

# LINK Olathe

EARLY AUTUMN 2010



*The number one source for City of Olathe news and information.*

—Source: 2009 DirectionFinder Survey

## City Priorities to be Maintained in 2011, Another Budget-Cutting Year



Much like the average homeowner, the City of Olathe continues to experience the impact of the recession. For the third straight year, the City's 2011 General Fund is expected to have decreasing revenues while the City faces increasing costs for General Fund services.

The primary General Fund sources, sales and property taxes, are expected to continue decreasing, resulting in a General Fund reduction of nearly five percent from 2010, to \$82.9 million. Plus, utility costs are expected to increase in 2011.

"Our goal is to work within available General Fund resources without impacting residents' pocketbooks," says City Manager Michael Wilkes. "We expect to support citizen and City Council priority areas, such as transportation and public safety, while maintaining City assets and a strong financial foundation," says Wilkes.

While the City focuses on priority areas, other services will have cutbacks or reductions. The City of Olathe organization is again eliminating employee positions as part of long-term cost cutting measures.

For 2011, 25 General Fund employee positions will be eliminated. A portion of these workforce reductions reflect decreased development activity in the city. This follows the elimination of 85 full-time General Fund positions since 2008.

Other measures include no employee salary increases, and leaving vacant positions open. More savings will result from the health fund premium savings (see Olathe Works Well, p. 4) and adjustments to technology support for City departments.

A reorganization of City departments is expected to provide an estimated \$1.6 million in savings. (See City of Olathe Reorganizes Departments, page 3.)

Additionally, funding for Route K Olathe bus service will be reallocated to provide an additional 2,000 City taxi rides.

A copy of the proposed 2011 Operating Budget is available at [www.OlatheKs.org/Finance/Budget/2011BudPlan/Docs](http://www.OlatheKs.org/Finance/Budget/2011BudPlan/Docs).

Or, call the City of Olathe Budget Office at 913-971-8000.

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### Go Paperless with E-Billing

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Great pets are waiting to be adopted at the Olathe Animal Shelter! Come visit the Shelter, or view the pets available for adoption at [www.OlatheKs.org/Police/AnimalControl](http://www.OlatheKs.org/Police/AnimalControl)

Find current top Olathe news on page one of the City's website: [www.OlatheKs.org](http://www.OlatheKs.org).



## Olathe One of Fastest Growing U.S. Cities during Past Decade

Olathe, Kansas was the second fastest growing *Midwest* city among 100,000 plus population communities during the 2000 decade, and was among only four cities ranking in the nation's 50th fastest growing in that category, according to recently released U.S. Census Bureau estimates. Only Joliet, Illinois grew faster than Olathe among those

cities in the Midwest during the period.

Olathe grew by 31 percent between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2009, from 93,092 to 121,962 residents, making it the *nation's* 29th fastest growing city with a population of 100,000 or more. The City estimates Olathe's current population as more than 125,000 residents.



## Mayor's Message It's Your Money

Cutting back or reducing a household budget is never easy. Many of us have had that experience in recent years, if not at some other time. Likewise, the City of Olathe has taken budget reduction steps during the past three years, and unfortunately, they will continue in 2011.

For the third straight year, the City of Olathe is eliminating employee positions. This is extremely difficult, yet necessary in order to uphold our financial responsibility to you and to future Olathe residents.

Olathe can maintain our quality services only because our employees are exceptional. They are totally committed to excellence in serving you, and they have stepped up to take on the extra workloads resulting from our workforce reductions. They all deserve our deepest appreciation as they work to ensure that you have a performance-driven, accountable local government.

The City of Olathe began making strategic budget adjustments as early as 2008 to place Olathe in the best possible financial

position during this challenging economy and beyond. Projections indicate there will be no rebound in the City's key revenues until 2014.

Our efforts are consistently validated by our bond rating agencies and by your positive feedback in our annual citizen surveys. You can be certain that we are using your tax dollars efficiently while we work to identify new opportunities for maximizing resources.

