



**OLATHE**  
1857-2007

community • diversity • heritage

# Olathe Link

**City of Olathe  
Newsletter**  
Early Spring 2007

## Olathe a Quality Place to Live

### Olathe Residents' Satisfaction Continues to Increase

In 2006, residents increased their overall satisfaction ratings for City services to the highest level since the annual citizen survey began in 2000.

In addition, Olathe received top ratings among cities in the metropolitan Kansas City area, ranking above average in all major service categories rated for the overall quality of:

- police, fire and ambulance services
- parks and recreation
- customer service
- effectiveness of communication with the public
- maintenance of City streets, buildings, and other infrastructure
- stormwater management
- water and sewer utilities
- code enforcement.

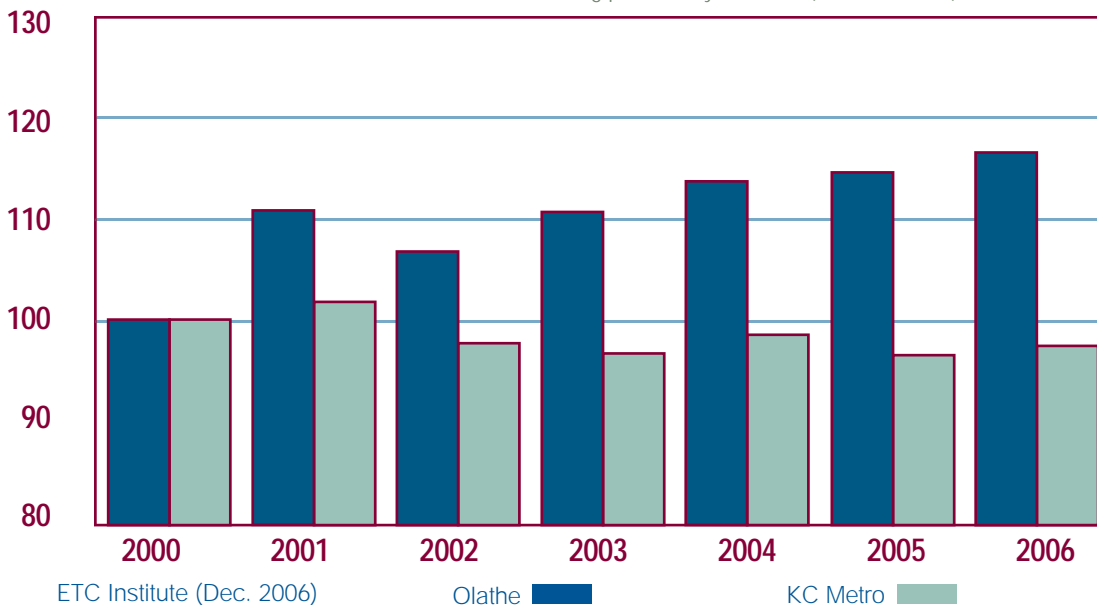
The City uses the information provided in the citizen survey to establish priorities for services. It is a key tool for the annual operating budget development and community strategic planning. The survey has a mapping component that allows the City to address specific areas for needed improvements.

Since 2000, residents have indicated most emphasis should be given to traffic flow/management of congestion, and maintenance of City streets, buildings and facilities.

continued on page 2

## Overall Satisfaction Index 2000 thru 2006

Derived from the mean overall satisfaction rating provided by residents (Year 2000=100)



## Olathe Among Top Ten Digitally-Savvy Cities

The City of Olathe has been named one of the most digitally-savvy, cutting-edge cities in the nation, according to the 2006 Digital Cities Survey. The City of Olathe was ranked fourth of cities with a population of 75,000-124,999. Olathe ranked seventh in the 2005 survey. Olathe has ranked in the top 15 since its first year of participating in the program in 2002.

The annual study by the Center for Digital Government examines how city governments are using digital technologies to better serve citizens and streamline operations.

## Inside This Issue

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## City Manager's Message

The headline on the front page of this newsletter is really great – “Olathe a Quality Place to Live.” No truer words could be spoken!

