



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

—Source: 2008 DirectionFinder survey

Inside This Issue

Mayor's Message.....	2
Ready for Severe Storm Season?.....	3
Services Guide.....	3
Saturday Farmers Market Moves.....	4
New Aquatic Center at Black Bob Park.....	5
Olathe Earth News.....	6-7
Free Summer Concert Series.....	8

Meet Olathe's Newest City Councilmember



Ronald W. Ryckman, Jr.

Ward 3

Ryckman is a 12-year veteran in construction

services, land development and real estate. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from MidAmerica Nazarene University. Ryckman serves on the TLC for Children and Families Board of Directors, Olathe Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Pioneer Athletic Association. He and his wife have three children.

Get firsthand news about your city. Subscribe to free weekly Olathe news briefs and news releases. Visit www.olatheks.org. Click on About Olathe and enter your e-mail address in the News section.

Don't Miss This Opportunity for Olathe

The time is now. The PlanOlathe Team is reaching out to residents as they work to update Olathe's Comprehensive Plan.

One of the basic principles of PlanOlathe is the community that works together can develop new ideas to forge a distinct future. Those ideas may be set forth in the Olathe Comprehensive Plan as it documents the community's vision for Olathe's growth and development and influences policies that have a direct bearing on the quality of life that citizens enjoy in Olathe.

Ways to Get Involved

PlanOlathe Roadshows

Planning staff are taking PlanOlathe presentations to civic and social organizations, neighborhood groups, community groups, homeowner associations, school PTOs, and at local development, transportation, and housing forums. If you would like a presentation or workshop for your organization, contact us!

www.planolathe.com – Stay informed about the update process, find upcoming meeting dates, review the work completed thus far, and provide direct feedback. A virtual Visioning Workshop is also available on the website for viewing and commenting on public meeting information.

For questions, to schedule a presentation, or to find out how to be involved:

- Visit: www.planolathe.com, contact planolathe@olatheks.org
- Call the Development Services Department, 913-971-8750
- Write: City of Olathe, Development Services Department, 100 E. Santa Fe, Olathe, Kansas 66051-0768

"Think Big" Public Workshops

Residents are invited to attend "Think Big" workshops May 20 and 21 at Olathe City Hall. Citizens will be asked to create and judge those big ideas that can help improve Olathe's future.

A 20-minute presentation will begin promptly at 6 p.m., followed by "hands-on" small group exercises where citizens can show how they think Olathe should change and grow over time. Please do your best to arrive on-time.

You're encouraged to join us on one of the following dates:

Wednesday, May 20, 6-8 p.m.,
Olathe City Hall, 100 E. Santa Fe

Thursday, May 21*, 6-8 p.m.,
Olathe City Hall, 100 E. Santa Fe

** Sign language and Spanish language interpreter services will be provided at this workshop.*

New Recycling Options
Maintaining high quality, yet affordable recycling services is the City of Olathe's priority. Residents can recycle as they always have at curbside, but with more materials.

See what's new - page 6





Mayor's Message – City Money Is Your Money

There is no question that development of the City of Olathe's 2010 operating budget will be a difficult process this summer for your elected officials and City staff. Given a shortfall in revenue, we already know that City services will be impacted next year. Although we will focus on providing quality, basic services, reductions or elimination of other services are inevitable.

It's no different than what our households, businesses, and other organizations are experiencing with their own budgets. Our City budget is facing limitations as well. City employees continue to serve with tremendous pride and a strong dedication to excellence in public service. During these difficult economic times, they are doing more with less because they truly care about our community.

In these times when resources are leaner, how the City of Olathe budgets dollars is most important. Have a say in those decisions. Join us for "City Coffee and Conversation" on several evenings set aside for you to drop by and discuss with us your ideas on how to prioritize services for the 2010 budget.

All City Coffee and Conversation events will be 7-8 p.m.

May 4 - Olathe Public Library children's storytime room, 201 E. Park St.

May 7 - Olathe Public Library children's storytime room, 201 E. Park St.

May 13 - Indian Creek Branch Library meeting room, 12990 S. Black Bob Rd.

While households, businesses, and our local government are facing budgetary limitations, the funding needs for area charities are impacted even more. We may not be able to give as much as we used to, but remember that charities are hurting. They need more people giving now, and even small amounts make a big difference.