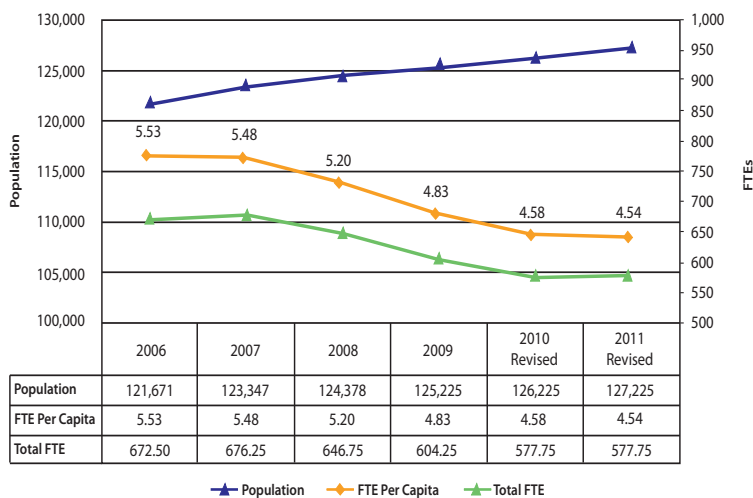
Thank you for your involvement in our budget process. Supporting your highest priorities, maintaining delivery of core City services, and protecting our financial foundation for the future will see us through these difficult times. By working together, we will continue to lead Olathe forward. Your outstanding community spirit and support will help ensure our success and Olathe's place among the very best cities in America!

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland  
Mayor

## City of Olathe General Fund Employees Full Time Equivalents

Population / FTE Per Capita / Total FTE



The chart above shows while Olathe's population has steadily increased the number of City General Fund employees has significantly decreased, from 5.53 employees per 1,000 residents in 2006, to a proposed 4.54 employees per 1,000 residents in 2011.



## New I-35 Interchange Opens On Schedule – and Under Budget

Olathe City Councilmembers are pictured above at the celebration of the Lone Elm and I-35 Interchange's completion on July 1, 2010. Pictured from left: John Bacon, Bob Montgomery, Marge Vogt, Jim Randall, Ron Ryckman and Mayor Michael Copeland (not pictured: Larry Campbell). The interchange was opened on time and under budget, and has already contributed to more than 1,500 new jobs in the area.

# City of Olathe Reorganizes Departments

Increased efficiency and saving money will result from changes in City departments' structure, following an evaluation that began in late 2009. The reorganization will continue excellent public services, saving an estimated \$1.6 million.

The Municipal Services, Public Works and Development Services Departments are now combined under the Public Works, Planning and Environmental Services Department. In addition to public works and municipal services, those services related to development and planning are now a part of this new department to further streamline the development process.

A new Communication and Customer Services Department

is designed to be more strategic with the resources we have to engage the public. It combines the traditional communications function, including Olathe Government Television Network, with police and fire public education, public affairs, customer service and internal communication. The City believes by combining these resources, a better and more efficient service can be offered.

Building Codes and Building Inspections are now a part of the Fire Department. Now under the Parks and Recreation Department are: the Office of Human Relations, Public Housing Authority, Housing Rehabilitation and Transportation services.

The Olathe Services Guide below provides more details about locations and phone numbers of frequently called City services.

## Olathe Services Guide

### EMERGENCY

- Ambulance** ..... 911
- Emergency TDD/TTY Calls** ..... 911
- Fire/Police** ..... 911

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

### CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8600

### COMMUNICATION AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

- Communication
  - 100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8612
- Customer Services
  - 1385 S. Robinson..... 971-9311
- Billing
- Trash
- Water & Sewer
- After-Hours Answering Service ..... 971-5151
  - Missed Trash
  - Water/Sewer Emergency

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Emergency** ..... 911
- Emergency TDD/TTY Calls** ..... 911
- Non-emergency TDD/TTY calls ..... 971-7903
- Administration and Life Safety Services
  - 1225 S. Hamilton Circle ..... 971-6333
- Building Codes
  - 100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8575
- Building Inspections ..... 971-8574
- Emergency Management ..... 971-7943

