



Olathe Link

City of Olathe Newsletter

Autumn 2008

City of Olathe Supports Service Efficiencies, Customer Convenience

Creating new efficiencies and working smarter are among the City's efforts to provide more value for tax dollars while providing customers quality customer service.

"During the current financial climate, it is more important than ever to have in place service efficiencies to benefit both residents and the City of Olathe," says City Manager Michael Wilkes. "Fortunately we have a workforce that excels in finding better ways to offer and perform City services."

Providing online, interactive opportunities is just one method the City employs. The City is also finding energy efficiencies in its vehicle fleet and building use, and powering down computers during non-working hours throughout the City organization.

New On-line Police Reporting

Olathe residents have a new option for reporting minor crimes by logging on instead of going to the Police Department or waiting for an officer to arrive at their residence. In order to file an on-line police report, three criteria must be met:

1. It must not be an emergency. (Call 911 instead.)
2. There must be no known suspect.
3. The event must have occurred in the Olathe city limits.

Once the Police Department station officer accepts the report, a permanent case number is sent to the citizen via e-mail.

To access on-line police reports, go to

www.olatheks.org and click on Police Department.

More Web Interaction Opportunities

The City offers numerous on-line features for residents' convenience, and in many cases they offer greater efficiencies for City operations. Many customer services can be accessed at www.olatheks.org by clicking **I Want to...** and making a selection (see right).

Residents can make an inquiry or request for City services with the **Citizen Request System**, 24/7 at www.olatheks.org. Click on **Contact Us** or **I Want to...Contact the City**. Your inquiry or request will be sent directly to the appropriate contact person.

Be In Touch

When residents are informed about local government and involved in decisions affecting them, including use of local tax dollars, the City of Olathe can best represent citizens. The City encourages residents to follow their government by watching City Council meetings or other local government programming on Olathe Government Television – Channel 7 on Comcast, and Channel 99 on AT&T, or on-line, www.olatheks.org.

Residents can also stay informed by subscribing to Olathe news briefs and news releases. Visit www.olatheks.org, click on About Olathe and enter your e-mail address. The City is working to ensure residents have easy access to their government, as local media are facing resource challenges and scaling back local government coverage.

Find it at www.olatheks.org
I Want to...

- Apply for a City Job
- Bid on a City Contract
- File a Code Violation/Property Concern
- File a Housing Discrimination Complaint
- Get a License or Permit
- Pay or View my Utility Bill
- Register for a Recreation Program
- Report a Burned out Streetlight
- Request a Bulk Trash Pickup
- Request a Police Report
- Request/Renew Pet License
- Sign up for Utility & Trash Services
- View a Webcast of a Public Meeting
- View Sales Tax
- View the City Budget
- View the Municipal Code
- View the Unified Development Ordinance
- Volunteer with the City

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Mayor's Message

Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund Helps Olathe Families in Need

If you're a reader of my messages, you know that I am a huge fan of Olathe residents. I'm especially proud of their caring and generous spirit, which continues to inspire all of us to give back to our community in various ways.

Olatheans can always be counted on whenever there's a need for assistance – whether it's following a natural disaster or if a neighbor needs a ride to the doctor's office. It is truly this spirit of compassion and concern that makes Olathe an exceptional city in which to live and work.

For many Olatheans, 2008 has brought new financial challenges. Our City government has not been immune to economic constraints. Yet, our community as a whole can be grateful for many, many blessings.

Olathe has a sound system of public services, from excellent public safety to health services. In our world, many do not have clean water to drink, nor can they imagine living in an area where one can travel freely to the next city or have access to health care and extensive educational opportunities. What most Olatheans enjoy is beyond comprehension for many.

As we reflect upon our abundant blessings, let's remember those in our own community who may be afflicted because of economic hardship or other situations. I am deeply honored to serve with dedicated community leaders and friends on the Olathe Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund Board. The Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund serves Olathe residents in need of help, especially children, and this year, the needs are greater than ever. Our Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund Board recognizes this and has set a goal of \$50,000 for our 2008 campaign.

