



Olathe Link

City of Olathe
Newsletter

Winter 2009

Ratings Recognize Olathe's Financial Stability

Much like a personal credit score, a government's bond rating is essential to securing the most favorable interest rates possible. In 2008, Standard & Poor's (S&P) rating agency upgraded the credit rating of the City of Olathe's general obligation (GO) bonds to AA+ from AA. Also, Moody's Investors Service affirmed the Aa2 rating on the City's long-term general obligation debt. The City of Olathe's bond ratings are in the top 10 percent of ratings for U.S. municipalities.

A general obligation bond is a municipal bond secured by the "full faith and credit" (taxing and borrowing power of the issuer) of the municipality.

S&P's rating reflects the city's "economic diversification through ongoing commercial and industrial development, very strong wealth and income levels, very strong financial performance, and the City of Olathe's established policies and procedures to ensure it addressed continued

growth in a controlled fashion."

Moody's notes "Olathe's financial operations will remain sound given the City's willingness to make expenditure cuts in order to maintain structural balance and healthy reserves."

Maintaining 30 percent of general funds in reserve is one of the City's priorities for financial sustainability and plays a primary role in achieving a good credit rating, says Ben Hart, director of Resource Management.

Bond ratings speak to a community's financial health. Strong bond ratings not only result in tax dollar savings through lower interest rates, they provide other economic benefits for the community. The more positive the bond ratings, the more attractive the city is for economic development. To view the entire bond rating letters from S&P and Moody's please visit the City's website at www.olatheks.org/finance.

Commercial development remains strong

Although residential development has slowed, commercial development activity in Olathe has been steady despite national economic uncertainty. GARMIN International, the country's largest manufacturer of mobile navigation gear, recently completed expansions of its warehouse and product support

center. J.Q. Hammons Hotels is moving forward with an 11-story Embassy Suites Hotel and 80,000-square foot conference

center. John Deere has broken ground for their new sales and marketing headquarters.

Embassy Suites Hotel and conference center, northwest corner of K-10 and Ridgeview -preliminary design



It's Your City .. pages 4-5

Celebrating Diversity in 2009

Olathe Human Relations Commission's

Martin Luther King, Jr. Noon Day Observance

12 p.m., Friday, Jan. 16, 2009

Olathe City Council Chamber
100 E. Santa Fe

Shown live on OGTN
Olathe Government Television Network — See page 8

Junior and senior high school student finalists' entries in the annual Martin Luther King essay, fine arts and multi-media contest will be available for public viewing all day Thursday, Jan. 15 at Olathe City Hall, 100 E. Santa Fe.

For more information call 913-971-8790.

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Mayor's Message 2008—Many Reasons to Celebrate

Beginning a new year offers the opportunity to review some of the highlights we celebrated in Olathe during 2008. This has been a very challenging economic time for us all, and we have had to make some very difficult, but necessary, financial decisions that have impacted the men and women who serve you. However, they remain committed to providing you the high level of services you expect and deserve, and I know we all share gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy as Olatheans.

We make our home in one of the country's **most desirable communities**, rated in 2008 the 11th **Best Place to Live in the nation** by Money magazine. This is a testament to Olathe's quality neighborhoods, great parks, outstanding schools, excellent public safety services, the beauty of our area, economic growth, and our reflection of Midwestern values.

In 2008, we saw results from years of planning and work on **several significant transportation projects**. Residents can now drive east Santa Fe Avenue and several other key streets with **no train delays**, thanks to the **completed elevated rail project**. This is truly a milestone project, made possible in cooperation with other governmental agencies and the BNSF Railway. An agreement is now in place with BNSF Railway to create a quiet zone. The **quiet zone** would silence the five hours of train horns sounding each day on the railroad tracks through downtown.

The **expanded downtown parking structure** was completed in 2008, adding 400 parking spaces to the area. This additional downtown parking was made possible in partnership with Johnson County. A **new bridge was completed on Dennis Avenue** at Cedar Creek. Work began on the new **I-35 and Lone Elm Interchange** to serve an area that is bringing new jobs and millions of dollars of investment to our community. Fortunately, **commercial growth**

remains strong in our city, even in the wake of the poor economy. **Renovation of Oregon Trail Community Park** began, upgrades were completed at other parks, and **new pedestrian/bicycle trails** opened in both east and west Olathe. Community contributions made possible the opening of our new **Olathe Heritage Center**, adjacent to the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm.

Our community continues to **take care of our neighbors in need**. One such example is **TLC for Children and Families**, which added facilities and services, thanks to community donations. TLC's expansion and new construction addresses the shortage of foster care homes and residential treatment services for youth and the shortage of transitional housing for youth in state custody.

