



From left: Jim Randall, Ward 2; Marge Vogt, Ward 4; Bob Montgomery, At-large; Michael Copeland, Mayor; Larry Campbell, Ward 1; Kathleen Huttman, Ward 3; and John Bacon, At-large.

Olathe City Council

2007 was a tremendous year for the City of Olathe as we celebrated the 150th birthday of this community. The Olathe Sesquicentennial Committee planned an outstanding year-long celebration that we will remember for years to come.

In 2007, the City of Olathe continued to address citizens' top priorities, transportation improvements and public safety, with activities in all areas to address the community's strategic plan. We are working to ensure you receive the best possible local services for your city tax dollars and fees.

These pages, with updates organized in strategic planning areas, contain only highlights of City of Olathe achievements and awards during the past year. An inclusive list would not be possible in this limited space.

Residents say in citizen surveys that Olathe is a quality place to live and raise a family. We hope that during the next 150 years residents will still feel that way.

National Recognitions and Awards

- Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing Programs – high performer status from the U.S. Department of Urban Development
- City of Olathe Public Works and Information Technology, in partnership with Johnson County Information Technology – Public Technology Institute Significant Achievement Award for joint connectivity initiative as part of the Advanced Traffic Management System
- 2007 Excellence in Storage Award from the Salt Institute, one of 15 awarded nationally
- First place Kansas Water Environment Association Bio-solids Management Award
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program for the 29th consecutive year and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award – by the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada
- Teen Council co-chair – appointed as one of three nationally to serve on the National League of Cities Youth, Education and Families Council
- Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm's Civil War event named as a top 10 bus tour destination – American Bus Tour Association
- Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association Recognition for Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm programs





Downtown

The vision for downtown Olathe in 2023 is a government and business center that is integrated with the neighborhoods. During 2007, the City and community partners continued efforts to make downtown and surrounding neighborhoods a thriving area.

- Began construction of an expanded downtown parking garage, adding 400 new parking spaces at Chestnut and Loula, in partnership with Johnson County
- Finalized agreements with BNSF Railway for a “quiet zone” in the downtown area
- Placed historic signboard on Kansas City Road in partnership with Olathe North High School and the Olathe Historical Society
- Revitalization of downtown's west gateway at K-7 and Santa Fe moved forward with the Wal-Mart development, and relocation of a concrete plant
- Hosted the third, annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit, featuring eight pieces in the downtown area. The exhibit is sponsored by the Olathe Public Art and Culture Commission and the City of Olathe



Olathe Gateway Center

Economic Sustainability

A community that balances economic development with prudent financial management practice is Olathe's economic sustainability strategy for 2023. 2007 was one of Olathe's biggest years for economic development with the announcement of the Kansas State University-Olathe Innovation Campus and Kansas Bioscience Park. In addition, the City continued work on plans addressing Olathe's future sustainability.

- Issued building permits on approximately 2 million square feet of non-residential construction with construction value totaling \$147 million
- Revised the City's annexation policy
- Revised the Lone Elm Vicinity Plan
- Among developments during 2007:

Opened:

Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World
 Santa Marta retirement community
 Pacific Sunwear distribution center

In construction:

Olathe Gateway
 Corporate Ridge Office Park (expansion)
 Wal-Mart Supercenter at West Village
 GARMIN (expansion)
 Ridgeview Falls Center
 Avignon
 Johnson County Communications Center

Approved or announced:

Kansas State University-Olathe Innovation Campus and Kansas Bioscience Park
 Fort Dodge Animal Health
 Farmers Insurance



Public Safety

A community perceived by citizens as the "safest" community in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area is Olathe's public safety strategy for 2023. In 2007:

