

The Cost of Getting Behind on Street Preservation

Preserving Olathe’s street system, valued at \$1.36 billion, is one of the highest priorities for residents and the City of Olathe. A healthy network of streets is vital to the city’s overall quality of life, contributing to public safety and the local economy, while providing the means for mobility throughout the community.

The City of Olathe’s Street Preservation Program strives to extend the lifespan of streets with regular preventive maintenance to uphold safety and delay costly street reconstructions. It’s a financial challenge to fund street preservation, but without adequate funding the number of deteriorated streets requiring rebuilds will prove costly in future years.

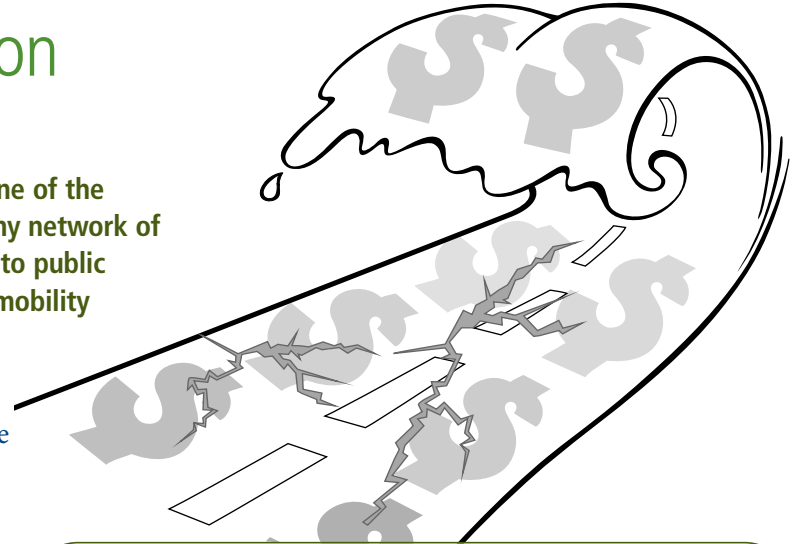
Street preservation challenges

As the fastest-growing city in Kansas and the Metropolitan Area, the job and costs of providing basic services have significantly grown for the City of Olathe. The number of street lane miles alone has doubled since 1990, now totalling more than 1,250 lane miles.

Continued on page 3



Mur-Len Road received a mill and overlay improvement as part of the City of Olathe’s 2011 Street Preservation Program. Olathe completed 45 lane miles of this maintenance during 2011. The projected mill and overlay maintenance needed in 2012 is 80 lane miles, based on the total number of lane miles in the network.



	Pay Now to Maintain Streets Cost Per Lane Mile*	Pay Later to Rebuild Streets Cost Per Lane Mile*
Local and Collector Streets	\$100,000	\$ 835,000
4-Lane Roadways	\$145,000	\$1,000,000

*2011 cost



Olathe Named Top Digital City
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Olathe Trash Collection Not Impacted by New County Plan - page 6

City of Olathe — Rated number one by citizens for customer service and quality of city services. Source: 2010 DirectionFinder Survey



Find current top Olathe news on the City’s website: www.OlatheKS.org.

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Mayor's Message

2011 Olathe Highlights

When Olathe residents greet a new year, it prompts me to review the City's outstanding events and accomplishments of the past year.

It is exciting, even during such trying economic times, that we have so much to celebrate!

Olathe was recently named the nation's **Top Digital City** among cities with populations of 125,000-249,000, according to the 11th annual Digital Cities Survey, part of the e.Republic's Center for Digital Government and Digital Communities Program. This honor recognizes our use of technology in saving costs and finding innovative solutions, even as our revenues have declined. In our first year in the 125,000 to 249,000 population classification, Olathe ranked ahead of Winston-Salem, NC; Salt Lake City, UT; Alexandria, VA; and Hollywood, FL. In other good news, our onsite employee health care clinic, **Olathe Works Well**, was singled out as the **best example of innovation in Kansas** in *Fast Company* magazine's annual "Fast Cities" edition. In its first year, our clinic contributed to nearly \$1.5 million in savings for the City.

In 2011, we maintained a cautious view of the economy as we developed our 2012 Operating Budget. During the past few years, our **proactive and sustainable cuts** have allowed us to adopt a basic budget without raising the mill levy. In fact, the 2012 General Fund Budget is about eight percent less than the City's Budget in 2008, while our population has grown by close to 3,400 residents since that time.