Last year was a banner year for our Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund,

and we are excited about building on the great momentum we have achieved. With the visionary leadership of our Board and the involvement and support of our caring community, I know that our goals are within reach! The following local charities have been selected as Fund beneficiaries this year:

Catholic Charities, Children's Shoe Fund, Court-Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA), Cypress Recovery, Inc., Kansas Foster & Adoptive Children, KVC Behavioral HealthCare, Salvation Army, TLC for Children and Families, Inc., SAFEHOME and Olathe Special Olympics.

Donations to the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund should be sent to the Mayor's Office at City Hall, or on-line donations can be made at www.olatheks.org. All contributions are tax deductible, and 100 percent of the Fund proceeds stay right here in our community.

If money is tight at your household or place of business this year, consider giving your time as a volunteer to a worthy organization. The City of Olathe is among many local organizations eager to share about rewarding volunteer opportunities. For more information, please contact my office at 913-971-8500, or visit www.olatheks.org. Click on I Want to... Volunteer with the City.

Thank you for making a lasting and positive difference in the lives of your Olathe neighbors. Undoubtedly, your giving spirit and involvement in our community will be a blessing to every life you touch this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland
Mayor

Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting and WinterFest

5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Friday, December 5
Olathe City Hall, 100 E. Santa Fe

Recognizing the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund beneficiaries

Special music by Olathe elementary and high school groups, Trails West Barbershop Chorus, Olathe Civic Orchestra and Band and other local groups.

Visit Santa Claus • Free refreshments during lighting ceremony

Sponsored by Olathe Noon Optimist Club, HyVee, Regency Coffee

For more information call Ruth Nelson, 913-780-8181, or Diane Gossage, 913-780-8182.



Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund Board

Michael E. Copeland
Honorary Chairman
Mayor, City of Olathe

Ruth Nelson
Chairman
Olathe Noon Optimist Club

Board Members

Mark Bersted
ALDI

Frank Carter
Systems Material Handling Company

Sandy Feeny
Feeny's Hallmark Shop

Beth Felski
Olathe Chamber of Commerce

Jean Garten
Olathe Medical Center
Charitable Foundation

Jim Hutchinson
United Office Products, Inc.

Ron Jackson
MidAmerica Nazarene University

Cliff Joyner
Farmers Insurance Group

Mike Knop
Federated Mutual Insurance Company

Laurie Minard
GARMIN

Harlan Parker
Harlan C. Parker Insurance Agency

Denise Phillippi
Peoples Bank

Dan Simon
The Olathe News

Jim Smith
Olathe District Schools

Give the Gift of Safety

This holiday season give someone the gift of safety to show you really care. The Olathe Fire Department offers these stay-safe ideas:

- The presence of a **working smoke alarm** cuts the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half. Don't forget the **batteries**.
- A **carbon monoxide detector** warns home occupants of the colorless, odorless, tasteless gas, which is a by-product of incomplete combustion or burning. Carbon monoxide accounts for nearly half of all fatal poisonings in the United States each year.
- A **NOAA weather radio** (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) alerts loved ones to area weather watches and warnings.
- **Flashlights** provide emergency lighting without the risk of fire from candles.
- **Large home address numbers** in a contrasting color from the house's color helps emergency responders find homes in emergencies.
- **Gift certificates for cleanup services** to "clean the clutter;" **chimney sweep services** for chimney maintenance and inspection to reduce the risk of creosote build-up; or **furnace professionals** who can service and inspect your home's heating system.

For more information, call the Olathe Fire Department, 913-971-6333.

Olathe Services Guide

EMERGENCY

Ambulance	911
Emergency TDD/TTY Calls	971-5323
Fire/Police	911

GENERAL INFORMATION (TDD/Voice)..... 971-8600

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8700

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Building Codes	100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8575
Building Inspections.....	971-8574
Community Development Block Grant	201 N. Cherry
	971-6260
Community Enhancement	100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8580
Housing and Transportation	201 N. Cherry (TDD/Voice).....
	971-6260
Housing Rehabilitation	201 N. Cherry
	971-6268
Neighborhood Services	100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8750
Planning Services	100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8750
Public Housing Authority	201 N. Cherry (TDD/Voice).....
	971-6260
Zoning Information	100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8725

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Administration and Life Safety Services	1225 S. Hamilton Circle.....
	971-6333
Emergency.....	911
Emergency TDD/TTY Calls	971-5323
Non emergency TDD/TTY calls	971-7903
Emergency Management	971-7943
Spanish Speaking Call Line	971-6367

