



OLATHE
1857-2007

community • diversity • heritage

Olathe Link

City of Olathe
Newsletter
Summer 2007

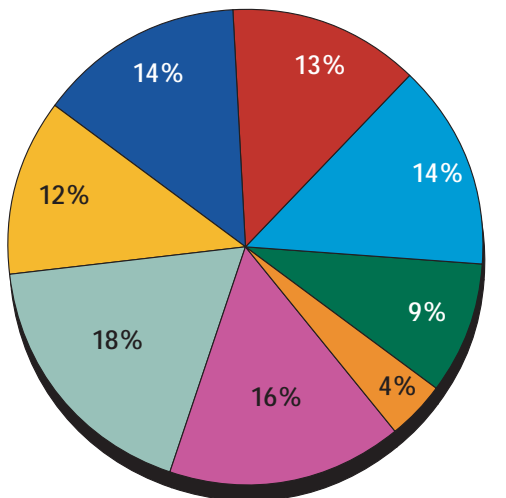
More Residents Involved in City Budget Development

A record number 124 citizens, ranging from high school students to senior citizens, attended this spring's public input sessions for the 2008 City of Olathe operating budget.

Participants in each session heard a presentation on how the City budget works. Then, everyone had the opportunity to spend "Olathe Bucks" in eight key areas of City services.

Residents can express opinions on the 2008 budget at any time at budgetcomments@olatheks.org or by calling 913-971-6489.

Overall preference of areas where City dollars should be spent by key City services, according to budget priorities citizens selected with "Olathe Bucks."



The Bang on Fireworks

Don't blow 4th of July festivities by having or using fireworks in the City of Olathe. Instead, leave fireworks to the professionals and enjoy the public display.

The City prohibits possession, sale or use of fireworks for the safety of residents and property protection. Violations can include penalties up to \$500 and fireworks confiscation.

Last July, a bottle rocket ignited an Olathe home near 146th Terrace and Black Bob, with total costs of nearly \$600,000. Fortunately, no one suffered injuries in that fire. Fireworks injuries, however, are not uncommon.

"Every year we see more than our share of preventable injuries," says Dr. Mani Mani, former director of the Burnett Burn Center at the University of Kansas. "In my career as a plastic surgeon and burn surgeon, fireworks have caused some strange and devastating accidents."

For more information, contact the Olathe Fire Department, 913-971-6333.

Celebrating
150 Years of Olathe
Community

**4th of July
Fireworks
Bigger and
Better
than Ever**

**Fireworks Spectacular
9:30 p.m.
Great Mall of the
Great Plains**

This year will be a big bang with twice the number of fireworks as Olathe celebrates its 150th birthday anniversary.

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Sesquicentennial Telegraph
150 CELEBRATION

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Transportation Improvements Benefit Environment

Olathe's projects to improve the transportation system not only help ease traffic congestion and smooth traffic flow, they can also positively impact our environment.

The current project to elevate the train tracks at four crossings just west of I-35 will eliminate the need for motorists to wait with car engines idling, saving an estimated 580 car-hours each day. This savings, with its positive effect on air quality, prompted the Mid-America Regional Council to allocate \$600,000 in federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funds for the project.

The College Boulevard improvement project now under construction from Ridgeview to Woodland will save approximately the same number of lost time in car hours waiting, upon full traffic usage. Although College Boulevard will carry about half the number of vehicles, it has twice the number of trains traveling the west train tracks compared to the east tracks.

In another project affecting the west tracks, the proposed quiet zone would eliminate the requirement for train horns to sound at 11 track crossings in downtown Olathe. Now, 80 trains daily sound horns at these crossings for 20 seconds each. Implementing the quiet zone would eliminate five hours of horns daily in the

downtown area, a significant environmental improvement for the area.

The Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) is saving drivers a cumulative total of \$125,000 annually in fuel for travel on 119th Street between Greenwood to Renner, and is reducing pollutants by about 45,000 pounds a year. ATMS enables traffic managers to operate numerous traffic signals from an operations center to help alleviate congestion.