Despite these significant budget reductions, we continue to **lead the metropolitan area in growth**, with a corresponding increase in service demands. Even more remarkable is that we have continued to maintain the **highest citizen satisfaction levels in our region**. This is only because of our outstanding City employees, who are behind the success of everything we do.



New John Deere Sales and Marketing Center



Hilton Garden Inn under construction

The growth of our community is further reflected in the recent opening of higher education centers: the **K-State Olathe Campus**, and the Johnson County Community College **Olathe Health Education Center** in the Olathe Medical Park. In 2011, **John Deere** opened their new sales and marketing center, and great progress continued on the **Hilton Garden Inn** near I-35 and 119th Street.

Plans advanced for Olathe's new **Community Center** at Stagecoach Park at Ridgeview and Kansas City Road. With input from the community, work has begun on the design process for the Community Center and Stagecoach Park.

I cannot express enough appreciation for the many blessings our community enjoys, and for those who do so much for their neighbors by volunteering in churches, schools, and community organizations. During 2011, **volunteer service for the City of Olathe continued to increase**. Over the past three years, City volunteers have donated over 53,000 hours of service!

The compassion and generosity of our citizens shine through the **growing Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund**. In 2011, we saw contributions from many new Olathe businesses, including Olathe restaurants who participated in the new **Dining Out for Kids** event. Especially heartwarming is Olathe school children's participation in the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund **Pennies for Shoes** campaign, which benefits the Children's Shoe Fund.

It is truly a community effort that makes Olathe such a great place to live, work, learn, and play. All of us on the City Council look forward to serving you in 2012, and we wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy new year!

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland
Mayor

The Cost of Getting Behind on Street Preservation *(continued from cover)*

The City of Olathe has adjusted to slowed City revenues in recent years with sustainable cuts, including downsizing the workforce by nearly 100 positions and eliminating and consolidating City departments. (See Full Time City of Olathe Employees chart.)

While reductions have occurred, the Olathe City Council directed additional funds for street preservation in alignment with citizen priorities. Although an additional \$2.2 million is budgeted in 2012, a \$4 million gap remains to adequately fund the Street Preservation Program.

Meanwhile, as revenues have slowed, street maintenance costs have increased, including asphalt and other commodities.

This challenge is not only for Olathe. Cities across the nation are struggling to effectively maintain their streets, bridges and underground infrastructure, such as water and sewer systems. Recent news stories have portrayed the nations' aging infrastructure as a pending crisis if action doesn't occur.

Housing Services Offices Now Located at 200 W. Santa Fe*

- Housing and Transportation
- Housing Rehabilitation
- Public Housing Authority
- Community Development Block Grant
- Office of Human Relations

*formerly located at 201 N. Cherry St.

Important Phone Numbers

Regular Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Except for Emergency 911, and unless otherwise noted

EMERGENCY 911

Emergency TDD/TTY Calls 911

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

CUSTOMER SERVICE

1385 S. Robinson 971-9311

Billing

Trash

Water & Sewer

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

100 E. Santa Fe (TDD/Voice) 971-8563

POLICE DEPARTMENT

501 E. 56 Highway 971-7500

HUMAN RESOURCES

100 E. Santa Fe 971-8735

Jobline 971-8749



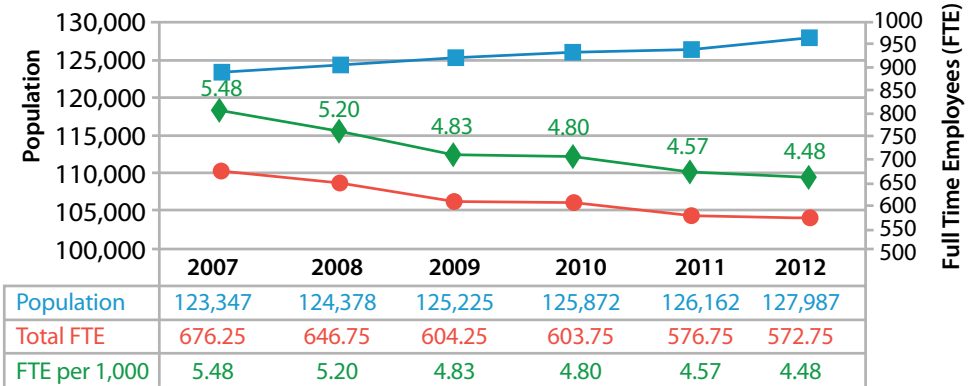
www.OlatheKS.org/CityDirectory

Printed on recyclable paper.