What is it that makes Olathe a quality place? Is it our high quality school system, our safe neighborhoods, the quality of our commercial and residential development, the vision of our City Council, the excellent service provided by our City staff?

Sure, all those are important, but it's the people who make Olathe a quality place to live. You are to be congratulated! You have built a quality, award-winning community in which to live.

DirectionFinder, Olathe's annual community survey, is one of the many, many ways that you let your voice be heard about the direction you want your community to go. The City of Olathe has asked over 7,200 residents to participate in this survey during the past seven years.

What you have told us truly matters. It's guided the way we do business. In fact along with the strategic plan, it's proven an incredible tool to help your City Council determine how to apply our limited resources.

The great news is that together we are building upon our wonderful home! During the past seven years, a steady improvement in satisfaction ratings from you, the residents of our community,

indicates we are going in the right direction. It's because we continue to listen.

Citizen engagement in your local government is a foundation of the vision that this City Council has for our community. It is essential to have your input in order to continue to build the quality that YOU expect.

If you have participated in one of the resident surveys, we thank you. If you have been a part of our strategic planning process, served on a neighborhood focus group or on one of the many boards and commissions that help serve our city, we thank you for that input.

In the coming months, you will have another opportunity to shape the future of our community as the City Council works on the budget for 2008. Use our website, [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org), to be aware of opportunities that are afforded to you to come to sessions where your input can be heard. Also, you may e-mail your comments to us at [budgetcomments@olatheks.org](mailto:budgetcomments@olatheks.org) or call the City's budget office at 913-971-6489.

No matter how you choose to get involved, GET INVOLVED! After all, it's you who make Olathe a Quality Place to Live.

Sincerely,

Michael Wilkes,  
Olathe City Manager

## Olathe Residents' Satisfaction (continued from page 1)

In 2006, residents expressed increased satisfaction with all five areas of codes enforcement evaluated in the survey compared with the 2005 ratings. The areas evaluated are:

- enforcing maintenance of business property
- enforcing sign regulations
- clean up of litter & debris
- enforcing maintenance of residential property
- enforcing mowing on private property.

Eighty-five percent said they were either very satisfied or satisfied with local fire protection, and 80 percent were either very satisfied or satisfied with local police protection. Ninety-six percent said they felt safe in their neighborhood during the day, and 84 percent said they felt safe in their neighborhood at night.

Results for the random sample survey, completed by 1,228 households, have a 95 percent level of confidence with a precision of at least +/- 2.8 percent. The survey was conducted in the fall of 2006.

To view a copy of the complete survey results, visit [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org). Or, call the City Manager's Office, 913-971-8700.



Community gardeners are preparing for another season of growing downtown. Applications are being accepted for the Community Garden 2007 growing season. Garden participation is open to all residents of Olathe. Schools, churches, businesses and other organizations or community groups are welcome and encouraged to participate. For more information, or to receive an application, please contact the garden chair at 913-782-1838 or email [Nail\\_Man2003@yahoo.com](mailto:Nail_Man2003@yahoo.com). Or you may contact the City of Olathe's Neighborhood Services Division at 913-971-8750.

# Enright Collection Celebrates Olathe History

## See It at City Hall

Olathe resident Bob Enright's passion for Olathe history is evident in hundreds of items he's collected during the past 50 years. Now, everyone can view many of the historic pieces at Olathe City Hall, 100 E. Santa Fe.

Enright's extensive collection of Olathe artifacts is made available for public viewing in partnership with the City of Olathe. To accommodate the many pieces, they will be rotated for display during the year.

The collection includes Olathe high school memorabilia, history books, commemorative plates celebrating Olathe and Johnson County milestones and other unique and special occasion dishes.

The City Hall display is located just inside the north entrance. For more information contact the City Manager's Office, 913-971-8700, or Bob Enright, 913-764-3339.