### 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

### 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
- Cemetery Caretaker
  - 738 N. Chestnut ..... 971-5226
- Housing and Transportation
  - 201 N. Cherry (TDD/Voice) ..... 971-6260
- Housing Rehabilitation
  - 201 N. Cherry ..... 971-6268
- Parks and Public Grounds
  - 200 W. Santa Fe ..... 971-6038
- Office of Human Relations
  - 100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8790
  - (TDD) ..... 971-8651
  - Fair Housing Hotline ..... 971-6472
- Public Housing Authority
  - 201 N. Cherry (TDD/Voice) ..... 971-6260
- Recreation Division
  - 200 W. Santa Fe (TDD/Voice)..... 971-6263
- Recreation Activity Registration ..... 971-6263
- Special Events
  - 200 W. Santa Fe ..... 971-8004

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

- 501 E. 56 Highway ..... 971-7500
- Animal Control
  - 505 E. Sunvale ..... 971-6362
- Emergency** ..... 911
- Emergency/Non-emergency TDD/TTY calls** ... 911

### PUBLIC WORKS, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Community Development Block Grant
  - 201 N. Cherry ..... 971-6260
- Community Enhancement
  - 100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8580
- Neighborhood Services
  - 100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8750
- Planning Services
  - 100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8750
- Solid Waste Transfer Station
  - 1681 S. Valley Rd. .... 971-5175

### Street Maintenance

- Woodland & Harold ..... 971-9511
- Pot Hole Hotline ..... 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
- Water quality questions
  - 600 S. Curtis..... 971-5122
- Zoning Information
  - 100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8725

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

- Administration and Accounting
  - 201 N. Cherry ..... 971-8000
- City Clerk
  - 100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8521
- Alarm Coordinator ..... 971-6350
- Human Resources
  - 100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8735
- Jobline..... 971-8749
- Purchasing
  - 100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8714

Printed on recyclable paper. 

**Olathe City Council**

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jbacon@olatheks.org

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Ward 1  
913-488-7278  
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**Jim Randall**  
Ward 2  
and Mayor Pro Tem  
913-244-3150  
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**Ron Ryckman**  
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**Marge Vogt**  
Ward 4  
913-269-0625  
mvogt@olatheks.org

# City of Olathe Offers More E-Services

## Traffic Ticket Payments Now Accepted Online or by Phone

The Olathe Municipal Court is now accepting payments for eligible traffic citations online at [www.OlatheKs.org/tickets](http://www.OlatheKs.org/tickets) or by calling 800-701-8560. The new options are available 24-hours a day and seven-days a week.

Only citations issued by the Olathe Police Department that include a fine amount are eligible for online payment and may be paid after five working days following issuance. In addition, citations marked with a "CA" (court appearance), or are a result of an accident must be addressed in person. Partial payments can only be made with the prior approval from the judge after a court appearance.

To pay online, a ticket number, court date, fine amount and valid email address are required. Ticket information is available by calling the Municipal Court Clerk at 913-971-6393.

Anyone paying citations online must acknowledge the following: You are the defendant and you are pleading Guilty or No Contest to the charges on your ticket; you will be found Guilty of the charges. A processing fee will be added to your fine to cover the costs of online payment, but the full charge amount will be displayed prior to submitting payment. Fines and fees will be credited to your ticket after your payment is processed, and the Olathe Municipal Court reserves the right to decline online payment of any citation.

## Purchase an Olathe City Pet License Today

Online Purchases, New Three-Year Licenses Offered

It is against the law for any person to own, keep or harbor a dog or cat more than six months old unless the animal is properly licensed. As a convenience, pet owners can now purchase up to a three-year license with a corresponding rabies certificate. The multi-year licenses include price discounts.

### When should I get my pet licensed?

Pet licenses are valid from August 1st through August 1st of the following year. If your pet does not have a new license for 2010-2011, now is the time to get a license!

### How do I get my pet licensed?

1. Online at [www.OlatheKs.org/Police/LicenseApp](http://www.OlatheKs.org/Police/LicenseApp)
  2. Olathe Animal Shelter, 505 Sunvale, behind the Police Department
  3. Olathe Customer Service, 1385 S. Robinson
- (See fee details online or call the Olathe Animal Shelter.)