General Fund Full Time City of Olathe Employees

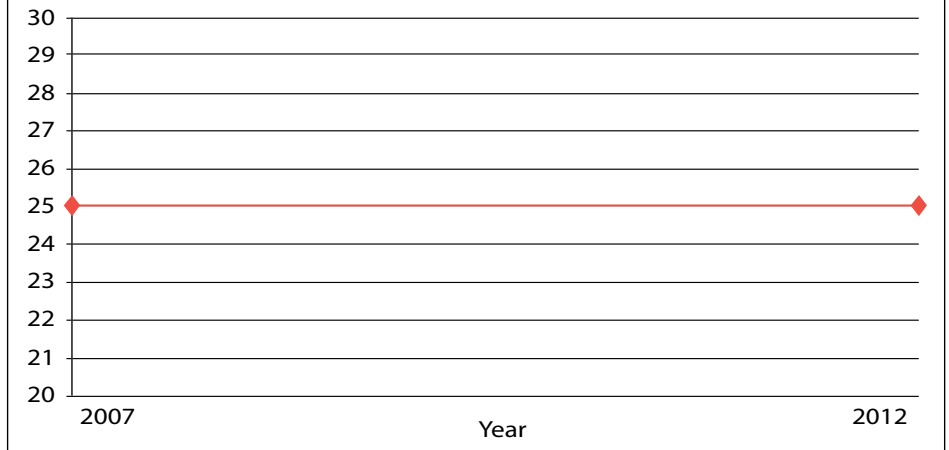
Population / Total FTE / FTE Per 1,000 residents



Because street maintenance is one of the highest priorities for Olathe residents, the City of Olathe will work to stay ahead of the curve in this area. Future funding decisions will likely reflect its importance.

— Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland

City of Olathe Mill Levy History



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Olathe Named Top Digital City

The City of Olathe is America's top-ranked digital city government for populations 125,000 to 249,000, according to the 11th annual "Digital Cities Survey." The Digital City awards focuses on city achievements using technology for operating efficiencies and realizing objectives despite current financial constraints. Olathe was recognized for cost-saving citizen engagement projects ranging from social media usage to hosting cross-jurisdictional 911 dispatch services in partnership with Johnson County Government.

Olathe Gets Two More Outdoor Warning Sirens

Two new outdoor warning sirens in south Olathe are installed and operational. One is located on 175th Street between Mur-Len and Ridgeview Roads; the other is near Lackman Road just north of 175th Street. These are solar powered sirens, the first two in Olathe's system of 36 sirens. The City of Olathe participated in the Kansas Severe Weather Warning Siren grant program, providing \$30,000 of the \$47,370 cost for the sirens.



City of Olathe Budget Updates on Website

Citizens can access a variety of information about the City of Olathe 2012 Operating Budget at www.OlatheKS.org/Finance/Budget/2012BudPlan, including:

- 2012 Budget-in-Brief
- 2012 Budget
- 2012-2016 Capital Improvement Plan
- Fee Resolution
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Presentations
- News Releases

Prevent Auto Theft

Don't leave your vehicle unattended while it is warming up, reminds the Olathe Police Department. It is against the law to leave your vehicles unlocked and unattended with your keys in the ignition and the motor running, even if you are only warming up your car in the morning in your own driveway.

Not only is it unlawful to leave your vehicle running unattended, you make your vehicle the perfect target for theft. Don't make it easy for thieves. Never leave your car running unattended, and always remember to lock your car each time you leave the vehicle to prevent auto theft.

For more information about auto theft prevention, or other theft prevention tips, contact Beth Wegner, 913-971-6323, or Sgt. Grant Allen, 913-971-6728.

City Employees, Businesses Donate School Supplies

For the second year, City of Olathe employees sponsored a school supply drive benefitting elementary school students, with needed supplies going to Northview and Ridgeview Elementary Schools in 2011. Olathe Police Department employees contributed the most items in a City department competition, and Olathe Office Depot and United Office Products joined the effort with school supply donations. Olathe Customer Service Representative Barbara Fields started the project as a way to give back to the community in conjunction with National Customer Service Week. For additional information, contact Barbara Fields, 913-971-9201.

Johnson County Hosts Public Meetings About JCW Billing Proposal

Olathe residents, who are Johnson County Wastewater customers, are invited to attend a public meeting regarding a proposal to move the capital charge from the real estate tax bill to the user charge bill beginning in 2013. Residents can inquire about their utility providers at the All Services Lookup:

www.OlatheKS.org/GIS/ServiceLookup.

A schedule of Johnson County Wastewater's public meetings on proposed billing changes is available at www.jcw.org, or scan this QR code.



Rose Depot Cultivates Love for Park, Honors Scout Leader



In 2009, when A.T. Holcomb provided the seed money for a rose garden at Calamity Line Park, no one could have known hundreds of people would find inspiration for community involvement.

The Rose Depot, 901 W. Santa Fe, has thrived thanks to the growing community interest in the project, starting with the garden's arbor, donated by Tina McGugan, and the trellis, a contribution from the Olathe Garden and Civic Club. The trellis, designed and installed by Jared Doran, Olathe Parks and Recreation Horticulture division, is fashioned after the park's depot-like architecture.

The Olathe North High School Landscape program students planted most of the roses and helped install the irrigation line and the garden's rock border. Cub Scout Pack 3387 "adopted" Calamity Line Park in 2003. Their work involves a "clean sweep," of the park four times annually, plus landscaping, mulching, planting bulbs and staining the "railroad track." These Scouts have also worked on the Rose Depot's rock border and completed other garden preparations.

In October 2011, the Scout contribution came full circle. Ryan Jackowski, Troop 487 Eagle Scout, honored the memory of Lisa Mildenhall, with the installation of a bench in the Rose Depot. Mildenhall, who died of cancer in February 2011, was an active and devoted den leader within Cub Scout Pack 3387. Jackowski grew up in Pack 3387.



Snow Removal Guidelines Have Your Safety In Mind

Each winter the City of Olathe approaches snow removal with the goal of improving safety for motorists and pedestrians, to ensure emergency responders, Fire, Medical and Police, can reach citizens, and improve travel conditions for residents. Major roadways and collector streets are the first priority, along with a concentration on hills, hazardous intersections, commercial and school areas. Attention to residential streets and cul-de-sacs follows. The response levels below further outline the City's three-level approach to snow removal.

Interactive Map Shows Virtual Snow Removal Progress

In 2010, the City made available to residents an interactive map showing up-to-the-minute tracking of snow removal operations throughout the city. During snow events, residents can access the mapping technology at www.OlatheKS.org, as it transmits real-time data. The map system can be searched to see specific neighborhoods or city areas. In addition to public access, the map benefits the snow response operations, allowing staff to accurately monitor the work.

The City uses a three-level snowfall response, depending upon accumulation amounts:

• Level One

Snow moves in

- Clear and maintain major roadways and collector routes
- Apply spot treatment to critical areas, such as bridges, intersections, hills and curves
- Once critical routes are cleared, treatment moves to business and commercial areas
- Crews work two, 12-hour shifts as conditions require



• Level Two

Snow accumulates two inches, with more expected

- Drivers move into residential streets and cul-de-sacs
- Critical routes maintain priority
- Crews continue to work two, 12-hour shifts as required



• Level Three

Snow accumulates eight inches, with more expected

- All qualified City employee operators and equipment rotate a 12-hour shift schedule
- Crews will continue to work around the clock as long as the snow emergency exists



For more information and helpful snow removal tips, visit

www.OlatheKS.org/PublicWorks/Streets/Snow

During severe weather, find alerts and information on the City's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CityofOlatheKS

or by following on Twitter at www.twitter.com/OlatheGovNews.

Call 913-971-6010 to report snow and ice problems.

Olathe Earth News

Olathe Trash Collection Not Impacted by New County Plan

City of Olathe solid waste customers are NOT impacted by Johnson County's new trash plan, effective January 1, 2012. There will be no changes for City of Olathe trash, yard waste, recycling and bulk pick-up collection.

Olathe residents' success in recycling is behind the agreement between the City of Olathe and Johnson County, which exempts the City of Olathe's participation in the new plan. More than 35 percent of Olathe's trash is diverted from the waste stream following the start of citywide award-winning * recycling service in 2010. Johnson County enacted the new

trash plan with a goal of diverting 30 percent of trash from the landfill.

The City of Olathe has collected residential yard waste separately since 1990, and began a curbside recycling program in 1997.

* The City of Olathe Recycling Program has been chosen as a 2011 winner of the Operations Program Excellence Award from the American Public Works Association, Kansas City Metro Chapter.

