



October 14, 2010

Dear Community Friend,

As Olathe Mayor, I know that you share my tremendous pride in our great city and all that we have accomplished as a community. Thank you for your strong leadership and investment in Olathe - you are making a significant impact on the quality of life we enjoy, and I hope you know how very much we value your support!

All of us are feeling the effects of this challenging economy, and the City continues to make strategic financial adjustments in response to decreasing revenues. The budget reduction steps we have taken have been very difficult, but necessary to protect our solid financial foundation, now and in the future. Supporting our residents' and businesses' highest priorities, maintaining delivery of quality City services, and ensuring a performance-driven, accountable local government remain our top goals, and you can be assured we are using your tax dollars wisely.

Our success is consistently validated by our bond rating agencies and by your positive feedback in our annual citizen surveys. In fact, our most recent DirectionFinder survey revealed that once again, Olathe has the metro area's highest rating in satisfaction with overall City services and is rated at or near the top in nearly every other major category! Our survey numbers continue to surpass those of other communities because our City employees are exceptional. Despite budget cutbacks, they keep setting the bar higher because they truly care about our community and the citizens they serve, and that makes me very proud!

Olathe's continued growth and success are certainly the outcome of the standards of excellence we have achieved, not only in service to our citizens, but in responding to your highest priorities, including public safety, recreation, and transportation. This is clearly reflected in the recent expansion of our Police Headquarters Building, the opening of our Black Bob Bay family aquatic center, and the unveiling of our new I-35 interchange at Lone Elm Road, which is opening the door for hundreds of new jobs and millions of dollars in economic development.

This year has seen continued progress on our beautiful new K-State Olathe Innovation Campus, as well as renewed plans by John Deere for their new marketing and sales center in northwest Olathe. The Heart of America Group recently announced plans to build a six-story Hilton Garden Inn east of I-35 and 119th Street, a full-service hotel and restaurant development that will transform this important gateway to our city. These multi-million dollar investments are setting the pace for tremendous new growth in the City of Olathe and our entire region.

There are many other exciting Olathe projects on the horizon, and because of your investment and support, the future of our city is brighter than ever. Your involvement is behind the accomplishment of so many important City initiatives, such as our budget process and this year's update of Olathe's Comprehensive Plan - our vision for how Olathe will grow and develop, now and in the years to come.

You are the reason we celebrate, and I believe that your amazing community spirit and desire to give back are among our greatest blessings. There is no community more generous and giving than Olathe! In these difficult times, you are demonstrating compassion for your neighbors like never before - gladly volunteering your time and donating your resources to wonderful programs that help others in need, such as the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund.

Thank you for your concern, commitment, and partnership with us. Together, we are building a world-class community right here in Olathe. And together, we will continue to lead Olathe forward in the future!

With sincere thanks,

Michael Copeland, Mayor