- Fire Station No. 7 opened at 16110 S. Mur-Len Road to improve emergency response coverage in southeast Olathe
- The Fire Department Operation Center was placed in service at the Fire Administration Building. It provides a state of the art, system status monitoring and coordination center, and serves as a backup City traffic operations center
- Two pumper trucks replaced retired emergency vehicle units to maintain effective Fire Department fleet response capability
- Developed agreement with Johnson County to co-locate police communications to the new County Communications Center, saving \$600,000 from 2007 budgeted funds to pay for co-location costs
- Improved police mobility with focused traffic enforcement efforts on high accident locations, traffic congestion areas and neighborhoods where speed and other moving violations are problematic
- Police crime analysis identified pattern crimes occurring in Olathe and surrounding communities, resulting in stopping a large stolen property operation, clearance of 50 daytime burglaries occurring in the metro area, arrests involving organized pickpockets/credit card thieves and an auto burglary ring



Olathe Police personnel who helped in Greensburg, Kansas

Olathe students hike in the prairie area of Lone Elm Park.



Active Life Styles

Olathe's active life styles strategy for 2023 includes well-maintained and mature parks, and recreation promoting wellness for residents to enjoy. Notable 2007 parks and recreation activities:

- Volunteers actively provided more than 25,000 hours in services for Special Olympics, Mahaffie programs, youth sports coaches, special populations, fundraising and Volunteers in the Parks
- Fostered residents' input in developmental plans for the Community Center at public meetings, City boards and committees and a citizen survey
- Completed Brougham Neighborhood Park, 15501 S. Brougham; completed renovations of Fairview Park, 400 N. Walnut; and designed renovations for Oregon Trail Park, 1100 S. Robinson
- Construction began on the Mahaffie Heritage Center, 1200 Kansas City Road, with near completion in 2007
- Began construction on Rolling Ridge pedestrian/bicycle trail in west Olathe



Public Services

A full-service city recognized for customer service responsiveness and service delivery is the strategy for public services and administration in 2023.

- The semi-automated and automated residential solid waste collection service dramatically helped decrease the frequency and severity of City worker injuries. The City experienced 49 percent fewer worker compensation injuries and incurred 82 percent less cost in 2007 compared to 2006
- A new drop-off community recycling station was established east of I-35 in the Wal-Mart parking area
- The Vehicle Maintenance Division completed the conversion to using non-polluting parts washers and ultra low diesel fuel as part of the City's environmental stewardship efforts
- Produced the quality and quantity of water to meet customer demands and all federal and state regulatory requirements
- Replaced nearly 2,000 water meters with new radio-read technology meters, increasing metering accuracy and reducing meter read time

Transportation

A well-planned, effective, safe transportation network system for the public is the 2023 Olathe transportation strategy. In 2007, several milestone traffic improvement projects were completed, and work continued on other projects for traffic congestion relief to motorists, especially for east-west travel through Olathe.

- The 127th Street Overpass at I-35 was completed ahead of schedule and under budget, creating another east-west route through the city
- Improvements to College Boulevard between Ridgeview and Woodland Roads nears completion with the roadway re-opening to traffic, eliminating another railroad track street crossing

- Raising the rails of the east BNSF tracks nears completion with southbound trains traveling above four Olathe roadways Ridgeview Road, Santa Fe Avenue, Loula and Park Streets
- More than 350 lane miles of street pavement markings were painted for traffic safety and traffic management
- The Advanced Traffic Management System was installed in the K-7 and 151st Street corridors to help smooth traffic flow
- Nearly 45,488 rides were provided to elderly, persons with disabilities and low income families through the Taxi Coupon Program

Diversity

The Olathe community's diversity strategy for 2023 is for a welcoming, diverse community. During 2007, Olathe's efforts to reach out and celebrate a diverse population were evident in continued support for well received programs and the initiation of several new ones.

- Citizens promoting diversity, fair housing and Equal Opportunity services in the community were recognized through the annual Olathe Human Relations Commission awards program
- Hosted the second annual Americana Jubilee event celebrating multicultural heritage in Olathe
- The Olathe Diversity Committee created a Cultural Learning Links series to promote cultural awareness and understanding in the community
- The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Board sponsored PUSH America, a national cycling event promoting greater understanding of people with disabilities, and Disabilities Awareness Week, an event promoting career development for job seekers with disabilities
- More youth than ever before, 1,700, participated in the 2007 Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration