City to Unveil New, Interactive Website – OlatheKS.org

The City of Olathe will soon unveil a new OlatheKS.org website to further connect residents and the public with City services and information. The features and design of the new, customer-focused OlatheKS.org will make website navigation easier for users across all digital platforms.

Easy Navigation

“Our goal was to make the experience easier for those who visit the website and conduct business with the City of Olathe,” says Mayor Michael Copeland. “We’re excited that the new website prominently features the most-frequently requested service topics with action icons on the homepage.”

Site users can now access the most frequently visited services through convenient one-click icons on the homepage and an app-like view on a mobile device. Main navigations like Services, Residents, Visitors, Business, are more intuitive and customer-centric. An updated news delivery system will be part of the redesigned site. Users will have the option to sign up for the news and updates of interest to them and in the format they choose – email and/or SMS text.

During the past year, the City of Olathe gathered information from residents about what they most wanted from the new website. The result is a site that provides a user-friendly experience which makes access to services easier no matter what device is used.

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Olathe Top Ratings

Number 1
10 Happiest Cities in America
Recognized by Zippia

Gold Level
Certified Healthy KC Organization
Selected by Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City

Number 9
America’s Best Drivers - 2016 Report
Ranked by Allstate Insurance

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Mayor’s Message

Meeting the Basic Needs of Olathe’s Children

The Olathe Mayor’s Christmas Tree Fund has a long and proud history in our city. The Olathe Noon Optimist Club began this tremendous community effort many years ago, and the Optimists are well represented on our current Mayor’s Christmas Tree Fund Board. Comprised of dedicated community leaders and friends, the Board administers the Mayor’s Christmas Tree Fund with the sole mission of helping Olathe kids by supporting local charities. Year round, these charities meet the most critical needs of our children, including food, shelter, health and dental care, shoes, and school supplies.

We are pleased to announce the 2016 Mayor’s Christmas Tree Fund beneficiaries:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater K.C.
- CASA
- Catholic Charities
- Children’s Shoe Fund
- El Centro
- Health Partnership Clinic
- Inclusion Connections
- Johnson County Christmas Bureau
- Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network
- KidsTLC
- KVC Kansas
- Lakemary Center
- Mission Southside
- Olathe Public Schools Foundation
- Preferred Family Healthcare
- SAFEHOME
- Salvation Army

This shining achievement is also made possible because of outstanding corporate partners who pay all administrative expenses for the Fund. ALDI, Farmers Insurance, and Strategy, LLC have generously covered all printing, postage, and marketing costs, allowing 100 percent of donations to go directly to our charities.

Olathe Chamber of Commerce representatives presented generous checks to Board members at the Chamber Coffee Campaign Kick-Off on October 6. The checks represented donations from the Chamber Foundation and the Garmin Marathon.

Olatheans of all ages experience the joy of giving back and making a positive difference in the lives of their neighbors. The success of the Olathe Public Schools “Pennies for Shoes” Campaign illustrates the growing spirit of philanthropy we see in our youth. Olathe schools have raised over $114,000 for the Mayor’s Christmas Tree Fund since 2007, and last year, Olathe students were the number one donor to the Fund. We are so proud of our schools!

The Mayor’s Christmas Tree Fund Board unveiled a new logo at the “Light the Way, An Evening in White” benefit on September 15 at the Olathe Heritage Center. Designed by Strategy, LLC, the logo highlights the Fund’s purpose – meeting the basic needs of Olathe’s children.

The light of the Mayor’s Christmas Tree Fund continues to shine on Olathe children. Through our Board’s visionary leadership and your amazing compassion and generosity, we’ll continue to light the way for our kids. Thank you for giving hope for a brighter tomorrow to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland
Mayor
What’s Being Built in Olathe

Boulder Hills
A preliminary plat was approved for a new single-family residential subdivision on the west side of Black Bob Road in the vicinity of 171st Street. The new subdivision will include a total of 198 lots. A final plat has been submitted for the development’s first phase with 46 lots.

Contractor’s Garage
A small flex office/light industrial development is under construction at the corner of 159th Street and Mahaffie Street. The development includes two buildings with multiple tenant spaces and is intended to accommodate small start-up businesses with small office/showroom and storage space.

Olathe Cancer Center
Olathe Medical Center held a groundbreaking on Oct. 6 for a new state-of-the-art cancer center. The center will be a free-standing building located on the southeast corner of 151st Street and OMC Parkway. The building will include a radiation therapy suite and relaxing treatment rooms with medical oncology suites for combined therapies in the same visit.