Olathe is a generous community that supports organizations critical for serving human needs. Our heartfelt thanks to you for your past support of charities, through campaigns such as the Olathe Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund. Because of you, our 2008 Fund drive was the most successful campaign in our history, and we are making a real difference in the lives of our neighbors!

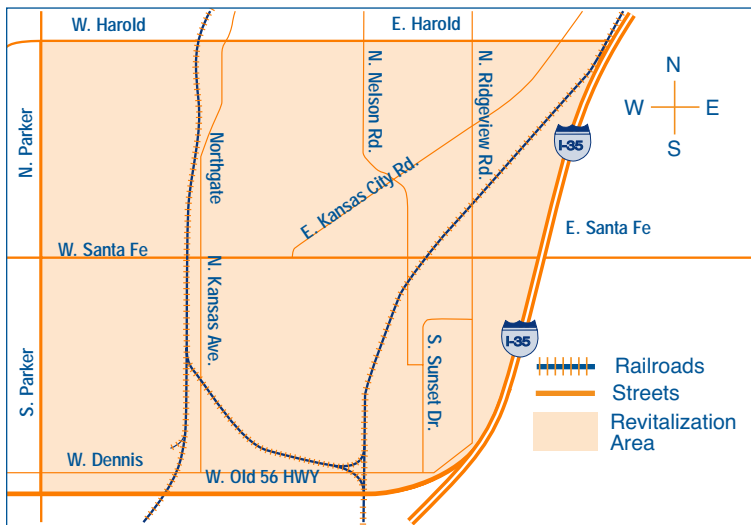
Let's work together to make smart choices about the resources we have, however limited. I encourage you to be proactive in telling the City how to budget City dollars, and also ask for your consideration in supporting those groups who provide for our fellow Olatheans in need.

With your involvement and support, Olathe will continue to shine as a strong leader during these difficult times, and together, we can look forward to a bright future filled with the promise of great things to come.

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland, Mayor

Original Town Improvements May Be Eligible for Property Tax Rebates



Residential and commercial properties located within Olathe's Original Town area may be eligible for property tax rebates through the Neighborhood Revitalization Act (NRA). A minimum investment of \$5,000 for residential and \$10,000 for

commercial properties is required to participate. Also, the proposed improvements must increase property values by a minimum of 5 percent for residential and 10 percent for commercial properties.

The NRA rebate applies only to an increased increment in property taxes due to eligible improvements made; and will return 90 percent of the incremental increase on residential properties and 80 percent for commercial, each year for up to 10 years and is transferable with the property. The retained portion of the increment will remain in the City's NRA fund for Original Town area public improvements as recommended by the Olathe Downtown Master Plan and the Original Town Enhancement Plan, and mandated by Kansas State Statutes. Applications for this rebate must be filed prior to, or at the same time as the issuance of a building permit. **Previous property improvements are not eligible for the tax rebate at this time.**

For more information, please contact Development Services at 913-971-8750 or email ekukal@olatheks.org.

Are You Ready? It is Severe Weather Season

In 2008, a record 187 tornadoes occurred in Kansas, resulting in four fatalities, nine injuries and millions of dollars in damage to homes, property and infrastructure. The 2008 total surpasses the previous record of 141 tornadoes set in 2007. In addition, numerous severe thunderstorms caused millions of dollars in damage to property and crops by producing

damaging winds and large hail. Flooding and flash flooding were widespread in Kansas, also causing millions of dollars in damage.

An **All Hazards NOAA* Weather Radio** is like having your personal indoor storm detector. Metro-wide, thousands of NOAA all-hazards radios have been made available through Project Community

Alert. A partnership among area emergency managers, Midland Radio, and area Price Chopper stores provides these radios at cost, \$29.95.

For more information about preparedness contact Olathe Emergency Management at 913-971-7943 or see www.olatheks.org/Fire/preparedness.

* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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 971-8600

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

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 971-6263
Special Events
200 W. Santa Fe 971-8004

POLICE DEPARTMENT

501 E. 56 Highway 971-7500
Alarm Coordinator 971-6350
Animal Control
505 E. Sunvale 971-6362
Emergency 911
Emergency TDD/TTY Calls 971-5323

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
Purchasing
100 E. Santa Fe 971-8714

Olathe City Council

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



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913-927-0433
lcampbell@olatheks.org

Marge Vogt
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913-980-0625
mvogt@olatheks.org

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

Bob Montgomery
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bmontgomery@olatheks.org

Ron Ryckman
Ward 3
913-971-8600
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John Bacon
At Large
913-269-6305
jbacon@olatheks.org

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Grace United Methodist Church, Center of Grace Recognized

The City of Olathe honored Grace United Methodist Church with a Community Pride Award in recognition of their mission and outreach center—Center of Grace.

