



**OLATHE**  
1857-2007

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# Olathe Link

**City of Olathe  
Newsletter**  
Early Autumn 2007

## 2008 City Budget Supports Citizen Priorities

For 2008, the City of Olathe is allocating limited resources to service priorities and reinvesting for the future during a challenging economic climate. Olathe, like other communities, is experiencing slowed growth of sales tax revenue—the City’s single largest source of operational funding. Increasing costs for fuel, electricity, health care and other commodities impact the 2008 City budget. Plus, demands for City services continue to escalate with a growing population, projected to reach 126,000 residents in 2008.

### Sustaining Priorities

Roads, Public Safety, Utilities Infrastructure

Next year’s budget **applies resources to citizen and City Council priorities, especially supporting transportation, public safety (police, fire, courts), and managing growth**, while building for an economically sustainable future.

Although there are no new capital improvement projects for 2008, work will continue on major projects such as the BNSF rail elevation project, College Boulevard improvements and the Advanced Traffic Management System to help ease traffic congestion.

**Reinvestment in transportation and water and sewer infrastructure occurs in 2008 to ensure quality streets and address an aging water and sewer system**, avoiding millions in future maintenance and replacement costs. The budget includes a 58 percent increase from 2007 for street rehabilitation. Rate adjustments are included to keep up with the cost of providing services for water and sewer, solid waste/recycling collection and stormwater management.



### Sustaining Services and Infrastructure with Fund Reallocation

In order to increase 2008 budget capacity for transportation, public safety and growth management service priorities, the budget begins **reallocating monies from existing resources directly to priority areas** and related City departments. Non-personnel budgets are reduced five percent in other City departments. Overtime expenses will be reduced 15 percent.

One third of operational fund revenue to support special community programs and a portion of the City’s taxi coupon program used by customers for non-work purposes will be reallocated.

The budget also applies all non-personnel Community Development Block Grant funding to infrastructure in the Original Town area.

### Top 12 Olathe Projects

2008-2012  
Capital Improvements Plan

#### Transportation

- Lone Elm Interchange
- BNSF Grade Separation
- Dennis Avenue Bridge
- Old 56 Highway Bridge
- College Boulevard, Woodland to Ridgeview
- Street Rehabilitation Program
- Advanced Traffic Management System, Phases 2 & 3

#### Public Safety

- Police Building Expansion

#### Active Life Styles

- Oregon Trail Park Renovation
- Community Center
- Lone Elm Park Phase 2
- Westview Trail

### Inside This Issue

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## Citizens' Direction Identifies City Priorities

Your priorities are important to your elected leadership.



For the seventh straight year, your City Council is providing the opportunity for you to **influence City spending priorities through the DirectionFinder citizen survey**. Each year, more than 1,000 residents respond, and that

input is critical to our decision making.

**I urge you to complete a citizen survey** if you receive one this fall, or simply contact me or my colleagues on the Council to share your thoughts.

### **Responsible stewardship remains a City Council priority!**

Today's economy presents new challenges; the growth rate of sales tax revenue has slowed and costs for fuel and construction continue to escalate. These are critical budgetary influences that require creative strategies to fund essential City services.

We continue to look for ways to provide services smarter and more efficiently, such as through community partnerships.

These partnerships avoid duplication from local service providers and save everyone money.

You have entrusted your elected officials to provide leadership through stewardship. During times of limited resources, **it's especially important we continue to ask for your priorities**. Please stay or get involved in opportunities to express your opinion. Let your City Council know what services are important to you and what services are of most benefit.

While we move through the current economic challenges, I see Olathe's future as bright, growing, yet, ever-changing. It's great to call Olathe HOME.

Michael Copeland  
Mayor

## Emergency Preparedness is for Everyone

**National Preparedness Month—September 2007**—encourages Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities. Olathe Emergency Management is partnering with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security along with a growing coalition. The focus will be on designated areas during specific weeks:

- September 1-8** Back-to-school
- September 9-15** Business preparedness
- September 16-22** Multicultural preparedness
- September 23-30** Home and family preparedness, including older Americans and individuals with disabilities and special needs, and pets

Citizens are encouraged to become trained in community preparedness and response efforts. The Olathe Fire Department, Emergency Management Division, will host a variety of preparedness activities, including a Community Emergency Response Team course. For more information, call 913-971-7943.

**Residents can obtain preparedness information and a copy of the Safe Neighborhood Workbook at [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org), in the Fire Department section. Other resources: Regional Citizen Readiness Committee [www.preparemetrokc.org](http://www.preparemetrokc.org).**

The federal [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) campaign and the Citizen Corps Program are encouraging citizens to have emergency supply kits, family emergency plans, and to become informed about different, possible threats.