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

City Attorney's Office	100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8732
Prosecutor's Office	1200 S. Harrison
	971-6742
Community Mediation Program.....	971-7736

MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP

1200 Kansas City Rd.	971-5111
Heritage Center	971-5111
Olathe Historical Society	971-5110

MAYOR'S OFFICE

100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8500

MUNICIPAL COURT

1200 S. Harrison	971-6393
Court Services	1200 S. Harrison
	971-5213

MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

1385 S. Robinson	971-9311
Customer Service.....	971-9311
Billing	Trash
Water & Sewer	After-Hours Answering Service.....
	971-5151
Missed Trash	Water/Sewer Emergency
Water Quality Questions	600 S. Curtis
	971-5122
Solid Waste Transfer Station	1681 S. Valley Rd.
	971-5175

OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY

201 E. Park St.....	971-6850
Indian Creek Branch	12990 S. Black Bob Rd.....
	971-5235

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Administration	200 W. Santa Fe (TDD/Voice).....
	971-6263
Parks and Public Grounds	200 W. Santa Fe
	971-6038
Cemetery Caretaker	738 N. Chestnut
	971-5226
Recreation Division	200 W. Santa Fe (TDD/Voice).....
	971-6263
Recreation Activity Registration (24-hrs.)	971-8227
Special Events	200 W. Santa Fe
	971-8004

POLICE DEPARTMENT

501 E. 56 Highway	971-7500
Alarm Coordinator.....	971-6100
Animal Control	505 E. Sunvale
	971-6362
Emergency.....	911
Emergency TDD/TTY Calls	971-5323



Printed on recyclable paper.

PUBLIC WORKS

100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8505
Street Maintenance	Woodland & Harold.....
	971-9511
Pot Hole Hotline	Woodland & Harold.....
	971-6037
Traffic Engineer	100 E. Santa Fe.....
	971-8505
Report streetlight outages	971-8513
Report traffic signal malfunctions.....	971-5180
Report traffic sign concerns	971-5170

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Administration and Accounting	201 N. Cherry
	971-8000
City Clerk	100 E. Santa Fe.....
	971-8521
Human Resources	100 E. Santa Fe.....
	971-8735
Jobline.....	971-8749
Office of Human Relations	100 E. Santa Fe
	971-8790
(TDD).....	971-8651
Fair Housing Hotline	971-6472
Risk Management	100 E. Santa Fe.....
	971-8716
Purchasing	100 E. Santa Fe.....
	971-8714

Olathe City Council

Michael Copeland, Mayor
913-971-8500 (City office)
mcpoland@olatheks.org

Larry Campbell
Ward 1

913-927-0433
lcampbell@olatheks.org

Jim Randall
Ward 2
and Mayor Pro Tem
913-244-3150
jrandall@olatheks.org

Kathleen Huttman
Ward 3
913-269-6360
khuttman@olatheks.org

Marge Vogt
Ward 4

913-269-0625
mvogt@olatheks.org

Bob Montgomery
At Large
913-980-8278
bmontgomery@olatheks.org

John Bacon
At Large
913-269-6305
jbacon@olatheks.org

What's Being Built in Olathe

These projects have recently been approved or are ready to begin construction:

Residential

Hidden Lake of Cedar Creek, a subdivision with 478 residential lots, is planned north of College Boulevard and west of Clare Road.

Commercial

A **John Deere** office building is planned with the second phase of the Corporate Ridge business park on the east side of Ridgeview Road, approximately one-quarter mile north of College Boulevard. John Deere will develop a 126,000 square foot building to serve as their North American Sales and Marketing Headquarters.

Preliminary site preparation is underway for **Fort Dodge Animal Health**, an anchor firm in the Kansas State University-Olathe Innovation Campus and Kanas Bioscience Park, near K-7 and College Boulevard.

National Tire and Battery will be located north of 153rd Street and west of 169 Highway. A building permit is pending for the new auto service facility.

Staybridge Suites, a 95 unit, four-story hotel, will be constructed along Kansas City Road, just south of Bass Pro Shops.