The City of Olathe was recently **honored by InterHab** with the *Kansas Inclusive Communities Award* for its outstanding accessibility to people with disabilities. Today, a partnership between the City and a local taxi company provides disabled residents and other citizens in need access to transportation at a discounted rate. The City also provides a wheelchair-accessible van to transport citizens who need special accommodations.

The City of Olathe offers an astounding number of quality services, while **strategically planning** for Olathe's future. With the help of residents' input, we are updating Olathe's Comprehensive Plan. The plan is very important to Olathe's future quality of life, as it will help shape much about our city. I have no doubt that Olathe will realize its full potential and promise in the coming years, because we have the solid commitment of a community that works together!

Wishing you a wonderful 2009,

Michael Copeland, Mayor

Your Plan, Your Future

Planning for Olathe's future is underway with an update to the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is the official statement of the City setting forth the goals and vision for future growth and development, and directly or indirectly affects residents' transportation, parks and green spaces, housing choices, community economic issues, and other areas.

The Comprehensive Plan's update will help shape Olathe's long-term quality of life. The City of Olathe wants residents to express what they want for Olathe as a community. Residents are invited to participate in a series of public workshops throughout the winter and spring. The first of these workshops are scheduled for early January:

Wednesday	January 7, 2009	6-8 p.m.	Olathe Northwest High School
Wednesday	January 7, 2009	6-8 p.m.	Oregon Trail Junior High School
Thursday	January 8, 2009	6-8 p.m.	Olathe East High School
Thursday	January 8, 2009	6-8 p.m.	Olathe South High School

At these initial workshops, residents will be able to identify key issues that the plan should address, and share their vision for the community's future. Future workshops will build upon the input received to create a number of alternatives for the future growth of the community.

In addition to the public workshops, a plan website is available for direct citizen input. At www.planolathe.com you can explore plan topics, learn about the update process, find upcoming workshops and meeting dates, provide feedback, and more.

For more information about these events or the Comprehensive Plan update process, or if you would like a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan update at your group or organization meeting, contact the Department of Development Services, 913-971-8750.

New Police Chief Appointed

Steve Menke, a 20-year veteran of the Olathe Police Department, is the new Olathe police chief. He replaced Janet Thiessen, who resigned the position in November.

Menke has served in various capacities in nearly all the Olathe Police Department's divisions including communications

officer, patrol officer, detective, patrol sergeant, patrol lieutenant, personnel and training division captain, investigations division captain, operations bureau commander and as acting major, the department's number two position.

He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy and holds a bachelor's degree in business from MidAmerica Nazarene University.

"I've spent my entire law enforcement career in Olathe, and we truly have an exceptional department," says Menke. "I have been proud to serve with the men and women of the Olathe Police Department, and it is an honor to be in a position to lead the department."

For more information about the Olathe Police Department visit www.olatheks.org/Police.

Olathe Services Guide

EMERGENCY

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

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

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8700

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Building Codes	
100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8575
Building Inspections.....	971-8574
Community Development Block Grant	
201 N. Cherry	971-6260
Community Enhancement	
100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8580
Housing and Transportation	
201 N. Cherry (TDD/Voice).....	971-6260
Housing Rehabilitation	
201 N. Cherry	971-6268
Neighborhood Services	
100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8750
Planning Services	
100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8750
Public Housing Authority	
201 N. Cherry (TDD/Voice).....	971-6260
Zoning Information	
100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8725

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Administration and Life Safety Services	
1225 S. Hamilton Circle.....	971-6333
Emergency.....	911
Emergency TDD/TTY Calls	971-5323
Non emergency TDD/TTY calls	971-7903
Emergency Management	971-7943

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

City Attorney's Office	
100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8732
Prosecutor's Office	
1200 S. Harrison	971-6742
Community Mediation Program.....	971-7736

MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP

1200 Kansas City Rd.	971-5111
Heritage Center	971-5111
Olathe Historical Society	971-5110

MAYOR'S OFFICE

100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8500

MUNICIPAL COURT

1200 S. Harrison	971-6393
Court Services	
1200 S. Harrison	971-5213

MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

1385 S. Robinson	971-9311
Customer Service.....	971-9311
Billing	
Trash	
Water & Sewer	
After-Hours Answering Service.....	971-5151
Missed Trash	
Water/Sewer Emergency	
Water Quality Questions	
600 S. Curtis	971-5122
Solid Waste Transfer Station	
1681 S. Valley Rd.	971-5175

OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Administration	
200 W. Santa Fe (TDD/Voice).....	971-6263
Parks and Public Grounds	
200 W. Santa Fe	971-6038
Cemetery Caretaker	
738 N. Chestnut	971-5226
Recreation Division	
200 W. Santa Fe (TDD/Voice).....	971-6263
Recreation Activity Registration (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



Printed on recyclable paper.