## 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

Code Enforcement	
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	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

### 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
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### Court Services

1200 S. Harrison	971-5213
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### MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

1385 S. Robinson	971-9311
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### Services Center

### Solid Waste Division

### Utilities

### Water Billing & Collection

### Waterline Maintenance

### Water Production

27065 W. 83rd	971-5151
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Waterline Breaks, After-Hours	971-5151
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### Solid Waste Transfer Station

1681 S. Valley Rd.	971-5175
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### NEIGHBORHOOD AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Community Development Block Grant

201 N. Cherry	971-6260
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### Community Enhancement

100 E. Santa Fe	971-8580
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Fair Housing Hotline	971-6472
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### Housing Rehabilitation

201 N. Cherry	971-6268
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### Housing and Transportation

201 N. Cherry (TDD/Voice)	971-6260
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Neighborhood Services	971-8750
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### Office of Human Relations

201 N. Cherry	971-6490
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(TDD)	971-6651
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### Public Housing Authority

201 N. Cherry (TDD/Voice)	971-6260
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### PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### Administration

200 W. Santa Fe (TDD/Voice)	971-6263
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### Parks and Public Grounds

200 W. Santa Fe	971-6038
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### Cemetery Caretaker

738 N. Chestnut	971-5226
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### Recreation Division

200 W. Santa Fe (TDD/Voice)	971-6263
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Recreation Activity Registration (24-hrs.)	971-8227
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### Special Events

400 N. Parker	971-9749
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### POLICE DEPARTMENT

501 E. 56 Highway	971-7500
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Alarm Coordinator	971-6100
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### Animal Control

505 E. Sunvale	971-6362
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Emergency	911
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Emergency TDD/TTY Calls	971-5323
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### PUBLIC WORKS

100 E. Santa Fe	971-8505
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### Street Maintenance

Woodland & Harold	971-9511
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### Pot Hole Hotline

Woodland & Harold	971-6037
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### Traffic Engineer

100 E. Santa Fe	971-8505
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### STRATEGIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### Administration and Accounting

201 N. Cherry	971-8600
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### Purchasing

100 E. Santa Fe	971-8714
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Printed on recyclable paper.

## Olathe City Council

**Michael Copeland, Mayor**  
913-971-8500 (city office)  
mcpeland@olatheks.org

### Beverly Wittenborn

Ward 1

913-269-6302

bwittenborn@olatheks.org

### Marge Vogt

Ward 4

913-269-0625

mvogt@olatheks.org

### Jim Randall

Ward 2

and Mayor Pro Tem

913-522-2729

jrandall@olatheks.org

### Bob Montgomery

At Large

913-980-8278

bmontgomery@olatheks.org

### Kathleen Huttman

Ward 3

913-269-6360

khuttman@olatheks.org

### John Bacon

At Large

913-269-6305

jbacon@olatheks.org



## Citywide Bicycle Plan in Development

Olathe residents are bicycling more than ever, and would do more so if safer accommodations existed, according to a recent Bike Use Survey.

The survey revealed nearly 60 percent of households have bicycles and use them, and more residents bicycle instead of traveling by car for a purpose or destination trip than was previously realized.

### Developing Standards for Bicycling Network

Work has started on a Bicycle Transportation Plan as part of a comprehensive approach under Olathe's Total Transportation Plan.

The preliminary Bicycle Plan integrates various types of on-road and trail bicycle facilities, taking into account children, basic and advanced bicyclists. In addition the plan will:

- Update the 1993 Trails and Greenways Plan
- Coordinate bicycle improvements with other transportation-related investments
- Address the growing demand for a safe, bicycle environment.

A public involvement meeting was held in December 2006, with additional public meetings anticipated after the City Council reviews the draft plan.

For more information about the plan or to learn about future public meetings, contact Dale Crawford, 913-971-6659.

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## Spring Congress of Neighborhoods in April

The spring Congress of Neighborhoods is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Thursday, April 5 at Olathe City Hall, 100 E. Santa Fe.

The Congress of Neighborhoods provides an open forum for neighborhood leaders and City staff, bringing forth resources and programs to enhance the quality and livability of Olathe's neighborhoods. Invitations to the Congress of Neighborhoods and updates will be sent to all neighborhoods and neighborhood leaders registered with the City of Olathe's Neighborhood Services.