Public

Olathe Mission Trail Junior High School will be located at the southeast corner of 127th Street and Lakeshore Drive. The school will be designed to accommodate up to 800 students for the 7th, 8th and 9th grades. The Olathe District Schools anticipates construction to begin later this year to complete the building in time for the 2010-11 school year.

Olathe Honored with Kansas Inclusive Communities Award

Interhab has selected Olathe for a Kansas Inclusive Communities Award. Johnson County Developmental Supports nominated the City for the award, recognizing Olathe as "A Welcoming Community." The nomination highlights the City's transportation access for persons with disabilities, housing opportunities for low income, elderly and persons with disabilities, the work of the Olathe Human Relations Commission and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Board, family self-sufficiency programs and as home of the Kansas School for the Deaf.

Interhab is a statewide advocacy agency for citizens with disabilities. Olathe was the only city in the state receiving the Kansas Inclusive Communities Award for 2008.

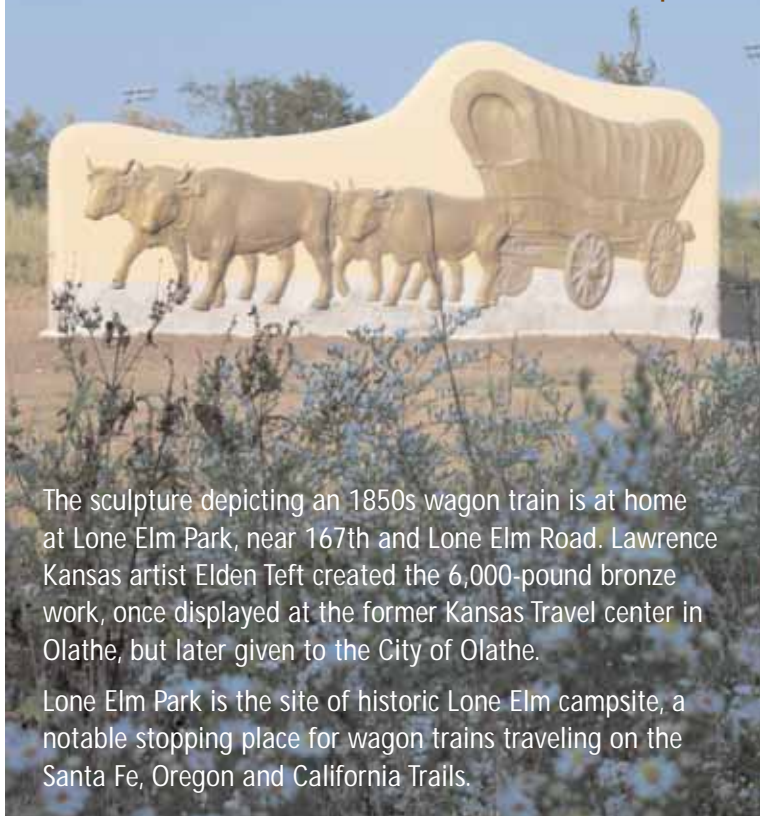
City Honors OPUS

The City Council recognized OPUS for their tremendous investment to the community, including far-reaching economic development projects such as the Corporate Ridge Office Park and the recently announced Embassy Suites hotel and conference center.



Representing OPUS Northwest L.L.C., from left: Bret Sheffield, director of Real Estate Development, Richard Muller, director of Real Estate Development, and David Harrison, vice president and general manager with Mayor Michael Copeland at the City's presentation of the Olathe Community Pride Award.

Lone Elm Park New Home for Trails West Sculpture



The sculpture depicting an 1850s wagon train is at home at Lone Elm Park, near 167th and Lone Elm Road. Lawrence Kansas artist Elden Teft created the 6,000-pound bronze work, once displayed at the former Kansas Travel center in Olathe, but later given to the City of Olathe.

Lone Elm Park is the site of historic Lone Elm campsite, a notable stopping place for wagon trains traveling on the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails.

Dennis Avenue Bridge Opens

A new bridge has opened on Dennis Avenue over Little Cedar Creek near the south end of Lake Olathe. The bridge is a four-lane structure, built to accommodate current and future traffic use, with on-road bicycle lanes and sidewalks on both sides. It replaces the bridge built in 1960.