Olathe Increases Erosion and Sediment Controls

Effective January 1, 2012, City of Olathe inspection, technical assistance and enforcement efforts increase with the goal of protecting the environment and property from construction site debris and sediment. Controlling debris and sediment from development protects the water quality in our waterways and the stormwater facilities designed to manage only stormwater.

Olathe administers the federally-mandated program through

the stormwater permit review and inspection process. In addition to the specific project inspectors, a cross-section of City inspectors will be trained to identify erosion and sediment control issues as they work with the development community.

Questions about the erosion and sediment control program can be directed to Denver Hicks, stormwater inspector, 913-971-9079.

Olathe Recycles Christmas Trees

Recycle cut Christmas trees by placing them at the curb on collection day. Or, trees may be dropped off at the City of Olathe Composting Facility, 127th and Hedge Lane, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

PLEASE no plastic bags, and all ornaments, tinsel, and lights must be removed.

Seasonal Reminders

- Shut off lawn irrigation systems for the season to prevent icing hazards on streets and sidewalks.
- Maintain trimmed trees along the street curb to allow snow plow trucks to service the community without damage to the equipment.

Sign Up for Free 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. Customers have the option of paying the bill online or mailing the payment through the postal services.

Sign up at www.OlatheKS.org/CCS/Electronic Billing and follow the prompts. Once an online account is set up, customers can track water and sewer usage and account balances.

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.

Product Reuse Shop Offers FREE Items

Shop the shelves of the City of Olathe **Product Reuse Shop** to find free, usable items left behind by others. Available items for reuse may include household cleaners, home improvement products, automotive products and miscellaneous items.

The products were dropped off during household hazardous waste collections, and are free to the public, including not-for-profit organizations. Those taking products must agree not to resell or make any profit from them. All products are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and will not be held.

Call 913-971-9311 to schedule a shopping appointment at the Product Reuse Shop. It's located at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 1420 S. Robinson Road.

For a complete list of the type of products usually available for reuse, see www.OlatheKS.org/OMS/Hazardous/ProductReuse.



Coming Soon

More Times for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-off Appointments

Beginning in early 2012, the City of Olathe HHW drop-off facility will have additional days of the week and extended hours for scheduled drop-offs. Please visit:

OlatheKS.org/OMS/Trash/Residential/Hazardous to find the latest information about the start of additional appointment times, and a list of accepted items.

Call 913-971-9311 to schedule an appointment:

New Appointment Days and Times:

Tuesday – Wednesday – Friday – Saturday*
between 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**The second Saturday of every month the facility is open 8 a.m. – noon for drop-offs (No appointment necessary.)*

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

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CITIZEN CONNECT

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



Receive free Olathe news weekly. Look for Newsletter in the footer area at www.OlatheKS.org to subscribe. Additional newsletters are available at e-News under Citizen Connect at www.OlatheKS.org.

Parks & Recreation
Customer Service,
Administration and
Park Services
have relocated

to Olathe City Hall, 100 E. Santa Fe

Parking available on the north side of City Hall

New phone number: 913-971-8563



OLATHE
PARKS AND RECREATION

Recreation Program Numbers Reach All-Time High

The number of people involved in Olathe Parks and Recreation programs reached record levels in 2011. Overall, 1,000 more people participated in Recreation classes or programs compared to 2010, and attendance at Olathe pools increased by 6,378.

Register online for
Olathe Parks and Recreation programs
www.OlatheKS.org/ParksRec

Help Preserve Olathe's History

The Olathe Historic Preservation Board (OHPB) has a vacancy beginning in 2012. If you have a professional background in preservation or architectural history, or are just interested in preserving Olathe's historic resources, we need you.

The Preservation Board consists of seven members appointed for three-year staggered terms, and meets 3-5 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. The board advises the City Council regarding historic resources and safeguards the community's architectural and cultural heritage through the preservation of historic landmarks and districts. It also administers ordinances and resolutions governing the designation, alteration and removal of historic resources, and helps coordinate public and private historic preservation activities.

The OHPB proudly announces the new *Olathe Register of Historic Places* to recognize Olathe's historic properties at a local community level, and assist efforts to identify, promote and protect Olathe's historic and archeological resources. For more information about the local historic register, or to see properties listed on the State or National Historic Registers, please visit www.OlatheKS.org/Development/Neighborhoods/HistoricPreservation.

If you are interested in historic preservation or would like to apply to serve on the board, please call 913-971-9069, or visit www.OlatheKS.org/secure/Forms/PubServ for an application.