



Students Transform Snow Plow Blades Page 7

Planning for Olathe's Next 20 Years

The Olathe City Council will soon lead efforts to update the Olathe Strategic Plan. With community input, the plan will provide direction for Olathe's path over the next 20 years. Olathe has reached many milestones tied to community priorities since the development of the most recent Strategic Plan in 2000. Among the plan's key focus areas were a safe community with improved transportation and greater recreation opportunities.

Olathe is one of the safest cities in the nation based on benchmark cities comparisons. The City continues to exceed national performance data on helping community members survive cardiac arrests. Olathe's traffic flow improved during the last 17 years with elevated railroad crossings, an Advanced Traffic Management System, and the 127th Street overpass at I-35. The Olathe Community Center, park enhancements, and expanded trail system are providing greater recreation opportunities for all ages.

Olathe has appeared on numerous "best" lists and has earned top accolades in local government performance. The updated Strategic Plan will help Olathe continue to evolve and grow as we move into the future.



Strategic Foresight to Drive Plan

In the coming months, the Olathe City Council will plan for continued growth and evolution of the community over the next two decades based on emerging trends such as population, demographics, economics, and environmental factors. The goal is to prepare for what the future may hold so that Olathe can be best positioned for success.

In preparation for the Strategic Plan process, residents will be asked to consider two questions:

- What trends are you observing that you feel the City needs to pay attention to so Olathe will continue to be a great place to live for your children and grandchildren?
- What external disruptions (positive or negative) could change or improve our community?

The City will pose these questions to residents through City of Olathe social media and other communication channels in the coming weeks in preparation for the City Council's planning sessions.

Throughout this process, the City Council will study city trends and consider how actions taken now will impact the community over the next 20 years. They will examine futuristic scenarios for Olathe designed to show the impact of decisions on public safety, parks, housing, new investment, transportation, and other community priorities.

Once the planning process is complete, the City of Olathe will have an updated Strategic Plan that will help produce a more vibrant community.

"Ultimately through this process, we will consider what will be of most value to residents in 20 years, and how we can best serve them," says City Manager Michael Wilkes. "Our focus is on planning and preparing for what's coming down the road."



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

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Mayor's Message

Olathe's Progress is Everywhere

2018 is upon us. The new year is a perfect time to reflect on Olathe's progress over the past year and look ahead to opportunities in the future.

While we celebrated our City's 160th birthday in 2017, we watched Olathe continue to prosper, affirmed by the positive job growth and investment in our community. Terracon, a national engineering firm, is building a new corporate headquarters on Ridgeview Road, north of College Boulevard. Garmin International expects to almost double the number of people working at their present campus on 151st Street upon completion of their manufacturing and distribution center. Orizon Aerostructures is relocating to Olathe near Old 56 Highway and Lone Elm Road. Construction of Olathe Medical Center's new Cancer Center on the Olathe Medical Park campus is nearly complete.

The new Johnson County Courthouse will have a significant impact on the future of downtown, and we look forward to additional opportunities to bring positive change and growth to the heart of our city. The update to our Envision Olathe Downtown Plan is nearing completion, and we'll keep building on downtown's strengths in partnership with businesses, residents, the Chamber of Commerce, and Johnson County.

In 2017, we continued the street preservation program and completed key street improvement projects throughout the city. Our commitment to providing the highest-quality drinking water and protecting public health is supported with the opening of the new Environmental Services Laboratory.

We saw Olathe's fifth high school, Olathe West, open its doors, and we're excited to partner with Olathe Public Schools on Olathe West's 21st Century Public Safety Academy. The Academy has an important role in developing future firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel for our growing city.

Your compassion and support for neighbors in need are such an inspiration, evidenced by the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund exceeding \$1 million raised for Olathe children since 2007. It's especially heartwarming to know that collectively, Olathe schools are the single largest donor to the Fund.

Looking ahead, we will see continued progress on several important projects, including our new Indian Creek Library and the Lake Olathe Park Master Plan. In 2018, we'll begin work on a new strategic plan for Olathe. We're eager to involve residents and businesses in our strategic planning efforts, as we continue to focus on your highest priorities for our community.

It is a tremendous honor to serve you and work with community partners to ensure that your city remains among the very best in the nation. All of us on the City Council look forward to serving you during the coming year, and we wish you happiness and good health in 2018!

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland
Mayor

Meet Your Councilmember

Karin Brownlee Elected New At-Large City Councilmember

"I am excited to get to work for the citizens of Olathe. I look forward to responding to individual requests from citizens and to moving the city forward on the big issues. We have so much to be proud of in Olathe," says Councilmember Karin Brownlee.

Brownlee is a lifelong Olathean. She earned her bachelor's degree in microbiology from Kansas State University. Brownlee served 14 years in the Kansas Senate, and she was Secretary of the Kansas Department of Labor for nearly two years. She and her husband Doug have four grown children and 14 grandchildren. They are active in Olathe Bible Church.