### What are the benefits?

If your pet is found by an Animal Control Officer or brought to the Animal Shelter the pet can easily be returned home to you.

The pet license ensures rabies vaccination compliance, eliminating the need for painful shots and quarantine if a bite occurs.

For more information, you can contact the Olathe Animal Shelter at 913-971-6362, or Animal Control Services at 913-971-7455.



## Employee-Involved Health Plan Paying Off

**OLATHE**  
**WORKS WELL**

During the past decade rising health care insurance coverage for City of Olathe employees became cost prohibitive, increasing as much as 91 percent since 2001.

The City wanted a health care plan with quality services that eliminated unnecessary spending. An employee involved

program, Olathe Works Well, has integrated an emphasis on wellness, providing significant improvements in employee health risk factors while saving everyone money.

The new plan involved employees in its development and used their health risk assessments to fit the needs of the City of Olathe workforce.

The focus is more on employees as health care consumers under the new Olathe Works Well plan. They can save money by taking care of themselves, asking questions at the doctor's office and looking for the best values on medicines.

There have been marked health improvements in employees participating in the plan's wellness program, such as improved total cholesterol numbers, glucose levels and weight loss.

Since the employee-involved plan began, health insurance costs have decreased each year. During September 2009 through April 2010, the City saved \$207,255 in wellness and sick visit costs.

Currently, 56 percent of employees are participating in the Olathe Works Well plan. The City also offers a traditional Preferred Provider Organization health insurance plan.

# Smart Phones Access Sculpture Information

The current downtown art sculptures have QR codes, two-dimensional bar codes, which can link smart phone users to the City website with additional information about the art. Smart phone users need only download an app to enable the bar code scanner. The bar codes, which appear as black and white images, are available on all of the downtown sculptures in the 2010 exhibit.

Should this pilot program prove successful, the City of Olathe plans to display more bar coded signs with links to additional information on the City's website, [www.OlatheKs.org](http://www.OlatheKs.org).



## Reduce Your Vulnerability to Auto Burglary

### By the Numbers:

**30-** the seconds it takes for a thief to break into your car and steal your valuables

**20-** the seconds it takes to put your valuables into your trunk, out of sight and lock your doors!

The Olathe Police Department reminds citizens that removing or hiding belongings and locking car doors can significantly reduce the likelihood of being a victim of auto burglary.

### Remove your belongings:

Many owners may be enticing thieves by leaving items out. Do not leave anything in your vehicle in plain sight which you would not want taken.

- Keep your belongings with you, or lock them out of sight in the glove compartment or trunk. Car floors, dashboards and seats are not good places to leave items.
- Don't leave any sign there might be valuables "out of sight" in your vehicle, such as docking stations or connector cables. If burglars see the docking station, they may think the valuable component is in the car.

### Lock your doors and roll up your windows:

"Car Surfing" is what thieves call walking down the street or parking lot and checking to see if cars are unlocked. Leaving your doors and windows unlocked is just what a thief wants and makes it easy to steal your property.

- Make it a habit to lock ALL doors and close windows, even if you plan to be gone for only a brief time. It only takes seconds for thieves to steal from vehicles.
- Don't leave any window open or even cracked open, including vent/wing windows and sunroofs.

### Or you may lose your belongings!

If something is stolen out of your car:

- As soon as you notice something's stolen (or that your car has been broken into) do not touch/adjust anything in, on, or around the car.
- Contact the Olathe Police Department as soon as possible: 9-1-1 or non-emergency 913-971-7455.
- Know the serial numbers for electronic items inside your vehicle, including your stereo components.

For more information, contact the Olathe Police Department Community Outreach Unit at 913-971-7500.

## Street Pavement Technology Saves Money, Provides Environmental Benefits

The City of Olathe has started using a new pavement technology that recycles asphalt while saving money for the street preservation program. The technology uses Fractionated Recycled Asphalt Pavement, incorporating asphalt on existing streets into the new asphalt surface that is placed on roadways.