The Olathe community benefits from many Center of Grace programs, including an emergency food pantry, clothes closet, children's shoe fund, and numerous Hispanic outreach ministries. In an exemplary spirit of partnerships and

cooperation with our community, the Center of Grace houses programs such as English language classes, Main Street USA for Olathe elementary school students, and the Step Up Community Learning Center for those seeking to earn a high school diploma.

Pictured with Mayor Michael Copeland are Reverend Nanette Roberts, senior pastor, and Reverend Sylvia Romero, associate pastor, at Grace United Methodist Church.



Busy Summer Season at Mahaffie Historic Site

By Tim Talbott, Mahaffie Historic Site Manager

Summer is just around the corner, and the Mahaffie stagecoach is already running on weekends. In June, our living history program kicks into full swing on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. We're farming, gardening, cooking, building, mending, sewing...come on out and experience life on a REAL farm of the Kansas frontier. Don't be surprised when you're asked to help with the chores!

New this summer, Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm will open from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday evenings in June and July, and admission is FREE! Stagecoach rides, and make it/take it crafts (like leather stamping) or special activities (like panning for gold) will carry separate fees. And don't forget to join us on Saturday, July 4 for our annual 19th century Independence Day celebration.

The new season pass program makes it easy and affordable to enjoy all the events and programs at Mahaffie. Pass holders receive free admission to all Mahaffie facilities. For programs such as Summer Thursday Nights, Independence Day, or the Christmas Open House which feature free admission, season pass holders enjoy all the activities for free that would otherwise carry a charge, such as coach rides and crafts. Season pass holders also receive free admission to the Wild West Show in September. Fees for the season pass are \$50 for resident families and \$55 for non-resident families. Visit www.mahaffie.org or call 913-971-5111 for more details on the season pass and Mahaffie programs.

Linking to the Past

The new Olathe Historic Preservation Board will work to enhance the community's historical treasures, providing citizens links to Olathe's past. The Board will advise the City Council on historic resources and safeguarding of architectural and cultural heritage of the community through the preservation of historic landmarks.

Creation of the Historic Preservation Board is the City's final step for establishing Olathe as a Certified Local Government with the National Parks Service, which may make the community eligible for historic grants. Once Olathe is certified, the City will be the first in Johnson County, Kansas with the status.

Historic Preservation Board **NEW!**

Bob Courtney
Maureen Donegan
Michael Foubert
Lynn Gentry

Gary Holstin
Claudia Reinfelds
Jennifer Winchester

Ex-Officio Members

Larry Campbell
Kevin Corbett
Steve Franks
Nancy Ingram



Saturday Farmers Market Moves to Heritage Center **NEW!**

2009 Schedule

Saturdays: April 25 to October 10; 7 a.m. until sold

Wednesdays: June 3 to September 30; 3 p.m. until sold

Market closed September 26 for Wild West Show

Locations:

Saturdays – Heritage Center, 1200 E. Kansas City Rd.

Wednesdays – 200 W. Santa Fe, corner of Poplar and Kansas Ave.

For additional information, visit
www.olatheks.org/ParksRec/Quicklinks/Farmers

Black Bob Pool to Become Family Aquatic Center

The 2010 swim season begins a new era at Black Bob Pool with the opening of an aquatic center offering new, fun features for everyone.

Waterslides, a lazy river and a water playground zone will accompany the Olympic-sized pool, which will have greater accessibility with zero-depth entry.

Birthday parties, corporate gatherings and other poolside events will be accommodated with additional shaded areas. An expanded concession area is planned, and the bath house will be renovated to include a family changing area.

The new aquatic center will upgrade the existing 25-year old pool, eliminating costly maintenance associated with older pools. The aquatic center will be funded with parks sales tax funds and the special park fund.

Black Bob Pool will close early during summer 2009 to allow construction to begin August 1.



In 2009, all City of Olathe pools will have new safety compliant drains required by the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act.



City Breaks Ground for Police Building Expansion

Construction is underway on the Police Building expansion project on the Public Safety Campus at Old 56 Highway and South Harrison.

The project will add 45,300 square feet to the existing 31,400 square foot building. The original building was constructed in 1983 when Olathe's population was 43,962. Today, Olathe has an estimated 124,515 residents.