As we make progress in improving our transportation system, it is heartening to know that we are taking steps to care for our environment. We all can do our part. Olathe offers multiple recycling opportunities, a household hazardous waste program, and sponsors operations such as Adopt-A-Stream and Adopt-A-Street. You can learn more at www.olatheks.org. Click on Utilities & Trash, then Environment.

Michael Copeland
Mayor

E-Gov Options Grow

The City of Olathe works to provide added convenience for customers and increased efficiencies through online services. City Council and Planning Commission meetings are now webcast live and archived in addition to cablecasts on Comcast Channel 7. Visit www.olatheks.org and click on Cable Channel 7 to make a selection.

Pet licenses can be purchased at www.olatheks.org in the Police Department section. Click on Animal Control unit, then online Pet Licensing Payment. Pet licenses should be renewed each year by August 1 for dogs and cats more than six months of age. Pet licenses are also available at the Olathe Animal Shelter, Olathe Municipal Services or City Hall. For more information contact olatheanimalshelter.org or call 913-971-6362.

City of Olathe utilities bill payments can also be made online. Visit www.olatheks.org. Click on Utilities & Services. Even if customers do not use the online payment option, the new service enables viewing of account information at any time. Customers have made more than 4,300 transactions using the online payment service.

Visit the Parks & Recreation section to register online for recreation classes. Click on ActiveLife. Or, sign up to receive Olathe news directly to your desktop at www.olatheks.org/Residents/News/news_releases_signup.cfm



Garage Sale Sign Placement Set by Ordinance

The City of Olathe has adopted certain regulations relating to garage sale signs to ensure public safety and maintain the high quality appearance of Olathe's roadways. Olathe's Unified Development Ordinance states "Garage sale signs may only be placed at the site of the sale." Additionally, no garage sale signs are permitted within the road right-of-way.

For more information regarding garage sale signs, please refer to Sections 18.64.050 and 18.64.130.G of the Unified Development Ordinance at www.olatheks.org, or call 913-971-8750.

Olathe Free Summer Concert Series

All concerts start at 7 p.m.

Frontier Park, 15501 W. Indian Creek Parkway

- June 29 **Rodney Crowell with special guest Michael Ballew**
Country, Americana
- July 13 **Mark Selby with special guest Johnny Ricker**
Blues, Blues Rock
- July 20 **Marcia Ball with special guest Dan Bliss**
Boogie, Blues, Rock and Soul
- August 3 **Malford Milligan with special guest Danny Cox**
Blues/Soul, R&B, Blues Rock

For information about other Olathe summer events, visit www.olatheks.org.

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

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
- Services Center
- Solid Waste Division
- Utilities
- Water Billing & Collection
- Waterline Maintenance
- Water Production
- 27065 W. 83rd 971-5151
- Waterline Breaks, After-Hours 971-5151
- 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



Printed on recyclable paper.

Olathe City Council

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Moving Olathe Traffic Across Town

127th Street

Improvements

Mur-Len to Black Bob | Black Bob to Pflumm



Improvements to 127th Street, east of the new I-35 overpass, are moving ahead with residents' involvement and project concept plans. This summer engineers are studying the roadway's capacity, expected traffic volumes, traffic signal locations and other related improvements.

Residents in the area participated in public meetings this spring to identify issues surrounding the project. It is anticipated

127th Street construction will begin between Mur-Len and Black Bob in spring 2008, and the Black Bob to Pflumm section would start a year later.

Visit www.improve127th.com for more information, including frequently asked questions, or contact Project Manager Lynn Mockry, 913-971-8680.



Elevated Railroad

Construction to raise the rails on the BNSF east tracks continues. Rail traffic is expected to travel on the new structures in early 2008. The elevated railroad will eliminate at-grade street crossings at Loula Street, Park Street, Santa Fe Avenue and Ridgeview Road.

