's Being Built in Olathe

## Tru by Hilton

The City approved a rezoning for a Tru, by Hilton hotel, located off 119th Street and Black Bob Road, behind Red Lobster. It will be four stories with 93 guest rooms.



## Dairy Queen

The Planning Commission approved development plans for a new Dairy Queen at 119th Street and Ridgeview Road, in the Ridgeview Falls center. The restaurant will have dine in, outdoor seating, and a drive-thru.



## Cedar Ridge Estates

Cedar Ridge Estates is a new, single-family residential development planned near College Boulevard and Woodland Road. It will be 54 lots within approximately 23.8 acres.

**EVER WONDER WHETHER A SERVICE IS PROVIDED BY THE CITY OR THE COUNTY?**

Sometimes it's hard to know who does what, so we've made it easier to learn about City vs. County services!

To learn more, visit: [OlatheKS.org/WhoDoesWhat](http://OlatheKS.org/WhoDoesWhat).

## Operation Lifeline Shows Olathe Cares

A group of dedicated volunteers show kindness and compassion each day. They check on the welfare of retired or self-care individuals who live alone and have no one else regularly checking on them. It's part of Operation Lifeline, a free program sponsored by the Olathe Police Department that provides daily phone calls to these individuals.

Each Operation Lifeline member who receives calls provides the

Olathe Police Department their house key, which is kept in a locked box and used for emergency access. If an Operation Lifeline volunteer cannot reach the Operation Lifeline member, they contact the Police Department. Through this program, Police have responded to help and save lives of individuals in emergencies.

If you know someone in Olathe who would benefit from an Operation Lifeline daily phone call, please contact Beth Wendel, Olathe Police Department Community Outreach, 913-971-6323.

## 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](http://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](mailto:lcampbell@olatheks.org)

**Michael Copeland**  
Mayor

913-971-8500  
(City office)  
[mccopeland@olatheks.org](mailto:mccopeland@olatheks.org)

**Jim Randall**  
Ward 2

**and Mayor Pro Tem**  
913-424-3999  
[jrandall@olatheks.org](mailto:jrandall@olatheks.org)

**John Bacon**  
At Large

913-269-6305  
[jbacon@olatheks.org](mailto:jbacon@olatheks.org)

**Wes McCoy**  
Ward 3

913-269-1035  
[rwmccoy@olatheks.org](mailto:rwmccoy@olatheks.org)

**Ron Ryckman**  
At Large

913-927-5333  
[rryckman@olatheks.org](mailto:rryckman@olatheks.org)

**Marge Vogt**  
Ward 4

913-269-0625  
[mvgot@olatheks.org](mailto:mvgot@olatheks.org)

## Stay Connected With Us



# Olathe Continues to Be One of the Nation's Safest Cities

The Olathe Police Department's work is a primary contributor to the city's safety, demonstrated each day through successful public safety initiatives. Olathe continues to be one of the safest communities in the country. One of the ways that public safety is measured is through comparisons with 30 benchmark cities in the areas of crime rates, crime clearance rates (how many crimes are solved or cleared), response time to emergency calls, and traffic crash rates.

*"In most cases, we are in the top five cities for lower crime rates and higher crime clearance rates."  
— Olathe Police Chief Steve Menke*

The Olathe Police Department ranks first in solving or clearing felony property crimes among benchmark cities. In addition, Olathe has the fifth lowest violent crime rate among the comparison cities, and the fourth lowest rates for felony property crimes and lesser crimes (assault, battery).

The benchmark cities data is used to strategically invest in public safety needs. The 2018/2019 City of Olathe Budget includes additional resources for detective personnel to improve crime prevention and crime clearance.



## Effective Community Engagement and Outreach

The Mental Health Co-Responder program is addressing the mental health crises need throughout Olathe and producing better outcomes for mentally-ill individuals. A mental health professional responds with police to calls involving mentally-ill persons. Because many of these calls are not criminal in nature, individuals can be better served with mental health services. This is reducing emergency room visits and follow-up time from police officers. Olathe Medical Center is supporting the program's success with \$50,000 funding for each of the next three years, providing an additional half-time mental health co-responder.