PUBLIC WORKS

100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8505
Street Maintenance	
Woodland & Harold.....	971-9511
Pot Hole Hotline	
Woodland & Harold.....	971-6037
Traffic Engineer	
100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8505
Report streetlight outages	971-8513
Report traffic signal malfunctions.....	971-5180
Report traffic sign concerns	971-5170

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Administration and Accounting	
201 N. Cherry	971-8000
City Clerk	
100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8521
Human Resources	
100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8735
Jobline.....	971-8749
Office of Human Relations	
100 E. Santa Fe	971-8790
(TDD).....	971-8651
Fair Housing Hotline	971-6472
Risk Management	
100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8716
Purchasing	
100 E. Santa Fe.....	971-8714

Olathe City Council

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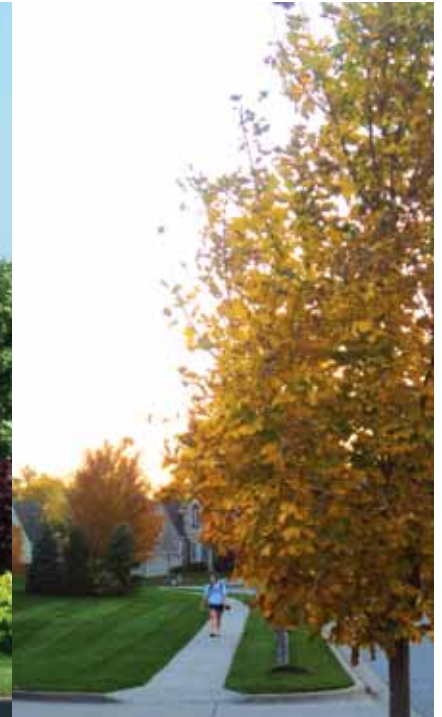
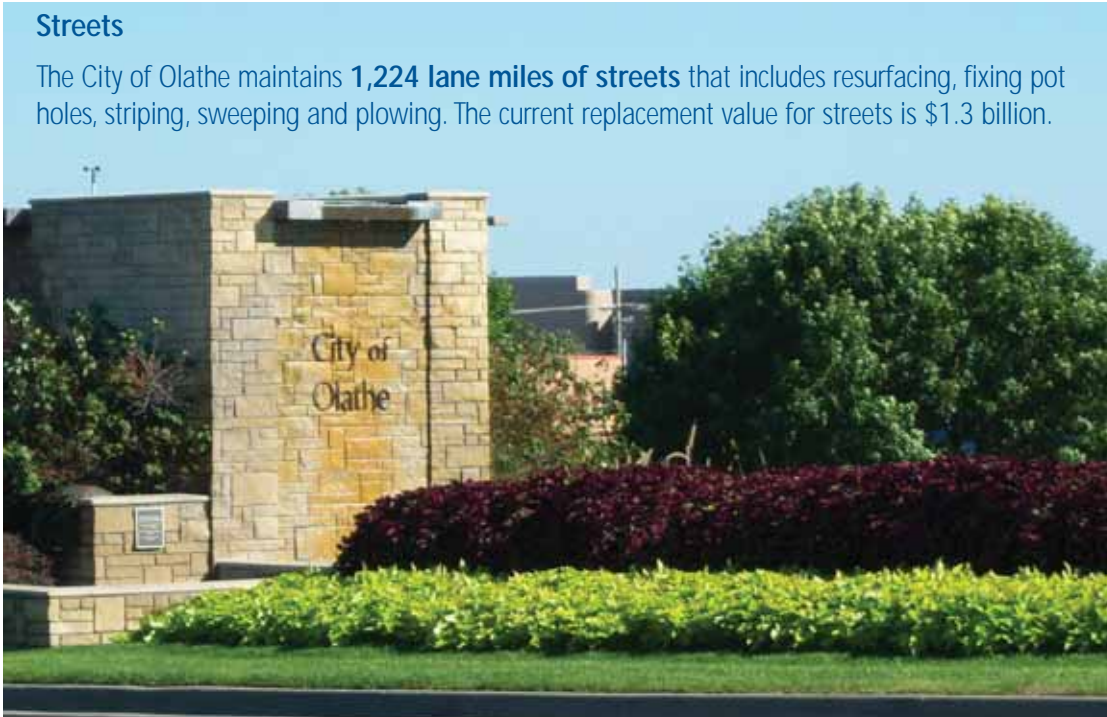
Olathe, It's Your City

Once a small town southwest of the bigger city, Kansas City, Olathe has come into its own as a premier community in the region and in the nation. Now, Olathe is the fourth largest city in Kansas and in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. Approximately 124,000 people live here, more than triple the number of residents in 1980. With the exception of one Chicago area city, Olathe is the fastest growing major city in the entire Midwest, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

As Olathe has evolved into a larger city, City of Olathe services and assets have grown to serve the needs of residents and businesses. A snapshot of the City's assets and maintenance inventory (not a comprehensive account) is highlighted on this page and the next.