## Community Mediation Gets Positive Results

In Olathe, parties in dispute are working together with the assistance of trained mediators to reach mutually satisfactory agreements. The Community Mediation Program is bringing those parties together through a voluntary process that is free to participants.

Since the program was formally established, more than 90 percent of parties with disputes have reached a successful resolution, according to the Community Mediation Office. Mediation can eliminate the need to go through the court system, often saving time and money for affected parties.

"Because the resolution is determined by the involved parties, not an outside party, the outcome is usually more satisfying for those involved," says Sue Dickey, Olathe city prosecutor.

Cases and issues may include those involving family and friends, neighbors, landlords and tenants, consumers and merchants and builders and property owners. The Mediation Office reviews requests for the program to determine if disputes are suitable for mediation. The program is not designed to resolve major property damage, serious bodily injury, divorce, or child custody issues.

The mediators have specialized training, mediation experience and Kansas Supreme Court approval.

For more information about the process, or to make a request or referral, contact the Community Mediation Office, 913-971-7736.

# Celebrating 10 years of "Trees of Friendship"



*Mr. and Mrs. Akio Fukushima and  
Mayor Michael Copeland*

This summer, Mayor Michael Copeland and the Olathe Sister Cities Committee welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Akio Fukushima from Maebashi, Japan, at a special reception at Calamity Line Park. The reception celebrated the 10th anniversary of the "Trees of Friendship" project, which began with the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Fukushima. The **Fukushimas have given the City of Olathe 500 cherry trees** to commemorate the friendships between the Cities of Maebashi and Olathe. The majority of the trees are planted at Calamity Line and Stagecoach Parks. Other Olathe locations include St. Andrews Church,

Aberdeen Village, Veteran's Memorial Park, the Olathe Library-Indian Creek Branch, and Waterworks Park.

A plaque and commemorative park bench were presented to the Fukushimas in appreciation for the bridges of friendship they have built with the Olathe community.

Mr. Fukushima's interest in Olathe began in 1992 when he first visited Olathe as a guest of Dianne Daugherty, an Olathe Rotarian and Japanese language teacher for Olathe District Schools. Since then, numerous student and adult exchanges have occurred between Maebashi and Olathe.

## Olathe Services Guide

### EMERGENCY

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

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

### CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

100 E. Santa Fe	971-8700
City Clerk	
100 E. Santa Fe	971-8521

### DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Building Codes	
100 E. Santa Fe	971-8575
Building Inspections	971-8574
Planning Services	
100 E. Santa Fe	971-8750
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
Spanish Speaking Call Line	971-6367

### HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

100 E. Santa Fe	971-8735
Jobline	971-8749
Risk Management	
100 E. Santa Fe	971-8716

### 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

### LIBRARY

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

### MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP

1100 Kansas City Road	971-5111
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### MAYOR'S OFFICE

100 E. Santa Fe	971-8500
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### 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

### NEIGHBORHOOD AND HUMAN SERVICES

Community Development Block Grant	
201 N. Cherry	971-6260
Community Enhancement	
100 E. Santa Fe	971-8580
Fair Housing Hotline	971-6472
Housing Rehabilitation	
201 N. Cherry	971-6268
Housing and Transportation	
201 N. Cherry (TDD/Voice)	971-6260
Neighborhood Services	971-8750
100 E. Santa Fe	
Office of Human Relations	
201 N. Cherry	971-6490
(TDD)	971-6651
Public Housing Authority	
201 N. Cherry (TDD/Voice)	971-6260

### 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

### 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

### STRATEGIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Administration and Accounting	
201 N. Cherry	971-8600
Purchasing	
100 E. Santa Fe	971-8714



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## Olathe City Council

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lcampbell@olatheks.org

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At Large

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# Parks and Recreation Foundation Board

“One of the jewels for Olathe is Active Life Styles opportunities, whether for special needs individuals or world class athletes”

— Doug Svatos  
Parks and Recreation Foundation Board chair

**Purpose:** advises on parks and recreation construction and improvement of facilities, institution of new programs and monitors the parks sales tax initiative progress. These citizens also serve as the Olathe Parks and Recreation Foundation board of trustees.

Parks and Recreation Foundation Board members advise on long-term plans for Olathe, such as the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, current parks and recreation offerings, and serve as a sounding board for new projects and programs. Members address many citizen opportunities in the City’s Active Life Styles key planning area.

“We are helping get citizens involved in the process to bring forth a community-wide vision for the needs and desires in parks and recreation,” says Doug Svatos, Parks and Recreation Foundation Board chair.