Zaxby’s
A new Zaxby’s restaurant is under construction at 12195 S. Strang Line Rd., next to the former Zoom-In Market. Zaxby’s specialty is chicken. The building will have a dining area with 90 seats and a drive-through lane.

New features on OlatheKS.org include:
- a responsive design which works on full-size computer screens, tablets, or smartphones
- a prominent search bar with advanced search capabilities
- easy to use homepage icons for most-frequently requested pages
- a searchable, dynamic calendar compatible with Google, iPhone, and other calendars
- customized eNotification sign-up for news, events, job postings, and more
- integrated access to social media accounts
- photo areas which can be populated with user-submitted images
- portals into online payment and service areas

Citizens are encouraged to submit photos for use on the site now by using the email address: photos@olatheks.org. Check to see if your photos are included when the new OlatheKS.org launches in December.
Working to Keep You Safe During Winter Storms

Winter can bring accumulating snow and ice along with cold temperatures. The City of Olathe works to keep roadways safe during weather events that impact travel. Maintaining safety for motorists and pedestrians, and ensuring emergency responders can reach those who need help, are priorities. Snow removal crews' first areas of focus are major roadways and collector streets, along with a concentration on hills, hazardous intersections, commercial, and school areas. When these priorities are completed, attention turns to residential streets, followed by cul-de-sacs.

While the City of Olathe focuses on these priority areas, residents also have important roles during winter storms. Please remember:
- Stay off roads when possible. The fewer vehicles on roads, the faster they can be cleared to get you on your way.
- Park your vehicles in your driveway. If there is no driveway, park vehicles on the same side of the street.
- Remain patient. We work to clear roads as soon as possible. This is our first priority.
- Teach children to stay behind sidewalks when they see the plow trucks coming.
- Keep snow forts and structures out of the path of the plow.
- Give plow trucks plenty of room. Avoid passing or driving beside plow trucks. Stay back at least 50 feet from the rear of trucks so the driver can see you.

More Traffic Improvements Coming Soon

Santa Fe and Ridgeview
Design is underway to help ease traffic congestion at the busy Santa Fe and Ridgeview intersection. When completed, the intersection will have:
- two left turn and two through lanes for each quadrant of the intersection
- dedicated right turn lanes for southbound Ridgeview, and westbound Santa Fe traffic
- a shared through/right turn lane for northbound Ridgeview and eastbound Santa Fe traffic

A public meeting in early 2017 will share more information about this project before construction begins in 2018.

143rd Street Improvements
Utilities relocation is underway for improvements to 143rd Street, Pflumm Road to Quivira Road. Road construction will begin in 2017 to improve this street to three-lanes (two through lanes and a center turn lane), with a bike lane and wide sidewalk.

City of Olathe Seeking Individuals to Serve on Historic Preservation Board

The Olathe Historic Preservation Board is seeking to fill two vacancies. One of the two vacancies should be a “preservation related professional” as required by the State of Kansas, and City of Olathe ordinance. “Members of the Board shall be drawn from such backgrounds as architecture, history, landscape architecture, architecture history, planning, archaeology, urban design, neighborhood and community development, geography, real estate, law, finance, building trades or related areas.”

These are non-compensated, public service positions. Interested individuals may contact Emily Carrillo, neighborhood assessment coordinator, 913-971-9069.
Improvements to Cedar Lake, Lake Olathe Coming Soon

In September, the Olathe City Council approved the master plans for Cedar Lake and Lake Olathe Parks. Phase One park improvements are expected to begin in early 2017. Both of these community park developments will be multi-year projects, funded in part by the voter-approved Olathe Park Sales Tax.

Initial improvements at Cedar Lake will include shoreline restoration, improved roads, water, sewer, and electrical utility extensions. Lake Olathe’s first-planned improvements are a new marina, swim beach, sprayground, botanical garden, Beaver Shelter renovation, roads, and water, sewer, and electrical extensions. Work will also start next year on a 2.5-mile Cedar Creek Trail to connect Cedar Lake and Lake Olathe. Phase One construction will take approximately 18-24 months to complete.

More images of Cedar Lake and Lake Olathe park plans can be seen in the Winter/Spring Parks & Rec Activity Guide.

Olathe Recognizes Community Leaders and Groups

Olathe businesses, organizations, and individuals who actively contribute to the advancement or promotion of human rights in our community were recognized on Oct. 13 during the annual Olathe Human Relations Commission and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Board Community Awards celebration.

Humanitarian Awards

Bob Drummond—Seasoned educational leader and community stalwart who has dedicated his lifetime to autism treatment, community service, and increasing opportunities for students.