Agreement in Place for Downtown Railroad Quiet Zone

The City of Olathe and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway have agreed on construction and maintenance for 11 crossings on the west BNSF railroad tracks, clearing the way for a quiet zone in downtown.

Only upon completion of the crossing safety improvements, spanning Woodland Road to Dennis Avenue, can a Federal Railway Administration-designated quiet zone occur. The quiet zone will eliminate five hours of train horns from sounding each day.

Safety enhancements at Santa Fe Avenue, Park Street and Elm Street call for a four-gate system to fully block vehicles when gates are closed at those crossings.

Crossings at Woodland Street, Harold Street, Mulberry Street, Loula Street and Dennis Avenue will be constructed with raised medians on both approaches to prohibit drivers from getting around lowered gates to cross tracks.

The three least traveled crossings will be closed at Prairie Street, Poplar Street and Cedar Street. In addition, a six-foot high fence will be added along tracks from Mulberry Street to Elm Street.

BNSF will make the necessary track and signal modifications, and in coordination, the City will contract street construction to complete the work. It is anticipated necessary construction for the quiet zone will be completed by the end of 2009.



Elevated Rail Project Completed this Fall

Work on the east BNSF rail elevation project will be completed this fall with construction on eastbound Santa Fe Avenue and northbound Ridgeview Road. Landscaping and seeding associated with the project will also be completed. This \$41.2 million project significantly improves east-west traffic flow through the city, eliminating four, key rail-street crossings. It's estimated that 7,000 vehicles were delayed each day at the crossings, totaling nearly 580 hours of waiting last year.

Olathe Earth News

Water Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plants Receive Awards

Olathe Water Plant Wins Water Taste Contest

The City of Olathe has the Best Tasting Water according to the judges of the annual 2008 “Water Taste Contest” held at the 63rd Annual Kansas American Water Works Association (KsAWWA) Conference in Kansas City, Kan.

The water systems participating in the contest were judged on flavor characteristics.

Besides the City of Olathe, the contest included Kansas utilities from Fort Scott, the Board of Public Utilities in Kansas City, Bonner Springs, Winfield and Topeka.

AWWA is the largest organization of water professionals in the world and is the authoritative resource for knowledge, information, and advocacy to improve the quality and supply of water in North America and beyond.

Wastewater Treatment Facilities Honored for Outstanding Compliance Records

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies presented **Cedar Creek** and **Harold Street Wastewater Treatment Facilities** with two Peak Performance Awards for outstanding compliance records in the 2007 calendar year.

The Harold Street facility received a Gold Award and the Cedar Creek facility received a Silver Award.

These latest honors add to the many City of Olathe Wastewater Treatment Division’s award-winning accomplishments, with recognition from various organizations in 1997, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Transmission Main Improvement Project Underway

The construction phase has started for a Transmission Main Improvement project to help keep pace with the city’s growing water demands as the population increases.

By the year 2020, the City of Olathe’s projected water demands will be more than 25 percent higher than daily requirements today.

Approximately 34,000 feet of new 42-inch transmission main will be installed during the construction phase of the design/build project. Beginning at Water Plant No. 2, the main will connect to an existing 30-inch transmission main, located at 119th Street and Lone Elm Road. The cost of the project is approximately \$16 million.

The entire project will be completed in summer 2009.

Documentary on America’s Aging Water Infrastructure to Air in November on PBS

The country’s aging water infrastructure is the subject of the documentary “Liquid Assets: The Story of Our Water Infrastructure,” scheduled to be shown at 8 p.m., Nov. 13 on KCPT (date/time subject to change).

“This is a must-see documentary for everyone – drawing attention to the importance of maintaining and upgrading our vital water infrastructure across the country,” says City of Olathe Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Joe Foster.

The documentary tells of America’s distressed essential infrastructure systems: drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater. These complex and aging systems—some in the ground for more than 150 years—are critical components for basic sanitation, health, public safety, economic development, and a host of other necessities of life.

For information on water, sewer and solid waste services, please call 913-971-9311.

Para mas informacion sobre el servicio de agua, alcantarillas, y basura, favor de llamar a 913-971-9311.