Preserving Olathe's History

Olathe's rich history is coming to the forefront during this year's festivities for the city's 150th birthday. In addition to many Olathe historic events, the city has historically significant landmarks and neighborhoods — more registered historic properties than any other Johnson County city, and more historic properties than Lenexa, Leawood and Overland Park combined.

Olathe's Comprehensive Plan and Original Town Enhancement Plan encourage historic preservation and neighborhood conservation, and promotion of the community's historic resources.

This year the Kansas State Historic Sites Board recommended the City of Olathe receive \$12,000 in federal preservation funds to help streamline the nomination process of properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

Registered historic properties can yield funding, improvement opportunities and recognition, which can positively impact the entire community.

For more information, contact Senior Planner Emily Kukal, ekukal@olatheks.org, or call 913-971-8969.

Olathe Properties on National Register of Historic Places

- J. B. Mahaffie House (1865)** 1100 Kansas City Road
- Albert Ott House (1894)** 401 South Harrison Street
- Martin Van Buren Parker House (1880)** 631 West Park Street
- I. O. Pickering House (1869)** 507 West Park Street

Olathe Properties on Register of Historic Kansas Places

- George Hodges House (1892, altered 1921)**
425 South Harrison Street
- Hycrest (1881, altered 1919)** 505 East Cedar Street
- Frank Lanter House (1901)** 562 West Park Street

What's Being Built in Olathe

Commercial

- **Wal-Mart Supercenter**, northwest corner of Santa Fe & K-7/Parker — Grading has begun on the site with opening anticipated in the spring of 2008.
- **Ram's Ready Mix** is moving forward to develop a new concrete plant, relocating the plant from Santa Fe and K-7/Parker. The company has submitted plans for the new plant at 147th Street and Robinson Drive.
- **Olathe Gateway, Phase II**, southeast corner of 119th & Renner Four retail buildings are under construction north of Bass Pro Shops. Plans are also approved for Longhorn Steakhouse and a Starbucks free-standing building on 119th Street.
- **National Tire & Battery** is under construction north of Olive Garden, 119th Street & Black Bob Road.
- **Taco John's** restaurant, 18617 W. 151st Street, opened in April.

- **Quik Trip** convenience store and gas station is under construction at 15710 S. 169 Hwy.
- **Sherwin Williams** paint store is under construction at 13750 W. 135th Street.

Office/Industrial

- A two-story **Farmer's Insurance** office building, 10551 S. Ridgeview Road, Corporate Ridge Office Park, is under construction.
- **Pacific Sunwear**, northwest corner of 167th Street and Lone Elm Road, 447,000 square foot distribution warehouse

Public Building

- **Fire Station No. 7**, 16110 S. Mur-Len Road Service from the station anticipated to begin in July

Residential

- **During first quarter of 2007**, 172 single-family building permits were issued.