Karin Brownlee



Wes McCoy



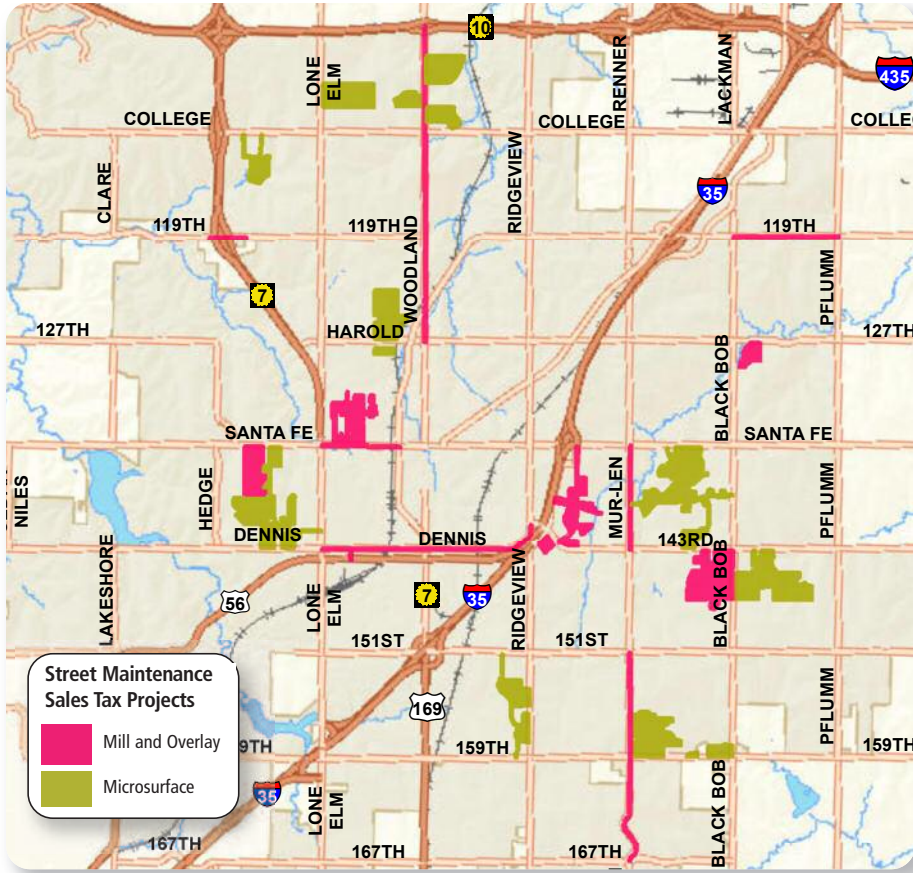
Marge Vogt

Wes McCoy and Marge Vogt Reelected

Wes McCoy was reelected as Ward 3 City Councilmember. McCoy has served on the Olathe City Council since 2013.

Marge Vogt was reelected as Ward 4 City Councilmember. Vogt has served on the Olathe City Council since 1997.

2017 Street Preservation Project Locations



Montclair Drive Before 2017 Microsurface



Montclair Drive After 2017 Microsurface

Street Preservation by Type Lane Miles

Arterial Street Mill and Overlay Resurfacing	28
Local/Collector Street Mill and Overlay Resurfacing.....	23
Local/Collector Street Microsurface	59
Crack Seal	276

Learn more about these street preservation strategies at OlatheKS.org/StreetPreservation.

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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CONNECT WITH US



Apps available on the App Store and Google Play

OLATHE CONNECT TrashDay

Olathe Human Relations Commission Immersed in Community

With more than a dozen community partners and involvement in more than 15 events throughout Olathe, many residents are touched by the Olathe Human Relations Commission's work. One of the Commission's most impactful activities is the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. Thousands of Olathe middle and high school students participate in visual, literary, and multi-media art competitions honoring the teachings of this civil rights leader. Another annual event, the Community and Accessible Community Awards recognizes individual and groups who provide services, contribute to or enact self-sufficiency programs, or policies for the success of diverse groups and individuals.

While the Olathe Human Relations Commission has many outreach programs, they're working to do more to gain community input, and learn how they may help in this diverse city, says Hector Silva, Commission chair.



Olathe Human Relations Commission members, standing, from left: CD Dasgupta, Hector Silva, Raul Duran, Darnell Hunt, Jim Terrones, Shakil Haider
Seated: Marti Wilson, Virginia Darter and Vivian Avery

Olathe Human Relations Commission Mission

- Foster understanding and cooperation among diverse groups in the Olathe community
- Create an atmosphere of inclusion
- Ensure all citizens enjoy equal opportunity and access to employment, housing, and public accommodations



Lylena Estabine —
2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Best in Show winner with Olathe Human Relations Commissioner Jim Terrones

Each fall the Olathe Human Relations Commission celebrates Olathe Hispanic Heritage Month. In 2017, in partnership with the Olathe Latino Commission, a forum helped people become familiar with changes in immigration and addressed questions.