Streets

The City of Olathe maintains **1,224 lane miles of streets** that includes resurfacing, fixing pot holes, striping, sweeping and plowing. The current replacement value for streets is \$1.3 billion.



Residential streets, 656 curb miles, are swept 3 times yearly.

Arterial streets, 557 curb miles, are swept monthly.

An average 6,000 tons of salt is used each winter to treat streets during storm events.

Street lights: 12,722 (6,822 leased - KCPL, Westar)

The City is responsible for maintaining 5,900 lights.

Street signs: 20,000

Traffic signals: 112

Traffic operations cameras: 35

School beacons: 121

Sidewalks: 400 miles

Water and Wastewater

Olathe is a full service city, providing water and wastewater utilities services to most of the community. The City operates and maintains approximately 19,600 water lines and 10,500 sanitary sewer lines.





Parks

Olathe's park inventory of **1,254 acres** requires **mowing 12,252 acres** each year, plus the City provides forestry and horticultural services at parks and public grounds. Other landscape/maintenance areas include approximately 4,600 acres of annual mowing of medians, and the Olathe Memorial Cemetery and City facilities such as fire stations, City Hall, etc.)
Outside aquatic facilities: 4

City Facilities

The City of Olathe operates and maintains 39 occupied buildings from City Hall to police and fire facilities, Traffic Operations Center, water production and wastewater treatment facilities, Court Services, Municipal Services Center, Parkview Manor, Solid Waste Transfer Station, Animal Shelter and more.

Vehicles

The City maintains a fleet of vehicles to provide services.

Police cars: 154

Street maintenance: 45

Street Maintenance uses 23 vehicles (including Parks and Utilities vehicles) to plow snow on main street routes. Plus, 23 vehicles are available from other City divisions for additional plowing operations.

Heavy trucks: 156 (one ton or greater)

Heavy construction equipment: 36

Fire apparatus: 48

Parks & public grounds: 33

Solid waste collection trucks for residential/commercial services and recycling: 51

Water and sanitary sewer services: 48

Olathe Earth News

Multi-family Residential Property to Use City's Solid Waste Services Beginning January 1

Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, all solid waste and recyclable collection for multi-family residential property will be collected by the City, according to an ordinance change adopted by the Olathe City Council on Sept. 2, 2008.

According to the ordinance:

- Multi-family properties that are not already City customers are required to

contract with the City for solid waste removal as current contracts expire over a three year period, no later than Jan. 1, 2012.

- All Olathe residents, both tenants and homeowners, can access the City's solid waste programs – Household Hazardous Waste Program, Composting Facility and Recycling Programs.

In September, letters were mailed to 90 multi-family properties in Olathe advising them of the change. Approximately one-third of these properties already use City commercial services, while the others have a private solid waste service provider. For more information, call 913-971-9311.

Municipal Services Programs Work to Prevent Identity Theft

Identity theft is on the rise. In an effort to protect customers, the City of Olathe has adopted a new federal mandate requiring companies with customer accounts to implement identity theft prevention programs to identify and detect "red flags" signaling possible identity theft.

The City of Olathe's Municipal Services

Customer Service Division handles customer accounts for water, sewer, solid waste, stormwater and recycling services.

According to the mandate, Olathe Municipal Services, like other companies, must develop reasonable policies and procedures to verify the identity of a customer opening an account, and must

also periodically update their identity theft programs. The mandate also requires companies to create policies and procedures not only to recognize and detect red flags, but also respond to red flags by preventing or mitigating potential identity theft.

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Olathe residents can recycle Christmas trees by placing them at the curb on their recycling day.

The City will process the trees (weather permitting), grinding them into wood chips that residents can pick up for use as mulch in gardens and landscapes.

For more information, call 913-971-9311.