**Current activities:**

- Addressing need for indoor recreation space with recent public input sessions
- Advising on new parks and recreation programs such as Champions of Character, Kids Fitness and It Starts in the Parks
- Monitoring the progress of park sales tax projects, including the Oregon Trail Park upgrade, community recreation center and trail projects
- Working with community partners to enhance parks and programs

**Parks and Recreation Foundation Board:**

Jim Ater, Shawn Caton, Jennifer Doyle, Todd McGinn, Randy Meyer, Christen Gray Secrest, Mandeep Sidhu, Doug Svatos (chair), and Trent Thomas

**Meets:** 2nd Thursday of the month, 5 p.m., City Hall West, 200 W. Santa Fe, Recreation Conference Room

**Staff liaison:** Steve Baysinger, Parks and Recreation director, 913-971-6649.



## College Boulevard Work Progresses

Construction of College Boulevard improvements between Ridgeview Road and Woodland is more than halfway complete. The roadway is expected to be open to traffic by December 31, 2007.

## Olathe Originals

*Unique programs, services and characteristics set Olathe apart from other communities. Did you know?*

**Brian Wagner**, a member of the City of Olathe Special Olympics team, will run the torch into the stadium for the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games on October 2. Wagner is one of 11 Special Olympic athletes selected for the 2007 Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg in Shanghai, China.

Olathe has led efforts to provide recreation for people with special needs, making Olathe an inclusive city and offering the same level of recreational services to all citizens. **Special Populations** programs, offered in partnership with Olathe District Schools, are open to Olathe residents and Olathe District Schools students. Other Special Populations activities are open to non-residents, as are other recreation programs.

The City of Olathe Parks & Recreation Department will expand the Special Populations program with **The Miracle League of Olathe**, expected to provide more opportunities for children with special needs to play baseball. Olathe District Schools will

provide a site for a Miracle League ball field at the College Boulevard Activity Center. Other charter community sponsors include: The Miracle League of Kansas City, MidAmerica Nazarene University, Olathe Medical Center and Strickland Construction.

Overall customer **satisfaction with Olathe’s residential trash collection services ranks in the top 10 percent of all U.S. cities**, according to ETC Institute’s national DirectionFinder survey.

Olathe’s **Municipal Services Administrative Building** is the first municipal building in Kansas to qualify for a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) **Green Building Certification** from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The Olathe **Public Works Department** is the **first agency in Kansas to receive national accreditation** from the American Public Works Association.

The **Olathe Housing Authority** received a national “**high performer**” award for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recognized the program, which provides rental assistance to 322 low income families using vouchers on Olathe’s open rental market.

# Headlines from Mahaffie

By Tim Talbott

Mahaffie Historic Site Manager

1100 Kansas City Road

## Heritage Center Coming Soon

The Heritage Center's orientation exhibit will tell the story of the Mahaffie family, the western trails, and life in Olathe and Johnson County in the 1860s. The exhibit will set the stage for guests before they visit the 1865 Mahaffie home and stagecoach stop.

Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund and the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners have awarded several grants to the Heritage Center. One of the grants is designated for design and construction of the center's orientation exhibit, as is another grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce, Travel and Tourism.

Mahaffie's long-standing partner, the Olathe Historical Society, will have a gallery for rotating exhibits. The Society will also have a research/archives room housing Olathe historical reference materials.

An assembly room features true timber-frame, mortise and tenon construction – just like a nineteenth century barn. The room should accommodate approximately 100 seated occupants, and a kitchen will provide facilities for caterers. By September 1, we expect to begin taking rental reservations for assembly room events starting in mid-January 2008. Call 913-971-5111 for the latest information.

An impressive, life-size bronze relief sculpture of a stagecoach, passengers, and six horses by the noted artist Kwan Wu will be featured on the Heritage Center grounds as the legacy gift of Olathe's Sesquicentennial Committee to the people of Olathe.



*The City of Olathe Heritage Center at the Mahaffie Historic Site is on track for completion by the end of 2007: a fitting conclusion to Olathe's sesquicentennial year!*

## Wild West Show & Bullwhacker Days

September 22 & 23

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

***Don't miss the excitement as Annie Oakley, Teddy Roosevelt, Colonel Schofield and other performers recreate the Wild West shows of the late 1800s!***



👉 Western reenactors put on a daily Wild West Show at 1 p.m. Tommie Turvey, equine extremist, returns with new acts at 3 p.m. each day.

👉 Buffalo Soldiers camp, cowboy camp, period music, food and merchandise vendors

👉 Fun for little tumbleweeds — pony rides, panning for real gold, air gun shooting gallery and rubber-band gun gallery for smaller tumbleweeds. In celebration of Olathe's 150th birthday, the first 50 young buckaroos to register each day may compete in a special mutton-busting rodeo!

Admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 5 thru 11, free for children under 5. Admission includes arena shows, children's pre-show activities, the mutton busting rodeo and most other activities. Additional fees apply for gold panning, shooting galleries and stagecoach rides.

# Olathe Earth News

## Leaves, Leaves and More Leaves

### Tips for managing fall yard waste



The arrival of fall means beautiful autumn colors, milder temperatures, and for many – a lot of fallen leaves to manage.

What can be done with all of those leaves? Raking may not be necessary. The same practical advice for mowing grass, “mow it high, let it lie,” can be applied to the chore of raking. According to the experts, periodic mowing to chop up modest amounts of leaves provides a good source of organic fertilizer for the lawn, as long as leaves aren’t matted and ample grass shows through them.

If the layer of leaves is too heavy to mow, then leaves will probably have to be raked. Raked leaves, however, can be put to good use. Applying a layer of ground-up leaves to flowerbeds, vegetable gardens, and around trees and shrubs can provide extra insulation and help protect plants from the extreme winter temperatures.

Leaves make a great addition to a backyard compost pile, providing the much-needed “browns” to balance out the “greens.” Avoid raking, bagging, and hauling to

the curb. Compost leaves right in the backyard. To learn more about making and using compost, contact the Johnson County K-State Research & Extension at 913-715-7000.

If possible, just mow leaves. If not, then compost them. And if all else fails, bag them and place at the curb for the City to collect and compost.

### Free Compost and Mulch for Olathe Residents

Available for pick-up at the Hedge Lane Composting Facility (old City landfill)  
127th & Hedge Lane  
Monday through Saturday  
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Must show copy of City Services bill with current sanitation charges and matching picture ID. Bring a shovel and container to load it yourself.

### Yard Waste Collection Guidelines

In order to keep the City’s yard waste program a cost-efficient alternative to landfill disposal, please adhere to these yard waste collection guidelines:

- Get all materials to the curb by 8 a.m. on Monday.
- Place any leaves, grass clippings and plant trimmings in paper yard waste bags.
- Cut branches and limbs (less than 4 inches in diameter) to 5 feet or shorter and securely tie in bundles no larger than 24 inches in diameter.
- Make sure each bag or bundle weighs less than 50 pounds.
- Call 913-971-9311 at least 24 hours in advance of your scheduled trash day to arrange a bulk collection for tree limbs larger than 4 inches in diameter or not bundled according to the guidelines.

### Items not collected:

- Sod
- Landscape timbers
- Dirt, gravel or rocks

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

## Time for Fall HHW Round-up

Do you carry out hazardous waste round-ups in your home at least two times a year? Make your home and neighborhood safer by clearing out unused cleaners and chemicals each fall and spring. Look for key words on the product label (**WARNING, CAUTION, DANGER, FLAMMABLE, TOXIC**). These household hazardous wastes, or HHW, pose environmental and health hazards if they are stored or disposed of improperly.

## Common HHW items

- Pool chemicals
- Automotive products  
(antifreeze, motor oil, batteries, waxes/polishes)
- Lawn & garden chemicals (pesticides & fertilizers)
- Home improvement products  
(paint, paint stripper, paint thinner)
- Household cleaners  
(oven cleaner, furniture polish, ammonia, drain cleaner)

The City offers year-round opportunities for residents to properly dispose of these HHW items, free of charge. Monthly collections are held the second Saturday of every month, call 913-971-9311 to schedule an appointment for drop-off during the week.

No business hazardous waste is accepted through this program.

## Upcoming HHW collection events

All events are held at the City's HHW Facility, 1420 S. Robinson St., 8 a.m. – noon (no appointment necessary).

September 8

September 15\*

October 13

\*Special event open to all Johnson County residents, sponsored by the Johnson County Stormwater Management Program.

## Wait! It may not be waste!

Check with friends and neighbors first to see if leftover products may be useful to them. Save them from having to buy the product, and the City from having to dispose of it. That's a great deal.

## Free Gas Cap Testing

Did you know that a faulty gas cap could be costing you 30-50 gallons of gas a year? Vapors escaping your gas tank not only hurt your pocketbook, they also pollute our air, contributing to ground-level ozone. Throughout the ozone season, the City is offering free gas cap testing for residents in conjunction with the City's monthly HHW collection events. Coupons good for 20 percent off the purchase of a new gas cap are provided to those whose gas caps fail the test, courtesy of NAPA Auto Parts. Thanks to the 218 residents who participated in the gas cap testing during June and July, this air quality initiative is off to a great start! If you haven't had your gas cap tested, be sure to take advantage of this opportunity during either of the two HHW collection events in September (9/8 and 9/15).