Copa Azul soccer team members

During Hispanic Heritage Month, the *Copa Azul* (The Blue Cup), soccer scrimmage involved mixed teams of students, and members of the the Olathe Police Department, Johnson County Sheriff's Department, and Gardner Police Department.

"In 2018, we're excited to put together an ethnic festival in Olathe," says Silva. "We want the community to participate, and to help plan the event." Those interested are encouraged to contact Community Relations Manager Vanessa Vaughn West, VLVaughn@olatheks.org.

What's Being Built in Olathe

Mazuma Credit Union

A Mazuma Credit Union was approved for the southeast corner of 135th Street and Greenwood Street. The City of Olathe is currently reviewing additional commercial development within this area.

Woodland Spring Middle School

A new middle school for the Spring Hill School District, Woodland Spring Middle School, was approved for northeast of 167th Street and Lindenwood Drive. The school will be the second middle school within the district and is expected to open in fall 2019.



The Best Part of Serving as a Police Officer

Careers in law enforcement can be challenging and fulfilling. We asked Olathe police officers what they like best about being a police officer.



Damon Bell

The best part of my job is giving back to my community through community service.

Officer Bell has worked for the Olathe Police Department for 23 years. In addition to being a School Resource Officer, he has worked in the Patrol unit, Traffic unit, Investigation unit, and Honor Guard unit.



Shannon Brandau

The best part of being a police officer is the thought of possibly changing someone's life for the better.

Officer Brandau has worked for Olathe for approximately five years and prior to that she was with the City of Leavenworth for 10 years.



Cameron Rupert

I believe the best part of my job is coming to work with similar, like-minded individuals who have a drive and passion for helping and serving others.

Officer Rupert has served the Olathe Police Department since mid-2016 and looks forward to continuing and advancing his career here.



Brittany Conge

The best part of my job is having a new opportunity, every day, to make a difference in someone's life.

Officer Conge has been employed with Olathe for three years. She is a member of the Hostage/Crisis Negotiation Team and the Crisis Intervention Team.



Dennis Soto

The best part about my job is that I get to work for a department that has the support of the citizens of Olathe.

Officer Soto has 17 years of law enforcement experience and proudly served in the U.S. Army.

Earth News

from the City of Olathe, Kansas

Olathe curbside recycling customers will see these stickers placed on recycling carts in 2018.

BACK TO BASICS RECYCLING

YES

PUT THESE ITEMS IN YOUR CURBSIDE RECYCLING CART

Items must be clean of food and debris before recycled



✓ Junk Mail

✓ Office Paper

✓ Paperboard

✓ Cardboard

✓ Empty Aerosol Cans

✓ Magazines & Catalogs

✓ Rigid Plastic Bottles & Containers

✓ Aluminum Foil & Pans

for more information visit OLATHEKS.ORG/RECYCLING

TrashDay

App available on the App Store and Google Play

DO NOT PUT THESE ITEMS IN YOUR CURBSIDE RECYCLING CART



Food

Glass

Electronics

Paper Tableware

Styrofoam

Clothing



Shredded Paper

Fast Food & Takeout Containers

“Danglers” (long string items)

Pizza Boxes (except clean, dry ones)

Household Hazardous Waste

Plastic Bags & Film



Students Transform Snow Plow Blades into Art



Should you see artwork traveling the streets of Olathe this winter, you are not imagining it. Fifth grade students from Briarwood Elementary School and high school students in the Choices program painted creative designs on seven snow plow blades this fall. The plows are visible when the snow removal operation is in progress.

“From the moment the students walked in the door, you could tell how excited they were to have the chance to showcase their artwork on snow plow blades,” says Hallie Sheptor, Public Works communications.

“And we were thrilled to partner with Olathe schools, to give the students this fun opportunity and continue to expose young minds to all different types of careers!”

Armed with sketches they created in art class, these students worked diligently, painting colorful designs featuring their school colors and mascot. Other blades feature themes such as “snow busters.”

Sheptor says the Public Works Department would like to make the snow blade plow art project a regular event.



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**.



We Appreciate Our Outstanding Volunteers

The City of Olathe recognized the many contributions from volunteers at the recent Volunteer Appreciation Reception. During 2017, volunteers provided more than 23,000 hours in service to our community. The estimated value of this volunteer time is nearly \$564,000.

Rebecca McCreight was recognized with the Carrie Newson Youth Volunteer Award. This award honors an outstanding youth

volunteer for the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm. Rebecca has volunteered at the Mahaffie historic site since 2012.

Learn more about how volunteers are making a difference in our community. View the video "Celebrating Olathe Volunteers:" <https://goo.gl/7cYSiA>.