More Parking for Downtown

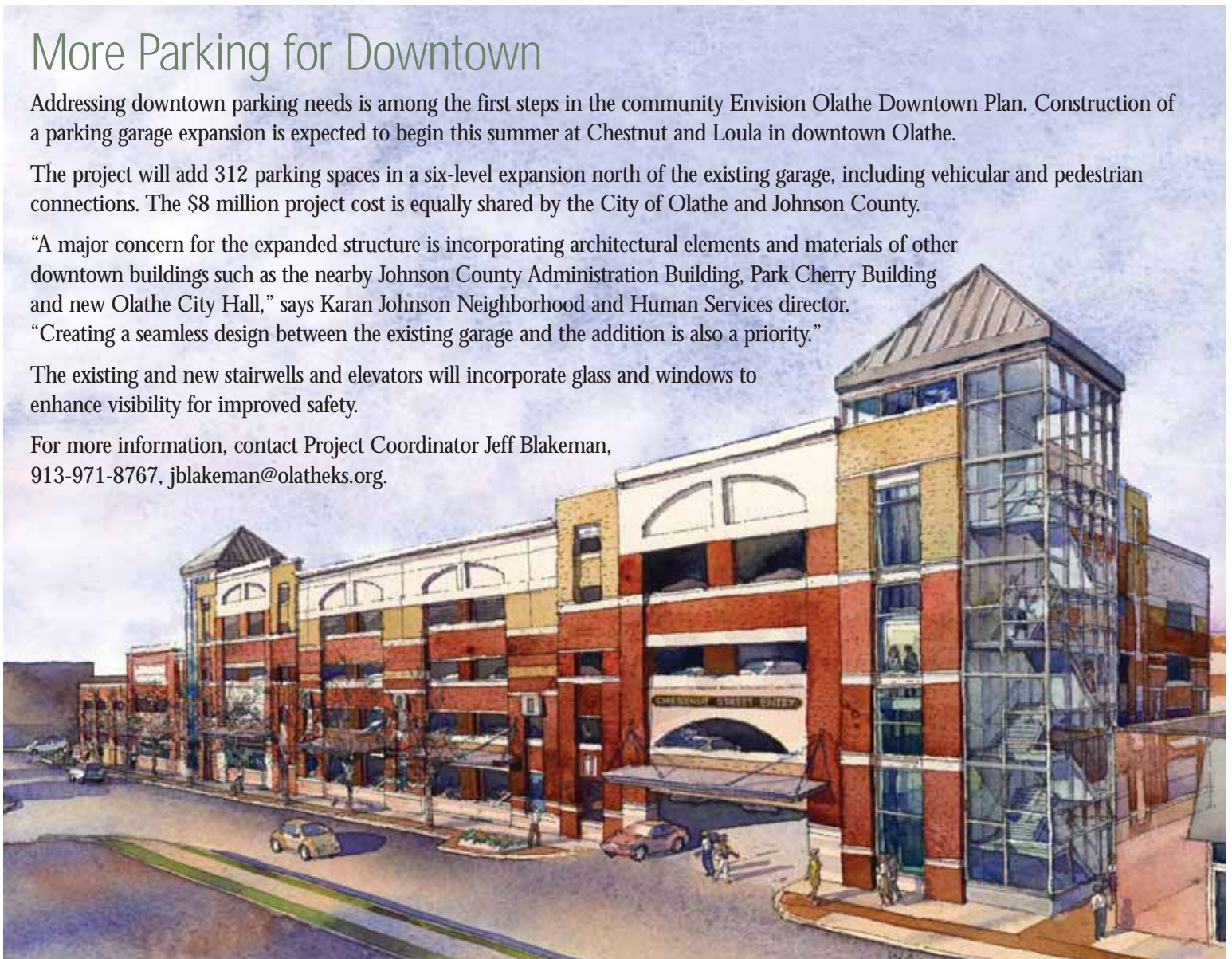
Addressing downtown parking needs is among the first steps in the community Envision Olathe Downtown Plan. Construction of a parking garage expansion is expected to begin this summer at Chestnut and Loula in downtown Olathe.

The project will add 312 parking spaces in a six-level expansion north of the existing garage, including vehicular and pedestrian connections. The \$8 million project cost is equally shared by the City of Olathe and Johnson County.

"A major concern for the expanded structure is incorporating architectural elements and materials of other downtown buildings such as the nearby Johnson County Administration Building, Park Cherry Building and new Olathe City Hall," says Karan Johnson Neighborhood and Human Services director. "Creating a seamless design between the existing garage and the addition is also a priority."

The existing and new stairwells and elevators will incorporate glass and windows to enhance visibility for improved safety.

For more information, contact Project Coordinator Jeff Blakeman, 913-971-8767, jblakeman@olatheks.org.



Olathe Earth News

6th Annual AQUAFEST

Celebrate water as an important resource and a never-ending source of fun!

Saturday, August 25, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.*
Cedar Lake Park, 15500 S. Lone Elm Road

This free City-sponsored event is open to the public and includes water-related activities for the entire family.