### Chillin' with the Cops

Olathe Police Department-hosted community events have grown the past several years, including the continued popularity of Coffee with a Cop and Community Forums. In summer 2017, families enjoyed the Chillin' with the Cops event at Two Trails Park, where sno cones were the treat of the day.



## Early Olathe Police History

*Jiles H. Milhoan  
first Olathe city marshal*



1870 – First record establishing Olathe City Police Department, Jiles H. Milhoan elected city marshal

1882 – Marshal given more responsibility

1891 – City ordinance prohibited gambling, loitering, loafing, and unlawful assemblies in streets, sidewalks and other places, and riding velocipedes upon sidewalks

1911 – City marshal star, four police stars, and one pair of handcuffs purchased for \$9

# A DAY WITHOUT WATER

Water is critical to so many aspects of our daily lives that we often take it for granted. What would happen if water simply disappeared? On October 12, people all across the country will "Imagine a Day Without Water" to raise awareness about the value of water. What would a day without water look like to these City employees who all play a vital role in the delivery of safe, clean water to the public?



**JOSH OXLEY**  
*Construction Team Water  
Supervisor - Water Distribution*

"We take water for granted so much. The number one thing would be not taking a shower or cleaning. I would also miss taking my son fishing."



**BRYAN BOOTH**  
*Water Production  
Control Operator*

"Plants need water. Animals need water. We all need water. We might survive a day without water, but we wouldn't survive many of them. A day without water is not a good day."



**JESSICA GARCIA**  
*Customer Service  
Representative*

"The worst thing would be not being able to hydrate my body. A day without water would cause dehydration and an unhappy atmosphere."



**PATRICK KARASHIN**  
*Wastewater Control Operator*

"For many, a day without water is a day without a paycheck. A lot of people not only need water for daily usage, but many rely on water for a living."



**BRIAN WILLIAMS**  
*Water Production Supervisor*

"When I imagine a day without water I think of chaos. Many basic functions in our daily lives would instantly become difficult, from shaving to brushing your teeth to cooking meals."



**BRANDON VALLEJOS**  
*Heavy Equipment Operator -  
Water Distribution*

"The worst thing about a day without water would be a day without proper personal hygiene."

# Earth News

from the City of Olathe, Kansas

## You Can Help Protect Water Resources

### Do You Know Your Watershed?

A watershed is a land area that drains to a common body of water, such as a creek, stream, river, or lake. We all live in a watershed. In Olathe, and the Kansas City area, all water drains to the Missouri River, and eventually reaches the Gulf of Mexico.

Olathe's watersheds include:

- Kill Creek
- Cedar Creek
- Mill Creek
- Indian Creek
- Tomahawk Creek
- Blue River
- Little Bull Creek

Visit [OlatheKS.org](http://OlatheKS.org) to find in which watershed you live.



### Become an Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer

Volunteers throughout Olathe help protect our stream corridors and waterways by removing litter through the Adopt-A-Stream program.

Neighborhood groups, schools, churches, Scouts, businesses and others provide this service. More volunteers are welcome!

The City of Olathe coordinates this community service and supports efforts by providing trash bags, work gloves and bag pick ups following Adopt-A-Stream events. T-shirts are also provided to Adopt-A-Stream team members.

*Volunteers may also stamp storm drain inlets to provide a reminder that anything in storm drains flows directly to our waterways.*



Learn more about these opportunities at [OlatheKS.org](http://OlatheKS.org). **Select I Want to... Volunteer.**



## How to Manage Leaves

Raking is not the only way to take care of the annual chore of dealing with leaves. There are several alternative solutions. Although these may not work for everyone, using one or several methods of managing autumn leaves can be helpful for many homeowners.

### Mow and mulch

Mow leaves periodically to provide a source of organic fertilizer for the lawn. This is effective when you don't have too many leaves and a sufficient amount of grass shows through. Fine leaves work into the turf to naturally compost.

Use a lawn mower with a bagging attachment to collect and shred fallen leaves. To reduce the bulk, first mow without the bagging attachment. Then, mow a second time.