Although the use of recycled asphalt is not new, fractionating is a newer process that further refines the asphalt mix and reduces the amount of new liquid asphalt binder needed for the pavement. The new process is making a difference to the already stressed

street rehabilitation budget.

"The price per ton reduction by using the Fractionated Recycled Asphalt Pavement can be 20 to 30 percent less than a virgin asphalt mix," says Jeff Beal, Olathe project coordinator for street preservation.

The City of Olathe is using the pavement mix for resurfacing projects on main roadways and local streets in 2010. For more information, contact Jeff Beal, [jbeal@olatheks.org](mailto:jbeal@olatheks.org) or 913-971-8768.

# Olathe Earth News

## Olathe Offers E-Waste Recycling

Old household computers, televisions and other small electronics may be recycled through the City of Olathe's E-Waste Recycling Program.

To cover the City's cost of handling and proper recycling, fees ranging from \$3-\$15 per item will be charged.

### E-Waste Items Accepted for Recycling

- Televisions - \$15 each
- CRT monitors - \$10 each
- Computers (CPUs/servers), laptops, non-CRT monitors, printers, scanners - \$3 each
- Small electronics (microwaves, VCRs, DVD/CD players, fax machines) - \$3 each
- Accessories (cables, keyboards, mice, adapters, small external disk drives) - no charge

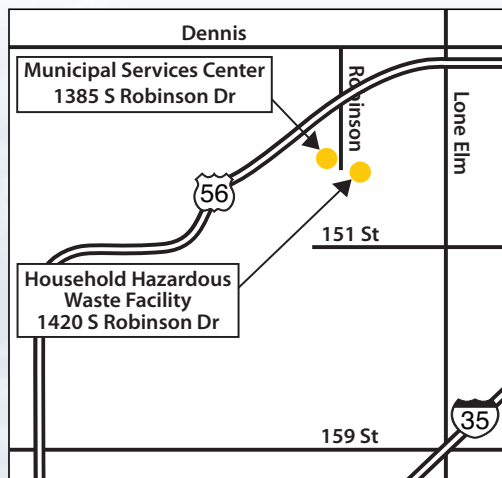
Olathe residents may call 913-971-9311 to schedule a time for bringing in E-Waste items on select days of the week.

Please go to the Municipal Services Center Customer Service front desk or the drive through window at 1385 S. Robinson Drive at the scheduled time to pay the recycling fee(s). Residents will then be directed to take their items to the nearby Household Hazardous Waste facility, where a photo ID, copy of a City of Olathe utility bill (showing sanitation charges) and a signed waiver accepting the program's conditions are required.

Questions may be directed to 913-971-9311 or go to [www.OlatheKs.org](http://www.OlatheKs.org).

## Dispose of Motor Oil Properly

The oil cleanup in the Gulf of Mexico this year serves as a reminder to always dispose of old and used motor oil properly. Oil should never be placed in stormdrains, where it will make its way to creeks and rivers. Instead, bring used and old motor oil and other household hazardous waste items to **Olathe's Household Hazardous Waste Facility for free drop-off on the Second Saturday of each month, 8 a.m. – noon, (no appointment necessary).**



### Household Hazardous Waste Materials Accepted

- Aerosol cans (paint, bug spray, cleaners)
- Automotive fluids (antifreeze, oil, gasoline)
- Automotive batteries (lead-acid)
- Bathroom cleaners
- Carpet cleaners
- Cooking oil
- Drain cleaners
- Fertilizers
- Floor cleaners/polish
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Fuels (diesel, gasoline, kerosene)
- Household batteries (except alkaline)
- Latex paint
- Mercury (thermometers, thermostats)
- Motor oil
- Oil-based paints
- Paint thinners
- Pesticides
- Solvents
- Stains/varnishes
- Wood preservatives

### Items Not Accepted

- Business wastes of any kind
- Empty containers
- Biological wastes
- Explosives/ammunition
- Medical wastes
- Smoke detectors
- Pharmaceuticals
- Televisions
- Tires

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.

# Public Works, Planning and Environmental Services

## Drain Swimming Pools Responsibly

Residents who are draining swimming pools for the season should keep in mind the locations for draining pool water.