Don't throw away the cardboard from all of those toys and gifts this holiday season. Remember to take your cardboard to one of the three **drop-off recycling** locations: **Downtown Olathe** at the Farmers' Market, Kansas Avenue and Poplar Street; **East Olathe Wal-Mart**, southeast corner of 135th Street and Black Bob Road; and **West Olathe Wal-Mart**, northwest corner of Parker Street and Santa Fe Avenue.

Instructions:
Real Christmas trees only – no lights, ornaments or plastic

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

Olathe Strives to Protect the Environment with Green Practices

The City of Olathe prides itself with being environmental stewards, urging staff and residents to reduce, reuse, and recycle as well as to protect the streams, lakes, air quality and green spaces.

Throughout the year, we'll list some of Olathe Municipal Services' green efforts.

Many of these are simple, everyday practices, which can, as a whole, have a huge impact on our environment.

The following are some of our programs that help to protect the environment by addressing air quality concerns:

Cleaner Fuels in City Vehicles

Since June 2004, Olathe's Vehicle Maintenance Division has tested cleaner fuels in City vehicles – an ethanol blend, E-10, and a bio-diesel blend, B-20. These fuels help reduce particulate matter's entrance to the atmosphere from diesel engines and carbon monoxide from gasoline engines.

Testing for Emissions

During the ozone alert season, the City offers residents' vehicles gas cap testing monthly, in conjunction with its Household Hazardous Waste drop-off

events on the second Saturday of each month. A proper fitting fuel cap reduces emissions and can save vehicle owners 30 to 50 gallons a year in fuel. A faulty gas cap can leak up to \$35 of gas a year – harming the environment and budgets.

Hybrid Electric Vehicles

The City of Olathe has incorporated these energy-efficient vehicles into the fleet as another way to help the region's air quality. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant funds will be used to assist in purchasing additional hybrid vehicles.

New Technology Upgrades Sanitary Sewers in Frisco Lake Area

City Utilities Maintenance and Wastewater Collection crews have nearly completed the Frisco Lake Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project to greatly increase the sewer system's efficiency in this neighborhood and reduce the possibility of backups caused by heavy flow events.

This project includes upsizing approximately 1,300 linear feet of 10-inch clay sewer pipe to 15-inch PVC pipe, and installing 11 new manholes.

The City completed approximately 1,000 feet on this project using pipe bursting, a new, "trenchless" construction technology in which a larger diameter pipe is pulled underground through the existing sanitary sewer, thereby reducing the need to "open cut" the entire length of the sanitary sewer rehabilitation. Pipe bursting was used due



City crews unload new PVC pipe for the sanitary sewer upgrade in the Frisco Lake area.

to the depth of the existing sanitary sewer and the close proximity of North Frisco Lake, often less than 15 feet. Concerns of a high water table, which could possibly create hazardous digging situations for City staff, and the desire to minimize disruptions to the neighborhood made pipe bursting the ideal method of construction.

Prior to the pipe bursting process, the new PVC pipe was fused together to create two long, seamless lengths of pipes, which were

pulled through the existing clay pipe. The process was completed in sections. Each section required an entrance pit to feed the new pipe into the existing pipe, and a pull pit to place the hydraulically operated pipe bursting system to pull the new pipe through the existing pipe. After completing the pipe bursting process, City staff began installing new sanitary sewer manholes and the open cut portions of the project.

Olathe Link

P.O. Box 768
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Reader Feedback

Please send your comments to:
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linkcomments@olatheks.org
913-971-8700

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CITIZEN REQUEST SYSTEM

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

City Access Channel Becomes OGTN

Olathe Government Television Network

City of Olathe access television has a new name, OGTN – Olathe Government Television Network. It remains a major source of City information on **Comcast channel 7** and can also be seen on **AT&T channel 99**. OGTN will soon be on the Time-Warner and SureWest (formerly Everest) systems upon their expansion to the Olathe service area. OGTN was selected as the new name to better reflect its coverage and multi-channel availability.

OGTN is the place to see live Olathe City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Live meeting coverage is also available via webstreaming at www.olatheks.org, along with an online archive of meetings. The City of Olathe works to make government easily accessible for residents with busy lives, says Tim Danneberg, City of Olathe communications director. Olathe is the only city in Johnson County offering television coverage of city meetings.

City meetings are captioned for viewers who are deaf or hard of hearing. This service is provided with support from Community Development Block Grant funds.

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



Access your Local Government now.

In addition, OGTN offers unique programs such as The Mayor's Corner, and live coverage of special events such as the Olathe Human Relations Commission's Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, the Johnson County Old Settlers parade, legislative forums and the Johnson County Board of Commissioners meetings.

The program schedule is available on OGTN and at www.olatheks.org. For more information, contact 913-971-8600 or channel7@olatheks.org.