### Garden and landscape

Use ground leaves in strategically-placed areas around your property. They are great winter weather protection for flower beds, gardens, and around trees and shrubs. Work ground leaves into the garden soil, and nature will compost them over the winter.

### Bag, if needed

If you have too many leaves on your property, raking them may be the leaf management method of last resort. The City of Olathe will collect leaves placed in compostable yard waste bags (unlimited number of bags) as long as bags do not exceed 50 pounds each, or leaves may be placed in Olathe yard carts.

*Blowing or raking leaves into the street, storm drain, or a stream is illegal. Streets and curbs are part of the stormwater drainage system, and when yard waste is part of that system, it can cause street flooding and downstream water quality degradation.*

# THE VALUE OF WATER

Life as we know it in Olathe would not be possible without the water and the infrastructure that fuels it.



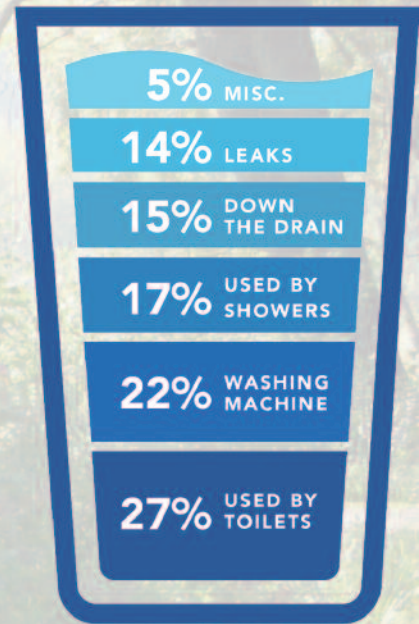
The average cable bill costs three times as much as your water bill.



If drinking water and soda pop cost equally your water bill would skyrocket 10,000%!



One 16 oz. bottle of water costs the same as 6.5 gallons of Olathe tap water.



AVERAGE U.S. HOME WATER USE

## Costs to Keep Your Faucet Flowing

Providing reliable service for safe and high quality drinking water for Olathe households and businesses is a top City of Olathe priority. A sufficient water supply is also necessary to meet fire fighting storage supply needs.

A great portion of Olathe's vast water infrastructure, the pipes below the ground, has served our community up to 100 years. Maintaining and replacing these important community assets are necessary to ensure reliable service and regulatory compliance. Customer fees are built into the costs to support the service system's integrity and keep pace with rising water production costs.

In 2017, the City of Olathe will invest more than \$3.6 million on rehabilitation and maintenance for existing water infrastructure. During the next five years, the City will invest more than \$27 million on these projects. The

cost for chemicals used in the water treatment process is about \$800,000 annually, with approximately a four percent cost increase each year.



## 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](http://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.

[OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect](http://OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect)



Receive Olathe news and updates by email or text message. Click on E-notification or the envelope icon at [OlatheKS.org](http://OlatheKS.org).

**OLATHE SPOOKTOBER**

OCTOBER 27 FROM 6-8:30 PM

**CELEBRATE OLATHE**

OLATHE COMMUNITY CENTER  
1205 E. KANSAS CITY RD.

OCTOBER 28 FROM 3-6 PM

**MAHAFFIE TRICK-OR-TREAT OFF THE STREET**

MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP  
1200 E. KANSAS CITY RD.

OCTOBER 28 / 6:30 - 8 PM

**HAUNTED SWAMP**

OLATHE COMMUNITY CENTER  
1205 E. KANSAS CITY RD.  
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [OLATHEKS.ORG/SPOOKTOBER](http://OLATHEKS.ORG/SPOOKTOBER)

**OLATHE PARKS & REC**

**OLATHE ACTIVE INSIDER**

SIGN UP ONLINE  
[OLATHEKS.ORG/PARKSREC](http://OLATHEKS.ORG/PARKSREC)

**BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- Free to join!
- Chances to receive discounts and passes for activities and facilities
- Behind the scenes access and exclusive events
- First to know major announcements and news