Before the pool can be drained, de-chlorinate with a pool product or allow the chlorine to dissipate over time – (Check with your pool supply store to determine the proper amount of time needed for your specific pool.)

Normally, de-chlorinated water should be drained to the street curb for runoff to a stormdrain. If there is no available stormdrain, the water can be drained to a sanitary sewer only with permission from the City of Olathe Public Works, Planning and Environmental Services director, per Olathe Code 14.08.010, Use of Public Sewers.

Keep in mind that if it is necessary to pump or drain pool water across your neighbor's property you should first seek permission from them to do so. This is a civil concern between neighbors.

Questions about locations to drain pools can be directed to Tim Kurkowski, 913-971-9102 or [tkurkowski@olatheks.org](mailto:tkurkowski@olatheks.org).



### Go Paperless with Electronic Billing

City of Olathe customers for water, wastewater and solid waste services can receive electronic billing services. E-billing customers receive an e-mail link to their online account log-in page when the bill is generated each month. Sign up at: [www.OlatheKs/OMS/ElectronicBilling](http://www.OlatheKs/OMS/ElectronicBilling) and follow the prompts. Once signed up, customers can track water and sewer usage and account balances.

## Treatment Plants Win Awards

The City of Olathe won two distinguished awards for wastewater treatment plant operations for 2009 from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. The Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant received a Gold Award for 100 percent compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for an entire year. The Harold Street Wastewater Treatment Plant received a Silver Award for compliance with the NPDES permits for an entire year. These awards reflect the dedicated work of wastewater treatment staff to ensure the health and safety of Olathe citizens and to protect the environment.

### Bulk Pick-up Service Can Collect Large Items

Olathe residents can arrange for curbside collection of large or bulky household items by calling 913-971-9311 at least 24 hours before their scheduled trash day. All items must be placed within eight feet of the curb by 8 a.m. on your trash day. The following charges apply, and will appear on your next statement:

- Household items, construction debris or brush  
\$17.50 per 15 minutes of loading time
- Refrigerated appliances (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners)  
\$30 each
- Automobile tires  
\$10 minimum for up to 2 tires; \$5 for each additional tire
- Truck or tractor tires  
\$7.50 - \$10 each; \$16 minimum applies

### Enhanced Solid Waste Services Available

**Call & Haul** for small clean ups around the home – simple and effective, perfect for cleaning out the garage. A four-yard or six-yard container is delivered to the driveway for the weekend, or Monday through Friday.

**Commercial & residential roll-off containers** for trash collection, various size containers available (no hidden costs or delivery fees)

**Commercial front loader services** for commercial waste collection, various size containers available

For more information about these services, call 913-971-9311.

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](http://www.OlatheKs.org)—Click on Citizen Request System.

Subscribe to free weekly Olathe news. Visit [www.OlatheKs.org](http://www.OlatheKs.org). Click on About Olathe and enter your e-mail address in the News section.



## Bring the Family 17th Annual Olathe Fire Department Open House

Sunday, October 10, Noon – 4 p.m.

Olathe Fire Station 1  
501 E. Old 56 Highway

*All activities and refreshments are FREE.  
Hot dogs grilled by Atmos Energy.*

- Kids can spray water from a real fire hose
- Meet Olathe firefighters
- See Olathe fire trucks and equipment
- Rescue demonstration featuring special tools like the Jaws of Life
- Sparky the robotic fire dog
- Child safety car seat checks by the Olathe Police Department
- Watch a bomb squad demonstration
- Kansas Highway Patrol's rollover demonstration machine
- Tour an Olathe fire station
- And more!!

*Deaf or hard of hearing and Spanish interpreters will be available.*



## Farmers' Market Downtown Olathe

200 W. Santa Fe

(in the parking area at Kansas and Poplar)

Saturdays to October 16  
8 a.m. until sold

Wednesdays to September 29  
3 p.m. until sold

Market closed September 11  
due to Johnson County Old Settlers

For more information call 913-971-6263,  
or contact Rick Dryden,  
[rdryden@olatheks.org](mailto:rdryden@olatheks.org).