## What's Being Built in Olathe

### Commercial

Phase II of **Olathe Gateway**, southeast corner of 119th Street and Renner, is underway. A Longhorn Steakhouse is among planned development.

An Arby's restaurant opened in **Ridgeview Falls Center**, northeast corner of 119th Street and Ridgeview Road.

Tenants continue to open in **Olathe Pointe**, southeast corner of 119th Street and Black Bob Road.

**Redevelopment continues along Santa Fe Avenue** in the downtown corridor with new buildings for Kentucky Fried Chicken, Taco Bell, and McDonalds Restaurant.

**Olathe Medical Center** has started construction on a medical facility on the northwest corner of College Boulevard and K-7 Highway. The first phase will include a one-story clinic.

Construction is underway at **Prairie Trails West Center**, northwest corner of 151st and Black Bob Road.

### Public Building

Olathe District Schools plans to open **Madison Place Elementary School**, northeast corner of 167th and Warwick, for the 2007-2008 school year.

### Residential

During fourth quarter 2006, 147 single-family building permits were issued.

### Traffic Improvements

Projects addressing east-west traffic flow continue including the **rail raising construction** on the east Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway tracks. Watch for work on the four bridges and retaining walls this spring.

**College Boulevard, Ridgeview to Woodland**, remains closed during construction of two bridges and approach roadways.

### Is Your Neighborhood Registered?

The City maintains a list of community associations in order to notify groups of planning activities for their areas and as a reference for new residents who call to find contact information for their community associations. All neighborhood leaders and/or board members are requested to call Neighborhood Services to register or update their homes association or neighborhood group. Please contact Emily Kukal, 913-971-8969, ekukal@olatheks.org.

# Headlines from Mahaffie

By Tim Talbott  
Mahaffie Historic Site Manager  
1100 Kansas City Road  
913-971-5111

On December 12, Olathe City Councilmembers and Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Foundation members gathered on the Heritage Center grounds to turn the first shovels of earth. Mayor Mike Copeland was the master of ceremonies and the Mahaffie Chorus from Mahaffie Elementary School provided music. Oxen, Buck and Tip, delivered the hard hats for our groundbreakers with their blue ox cart, and horses, Judi's Star and Deanna's Hot Shot, pulled up with a load of shovels. More than 100 guests looked on as the Heritage Center project was launched, after many years of hard work by many different individuals in the community. The new center at Kansas City and Ridgeview Roads will take shape in the coming months, with occupancy planned by the end of 2007.

The Kansas Department of Commerce awarded the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Historic Site a tourism grant for the design and fabrication of the orientation exhibit at the Heritage Center. The \$45,000 tourism grant will be used with a \$50,000 grant already received from the Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund and Johnson County Commissioners, as well as City of Olathe and Mahaffie Foundation funds for the exhibit project.



*Olathe City Councilmembers and Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Foundation trustees break ground for the new Heritage Center. Pictured above, center to left: Maron Moore, Foundation; Mayor Copeland, City Council; Marge Vogt, City Council; Bev Wittenborn, City Council; George Schlagel, Foundation; Don Bell, Foundation; John Wilkins, architect, Gould Evans; Tim Harmon, Harmon Construction; Dennis Meyer, Foundation; Bob Courtney, Foundation; Jake Ruf, Foundation; Stephen Koranda, Foundation; Dick Holdman, Foundation; and Steve Eddy, Foundation.*

*Photo: John Petrovic, The Olathe News*



*Artist's rendering of the east elevation of the Heritage Center.*

Put April 21-22 on your calendar now for our 11th annual Civil War on the Border event. This year, battles will be fought south of Kansas City Road in Stagecoach Park. Parking is again planned for Olathe North High School, with free shuttle buses operating between Mahaffie and the school parking lot. We hope to see you in April!

## Olathe Citizen Boards and Committees

The City of Olathe has numerous citizen boards and committees comprised of volunteers working to build a better community.

### Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Foundation Board

**Mission:** to preserve and advocate for the historic site, generating and ensuring resources toward a successful community centerpiece

The Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Historic Site stands as a proud piece of Olathe's history as the only remaining stagecoach stop open to the public on the Santa Fe Trail. Through living history programs and activities, site visitors are able to experience what life was like at a stagecoach stop and working farm during the mid to late 1800s. Coupled with tours of the house, barn, ice house and other original, historic buildings, stagecoach rides and interaction with the farm animals, the site provides hands on educational experiences.

As a 501-c-3 Foundation, Mahaffie Trustees are appointed by the City Council and perform multiple roles in support of the historic site. Mahaffie Trustees foster valuable community partnerships and enhance the educational and visitor experience at the site. In addition, the Foundation has raised more than \$900,000 for the

new Heritage Center. Many Trustees serve as volunteers at Mahaffie events and programs.

**Meets:** First Monday, 6 p.m., Olathe Education Center, 14160 Black Bob Road

For more information, contact Steve Baysinger, Parks & Recreation director, 913-971-6649, sbaysinger@olatheks.org.

### Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Foundation Board

George Schlagel, chairman

Don Bell

Bob Courtney

Steve Eddy

Jan Heinen

Dick Holdman

Stephen Koranda

Dennis Meyer

Maron Moore

Jake Ruf

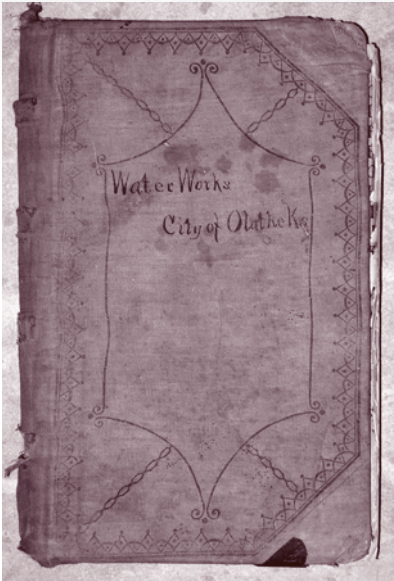
City Councilmember Marge Vogt

City Councilmember John Bacon

Steve Baysinger, staff liaison

# Olathe Earth News

## Olathe's Water and Wastewater System Has a History



As we mark the City's sesquicentennial this year and celebrate the community's rich past, the role of essential City services in Olathe's history cannot be overlooked. Water and wastewater services have played a critical role in creating Olathe's prosperity, and continue today.

By 1883, with a population of 2,800, the City constructed the first drinking water utility and treatment works. Nearly 70 years later, the City's first wastewater treatment facility, the Harold Street Wastewater Treatment Plant, began operations.

Now, with a population of more than 120,000 many things have changed in Olathe, but safe, reliable, quality drinking water and wastewater service remains a basic necessity and supports our quality of life.

*Water Works, City of Olathe customer accounts book, 1895-1901*



## Water is Life, and Infrastructure Makes it Happen

Olathe's water and wastewater infrastructure is all around and below us. It's the water line and sewer line underneath your street, the fire hydrants that line your block, and the water tower around the corner. It's the pipes, drains, pumps and treatment plants that deliver the clean water we drink, and take away and treat the water we've used. Because most of the vast network of mains and pipes known as "infrastructure" is located underground, we rarely think of it and it's often overlooked, but in many ways it's the physical fabric that keeps our community safe, healthy and enjoyable.

Olathe is not unlike other cities in that as this infrastructure ages, it becomes necessary to replace old pipes, upgrade treatment facilities, and install new technology to keep up with the increasing regulations and demands for service. But unlike many other local communities, Olathe's water and wastewater systems are City-owned and operated. We're proud to be a full-service city, and as residents and businesses, you are our customers and we strive to deliver the highest quality service at the lowest cost.