Kristen Willingham—Inspired community member who mobilized church members and relocated her family to Olathe to better serve children and families within Olathe’s urban core.

Accessible Awards

Bob Cantin—Regional and state-wide disability advocate who works to promote the contributions of people with disabilities.

Lon Davis—Owner of Walkin’ and Rollin’ Costumes, which provides no-cost Halloween and special occasion costumes for children in wheelchairs and walkers.

Educator Award

Katie Chiaverini—Westview Elementary School teacher who started book club to promote bilingual literacy and leadership opportunities for immigrant students and families.

Youth Award

Litzi Bautista—Sixth grade fundraising leader who worked with teachers and community to secure $10,000 for her school’s bilingual book club.

Organizations

Olathe Latino Coalition—Regional leader in Latino engagement that collaborates across business, government, and social service lines to provide bilingual resources to engage, celebrate, and create opportunities for Latino residents.

Garmin GPS Vets—Employee-led business affinity group of former service members who raise funds for current service members and those transitioning back to civilian life.

Chairmans’ Award

Kim Kramer—Former Olathe Human Relations Commissioner, small business owner, and community volunteer who has been a catalyst for inclusive arts and diversity programs within the City of Olathe.
LED Streetlight Installations Underway

The City of Olathe is converting streetlight fixtures from high pressure sodium lights to light-emitting diode (LED) lights for lower energy costs. The expected payback for the LED conversion is expected in six to eight years.

City to Purchase KCPL Streetlights

More than 4,000 KCPL-owned streetlights in Olathe will become City property in early 2017. This change in ownership will allow the City of Olathe to be more responsive to requests for streetlight service repairs.

See a streetlight out? Report it through OlatheConnect via mobile app or at OlatheKS.org. Or, call 913-971-8513. If possible, please provide the streetlight number, labeled on the pole, and/or indicate the nearest intersection.

Congratulations Public Works

The City of Olathe placed 2nd overall in the 2016 American Public Works Association’s local Snow Plow and Heavy Equipment Rodeo competition. Streets, utility maintenance, and vehicle maintenance crews competed with 15 neighboring cities.

Jones Receives Prestigious Clean Water Award

Richard Jones, plant operation supervisor, received the William D. Hatfield Award, which recognizes outstanding treatment plant operators. Under Jones’ leadership, the Harold Street and Cedar Creek Treatment facilities have received numerous Gold and Silver National Association of Clean Water Agencies Peak Performance Awards. In 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognized Jones’ wastewater treatment team with the National Exemplary Biosolid Management Award for small operating plants. The Kansas Water Environment Association presents the national William D. Hatfield award each year.
What You Can Recycle in Blue Recycling Carts

- Newspaper
- Junk mail
- Catalog & magazines
- Office & school papers
- Phonebooks
- Paper egg cartons
- Milk cartons
- Chipboard

- Cereal boxes with liners removed
- Cardboard boxes FLATTENED

All screw on type lids should be removed and placed in the household trash. All containers should be rinsed.

- Bottles
- Tubs
- Yogurt containers
- Laundry detergent (rinsed without caps)
- Food take-out clamshells

- Aluminum cans
- Tin cans

Do NOT Place these Items in the Blue Recycling Cart

Unacceptable Plastic
- Plastic bags of any kind
- Plastic film
- Styrofoam
- Foam egg cartons
- Vitamin or prescription bottles
- Plastic NOT marked #1-#7
- Lids
- Plastic toys
- Construction types of plastics (PVC)

Unacceptable Paper and Cardboard
- Food-contaminated (paper plates, pizza boxes)
- Dog food bags
- Paper towels
- Tissue paper

Unacceptable Metal
- Foil
- Pie plates
- Wire hangers
- Scrap metal
- Aerosol cans
- Paint cans

All Glass is Unacceptable Glass bottles can be recycled at Ripple Glass recycling drop-off sites: Olathe Walmarts, and downtown on Kansas Avenue, just north of Santa Fe.
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Make an inquiry or request for City service 24/7
OlatheKS.org—Click on Connect With Us.

Receive Olathe news and updates weekly. Look for Newsletter in the footer area at OlatheKS.org to subscribe. Additional newsletters are available at e-Newsl at OlatheConnect at OlatheKS.org.

Celebrate Olathe
WinterFest & The Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting
Friday, Dec. 2
Olathe Community Center • 1205 Kansas City Rd.
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Santa visits • Olathe school choirs
Olathe Civic Jazz Band • Food trucks

MAYOR’S Christmas Tree FUND
Meeting the basic needs of Olathe's children