- Enjoy a canoe ride on scenic Cedar Lake
- Try your luck at cane-pole fishing by the water's edge
- Catch pointers on fly-fishing and fly-tying
- Stop by informational booths and learn how you can make a difference
- Take a trip down a giant waterslide
- Embark on a scavenger hunt to test your environmental IQ

Scheduled activities:

Watercolor Classes (Olathe Visual Artists)

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Earth-friendly Landscaping

(Johnson County K-State Research & Extension Master Gardeners)

Low Maintenance Turf

Integrated Pest Management

Rain Gardens

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

***rain date September 15th**

AquaFest is a registered Outdoor Kansas for Kids (O.K. Kids!) event with the Kansas Wildscape Foundation.

The event is sponsored by the City of Olathe Municipal Services, Parks & Recreation and Public Works Departments with support from the 2007 Community Grant Program. For more information, call 913-971-9057.



As Summer Heats Up, Remember to Think WOW!

Take a virtual tour of a water saver home at www.h2ouse.org and learn countless ways to save on your monthly water bill by thinking WOW – Wise Outdoor Watering.

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



Clean Air and Lawn Care

Most of us don't associate air pollution with mowing the lawn, but the truth is – emissions from lawnmowers, leaf blowers, etc. contribute significantly to air pollution in Greater Kansas City. Like cars, the exhaust from these gas-powered engines reacts with the hot summer sun to produce ground-level ozone. Even at very low levels, ground-level ozone can be harmful to our health, especially those with respiratory problems.

This summer you will see or hear SkyCast forecasts rating ground-level ozone. When orange or red ozone alert days are forecasted, you can help everyone breathe easier by postponing mowing your grass.



Take Simple Steps to Dispose of Leftover Prescription Drugs Safely

In February, the federal government issued new guidelines for the proper disposal of unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs. The guidelines are designed to reduce the illegal diversion of prescription drugs, while at the same time protect the environment.

In line with the federal guidelines, the City is asking residents to take the following steps:

1. Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers.
2. Place them in an impermeable, non-descript container (such as an empty can or sealable bag).
3. Mix them with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter.
4. Dispose of the container along with household trash.

Important Note: Never flush prescription drugs down the toilet because they could make their way into the environment via the wastewater treatment plant.

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy

Did You Know? Running a lawnmower for one hour produces as much volatile organic compound (VOC) pollution as driving a new car for 340 miles.

Source: Mid-America Regional Council

Reminder: Trash and recycling will be picked up as usual on July 4th. The City collects trash on all holidays except New Year's, Thanksgiving and Christmas. To ensure pickup, please have your trash and recycling at the curb by 8 a.m.

To sign up for direct debit service for your City of Olathe utility bill payment, call 913-971-9311.

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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Residential Customer

CITIZEN REQUEST SYSTEM

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

Beginning July 20, view the fall issue of the ActiveLife Recreation Catalog at www.olatheks.org/ActiveLife. If you would like a free subscription to ActiveLife, contact the Olathe Parks & Recreation Department at 913-971-6263.



Entry sign concept for the planned Kansas State University-Olathe Innovation Campus and Kansas Bioscience Authority Science Park.

Olathe's Future: Bioscience Innovation and Research

The Kansas State University-Olathe Innovation Campus and Kansas Bioscience Authority Science Park project took a large step forward in June with a development agreement calling for the City's transfer of approximately 92 acres of City-owned property near College Boulevard and Lone Elm Road.

Kansas State University and the Kansas Bioscience Authority are the developers of what will be a unique research park in the Kansas City metropolitan area, anticipated to attract national attention.

The KSU campus, research facility and bioscience business incubator are expected to generate 3,000 new jobs with \$57,000 in average, annual salaries, and provide \$150 million in public and private investment.

Under the development agreement, the first Kansas Bioscience Authority building will be constructed within three years and the first Kansas State University building within six years.