The following capital improvement projects are among those planned over the next several years to meet Olathe's growing service demands:

- new transmission main to deliver treated water from Water Plant No. 2 to Olathe
- new collector well and transmission main to deliver raw water from the Kansas River to Water Plant No. 2
- Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion
- new sanitary sewer interceptor to serve west Olathe.



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

# This Spring – Contribute to a Clean and Safe Community

## Get a Jump on Spring Cleaning

### Take leftover household chemicals to the City's Household Hazardous Waste facility.

It's not safe to leave them sitting on the shelf, and the City will ensure that the items are recycled or disposed of properly or offered back to the community for reuse. This service is free for all Olathe residents.



HHW facility  
1420 S. Robinson  
8 a.m.-noon, 2nd Saturday of each month  
913-971-9311



**Arrange for curbside collection of worn-out bulky items.** The City offers a year-round bulk pick-up service for those "bulky" items, such as furniture, appliances or tires, that won't fit in your SmartCart. Residents call 913-971-9311 to schedule. Nominal fees apply for the collection.

## Make an Impact Outside

April showers bring May flowers...if the rain falls on grassy areas, that is. But rain that falls on hard surfaces (parking lots, rooftops, etc.) runs off, picking up trash and pollutants along the way and carrying them back through storm sewers into our streams.

**Collecting and managing rainwater on your property** can go a long way toward improving the health of our local streams, but it can also save you money by redirecting rainwater to your lawn and landscape. Harvest rainwater with a rain barrel, or plant a rain garden to save as much as 30 percent of rainwater on your property. To learn more about how you can join in this metro wide initiative, visit [www.rainkc.com](http://www.rainkc.com).

## Spring Cleanup Week, April 14-20

Join in the City's annual community cleanup. Whether it's picking up trash in your neighborhood, a nearby park, or along the creek that runs through both – your help in keeping Olathe clean and beautiful will be greatly appreciated by everyone – including the birds, fish, and other animals that call Olathe home. Plan a family or group outing, pitch in and have fun! Visit [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org) for more information.

### Clean Sweep Saturday, April 14

To participate in this community-wide cleanup, call 913-971-8580.

## View Olathe Utility Bill Online

With the City's new online utility bill payment option, all Olathe utility customers can create a log-in ID and password to view their account information online.

Visit [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org), and click on "Utilities and Services." Customers also have the option of paying their bill online using a credit card. Payment by credit card has a convenience fee, which pays for costs to process credit cards.

**Municipal Services Center • 1385 S. Robinson • Phone Number 913-971-9311**

Customer Service for Water/Sewer Services, Solid Waste Collection, Curbside Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste Program

# Olathe Link

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

## 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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Olathe, KS

## 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 or Olathe Quick Links

## Outdoor Warning System Improved, Sirens Added



During 2006, the City of Olathe upgraded the outdoor warning system, and added two new sirens in the Woodland Road area, to serve north-central Olathe.

The upgrade allows for monitoring of all 31 sirens thanks to advanced technology. Daily monitoring can be done without sounding the sirens, with the test information relayed directly to emergency management personnel. Each siren is still tested on a monthly basis as the City continues to participate in the countywide siren tests at 11 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month.

Although outdoor sirens can be effective, an all-hazard emergency radio is recommended for all residences and other buildings. Radios are available at cost at all area Price Chopper stores through Project Community Alert.

For more information, contact Olathe Emergency Management, 913-971-7943.



*NOAA Photo Library, NOAA Central Library;  
OAR/ERL/National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL)*

## Severe Weather Awareness Week March 12-16

Annual tornado drill

Tuesday, March 13, 1:30 p.m.

(If inclement weather, March 15)

The key to tornado survival is advance planning and immediate action when a tornado warning is issued or when you spot a tornado. Olathe Emergency Management recommends that households have a plan and an emergency preparedness kit. This information and other tips can be found in the Olathe Safe Neighborhood Workbook, available at [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org). Click on Olathe Quick Links, then Emergency Preparedness. Or call Olathe Emergency Management, 913-971-7943, and ask for a copy.

Learn about Olathe's Sesquicentennial celebration at [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org) or call 913-971-8506.