Shown in the photo, from left: Don Newbanks, Rick Holland, Ron Tennissen, Kevin Connor, Scott Goddard, City Councilmember Marge Vogt and Jason Sanders.

Olathe Earth News



Olathe Curbside Recycling

Keeping Quality Recycling Services Affordable

The City's making a few adjustments to the curbside recycling program to maintain high quality services.

Beginning the week of May 4, 2009, glass will no longer be collected for recycling, nor will City workers sort items at the curb.

There will be no impact on how residents recycle; bins should be placed at the curb as before.

These adjustments will help keep curbside recycling services affordable for customers. Rates would increase more than 50 percent if the City continued to recycle glass and sort materials at curbside.

New Recycling Options

These changes, however, mean residents can **now recycle cardboard and phone books**. Plus, additional plastic resins, #3 through #7, were recently made available for curbside recycling collection.

Curbside Recycling Now Taking

- Plastic containers, such as margarine and yogurt
- Food containers (ketchup, syrup, etc.)
- Rigid polystyrene food containers (salad bar "clamshells")
- Cardboard (flattened and cut to 4x4)
- Chipboard (cereal boxes)
- Phone books and catalogs
- Manila file folders

Curbside Recycling No Longer Taking

Glass - Due to changes in the recycling market, collecting glass is no longer a viable option.

The City is always looking for ways to improve recycling services and expand materials collected. For more information visit www.olatheks.org/OMS, click on curbside recycling, or call 913-971-9311.

City of Olathe residents have the option of taking items to recycling centers:

Downtown Recycling Drop-off

Kansas Avenue & Poplar Street

East Olathe Recycling Drop-off

13600 S. Alden St., near 135th Street & Black Bob Road, northeast corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot

West Olathe Recycling Drop-off

Parker & Santa Fe Avenue, north of the pharmacy drive-thru in the Wal-Mart parking lot

Materials Accepted, Cardboard and chipboard (cereal boxes, etc.), #1 through #7 plastic containers, aluminum cans, tin (steel) cans, mixed paper (newspaper/office paper, junk mail, magazines/catalogs).



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

AQUAFEST 2009

Water – it's reason enough to celebrate!

Saturday, September 19*, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cedar Lake Park, 15500 S. Lone Elm Road

*rain date September 26

Olathe's 7th annual community water festival

Celebrate water as an important resource and a never-ending source of fun with FREE activities for all ages, including:

- Canoeing
- Fishing & fly-fishing
- Hands-on water activities
- Arts & crafts
- Giant water slide
- How-to classes in:
 - Painting with watercolors
 - Designing a rain garden
 - Managing bugs without pesticides
- And much, much more!



AquaFest is sponsored by the City of Olathe Municipal Services, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works Departments.

For more information, call 913-971-9311 or visit www.olatheks.org.



City Conducts Constant Water Monitoring

Did you know...

the City of Olathe laboratory staff collects drinking water samples throughout the city to ensure its quality?

The laboratory presently collects monthly samples from 128 homes and businesses to test for safety. The Environmental Protection Agency requires that a specific number of samples be collected and analyzed for bacteriological safety. The City's laboratory also tests for many other items that assist in making sure the water is always safe to drink.



P.O. Box 768, Olathe, Kansas 66051-0768

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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

Issues Affecting You

Get Involved with PlanOlathe	1
Mayor's Message	2
Saturday Farmers Market Moves	4
New Aquatic Center	5
Police Building Expansion	5
Olathe Earth News	6-7

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

Olathe Parks & Recreation and Farmers presents the
2009 Olathe FREE Summer Concert Series

All Concerts Begin at 7 p.m., Frontier Park, 15501 Indian Creek Parkway



The Elders
with Danny Cox
Friday, June 5

Sam Bush
with Jeff & Vida
Friday, July 17

Mike Finnigan
& **The Phantom Blues Band**
with Mark Montgomery & Max Berry
Friday, June 19

Liverpool
Friday, July 31

Mingo Fishtrap
and **Mark Selby**
Friday, June 26

Ten years of incredible FREE music!
Thank you FARMERS INSURANCE for being our Presenting Sponsor for the last two years and to our other special sponsors — Comcast, Hy-Vee, Olathe Ford RV, Smokin' Joe's, Kansas City Blues Society, Sound Check, Inc., Guitar Center, Pepsi Americas, yellowpages.com and at&t the real yellow pages.