Reminder: Trash, yard waste and recycling will be collected as usual the week of Labor Day (Monday, September 3). The City collects solid waste on all holidays except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. To ensure pickup, please have your materials to the curb by 8 a.m.



# Only Tap Water<sup>SM</sup> Delivers

- ...public health protection
- ...fire protection
- ...support for the economy
- ...the overall quality of life we enjoy.

Pay your City of Olathe utility bill online at [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org), or sign up for direct debit payment service by calling 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

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Issues Affecting You

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Residential Customer

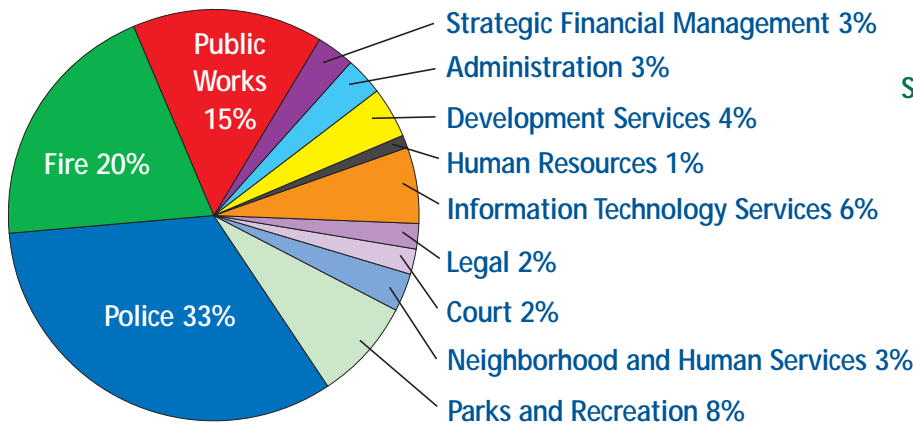
CITIZEN REQUEST SYSTEM

Make an inquiry or request for City service 24/7, [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org)—Click on Contact Us.

View the ActiveLife Recreation Catalog at [www.olatheks.org/ActiveLife](http://www.olatheks.org/ActiveLife). If you would like a free subscription to ActiveLife, contact the Olathe Parks & Recreation Department at 913-971-6263.

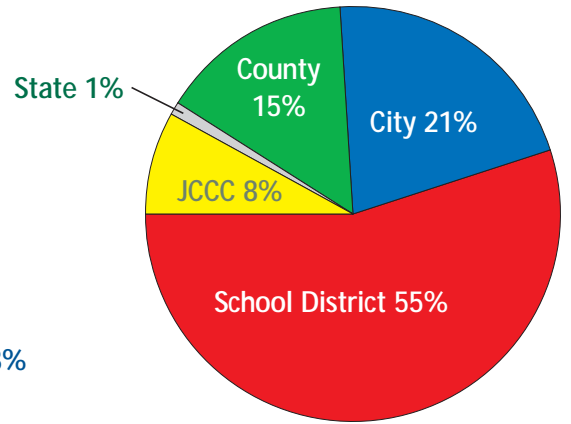
Where the City's Investing Money

2008 Operations Budget by Department



The City's limited resources are being applied to sustaining priority areas.

Did you know only about 1/5th of your property tax goes to the City?



Home Repairs and Improvement Programs Assist Eligible Residents

Residents needing home repairs and improvements may qualify for assistance through the City of Olathe Neighborhood and Human Services Department. Programs offered include:

**Deferred Loan Program** – Homeowners in need of major home repairs can apply for an interest free – 0 percent home improvement loan. These loans are based upon home equity with a maximum loan allowable of \$35,000. There are no monthly payments; the loan is deferred until the property is sold, the title transfers, or the property is turned into a rental.

**Elderly Homeowners Assistance** – Elderly homeowners unable to maintain their homes can apply for assistance at little or no cost.

**Emergency Repair** – For homeowners with serious health and safety violations, which left unaddressed will worsen.

**Handicap Accessibility** – Residents in need of assistance to remove structural barriers from their residence may apply.

**Exterior Paint Program** – Homeowners can apply for free, new paint and primer. Volunteers may be available to assist elderly and/or disabled homeowners who are unable to apply the paint themselves.

**Eligibility for all programs** is based on several factors, including gross annual family income, appraised home value, current real estate taxes, and proof of current insurance policy, house payments and ownership.

For information, or to request an application, call 913-971-6274, or contact [llane@olatheks.org](mailto:llane@olatheks.org).