Olathe Municipal Services

Water/Sewer Services • Solid Waste Collection • Curbside Recycling
Yard Waste Collection • Household Hazardous Waste Program

Late-Season Fertilizer Application for the Lawn

November is the time to give cool-season lawns the last nitrogen application of the season. Why November? Because even though the top growth slows due to cooler temperatures, grass plants are still making food (carbohydrates) by photosynthesis. A November nitrogen application helps boost the photosynthesis rate. Carbohydrates that are not used in growth are stored in the crown and other storage tissues in the plant. These carbohydrate reserves help the turfgrass green up earlier in the spring and sustain growth into May without the need for early-spring (March

or April) fertilization. Other benefits of November-applied nitrogen for cool-season grasses include improved winter hardiness, root growth and shoot density. In order for this application to be effective, the nitrogen must be readily available to the plant, because the growing season is nearly over. Therefore, use a quick release nitrogen carrier such as urea or ammonium sulfate. As always, sweep up any fertilizer that gets on driveways, sidewalks, or streets and reapply it to the lawn.

–Source: Johnson County Extension Office
(www.johnson.ksu.edu)



Good Time to Start Recycling America Recycles Day - November 15

But, anytime is a good time to begin recycling. Go to www.olatheks.org to sign-up for Bin & Win, the City's curbside recycling program, and to learn more about options that exist for recycling in Olathe.

The City of Olathe also accepts household electronics items, including computers and computer-related equipment through the E-waste Recycling Program. A fee ranging from \$3 - \$10 will be charged to cover the City's processing and recycling costs. All of the e-waste items from the City are collected for recycling or reuse.

Call Olathe Municipal Services at 913-971-9311 for more recycling information.

Order a YardCart

The new 95-gallon Olathe YardCart

- holds up to 330 pounds of yard waste
- wide opening makes it easy to fill
- easy to move around the yard as you work

One-time lease fee - \$75

For details, call Olathe Municipal Services Customer Service 913-971-9311; go to Customer Service, 1385 S. Robinson, (M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.), or visit www.olatheks.org – select Municipal Services from the Department drop-down menu.

Remember, yard waste material that doesn't fit in the YardCart should be placed in a paper yard waste bag before it's placed at the curb.

Holiday Solid Waste Collection Schedule

No trash, recycling, and yard waste collection for

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 27. Residents with Thursday and Friday solid waste collection days will have trash, recycling and yard waste picked up the following day that week only on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

No trash, recycling and yard waste collection for Christmas Day, Dec. 25, and New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

Residents with Thursday and Friday solid waste collection days will have trash, recycling, and yard waste picked up the following day that week only on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

The Transfer Station and the City's Composting Facility, 127th & Hedge Lane (old City landfill), will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Reader Feedback

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

Postal Customer

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CITIZEN REQUEST SYSTEM

Make an inquiry or request for City service 24/7, www.olatheks.org—Click on Contact Us.

City's 150th Anniversary Legacy Sculpture Dedicated



Thanks to donations from residents and businesses, a lasting gift for the community stands at the northwest corner of Ridgeview and Kansas City Roads. Community members (above) gathered at the Mahaffie Heritage Center in late summer to celebrate the installation of the life-sized relief sculpture of a stagecoach scene. The sculpture, designed and created by local artist Kwan Wu, is the Olathe Sesquicentennial Committee's legacy gift to the community. The City of Olathe marked its 150th birthday in 2007 with numerous special events celebrating the community's historic milestone.

The sculpture highlights the early history of the freight and emigrant routes, – the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails – upon which Olathe was built.

Comprehensive Plan Needs You

Planning for Olathe's future is underway with an update to the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is the official adopted statement of the City setting forth the goals and vision for future growth and development, and directly or indirectly affects residents' transportation, parks and greenspaces, housing choices, community economic issues, and other areas.

Residents are invited to participate in events this fall and winter, at which they can share their hopes and aspirations for Olathe's future. A visioning workshop with the general public is scheduled for January 8, 2009. More details on this workshop will be available over the next few months. In addition, a plan website is available for direct citizen input. You can explore plan topics, learn about the update process, find upcoming workshops and meeting dates, provide feedback and more at www.planolathe.com. For more information about these events or the Comprehensive Plan update process, you can visit planolathe.com or contact the Department of Development Services at 913-971-8750.

