Planning for Olathe’s Transportation Needs

Olathe residents consistently say that traffic flow and congestion management are priorities in the city. Helping support this priority is the Transportation Master Plan, which the City is currently updating using new growth information and input from residents. The Plan was last updated in 2006.

Olathe’s residential growth is estimated to increase 73 percent by 2040. Industrial growth is expected to increase 173 percent. The Plan projects how Olathe’s residential and commercial growth affects traffic volumes and identifies impacted locations through traffic modeling. Based on mobility and safety, it also pinpoints priority areas for transportation improvements.

The Transportation Master Plan considers multiple modes of transportation — transit, rail and truck freight, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic.

Both the Planning Commission and City Council will review the major street map component of the Plan this fall, after which the City will have a public hearing before the Plan’s adoption. Comments and questions about the Plan may be directed to Beth Wright, eawright@olatheks.org, 913-971-9045.

Transportation Master Plan

• A long-range (25-year) plan for transportation throughout Olathe
• A guide for transportation policy and investment decisions to meet the mobility needs of residents and businesses through 2040

College Boulevard Improvements Underway

College Boulevard, Lone Elm Road to Woodland Road, is under construction this summer for safety and traffic capacity improvements. The project will add the south lanes to complete a four-lane, divided road. The north half of this roadway is already in place and will become the two westbound travel lanes.

College Boulevard improvements will also include landscaped medians, turn lanes, sidewalks, street lights, curbs and gutters, driveway entrance replacements, and storm drainage. Construction is expected to last for the remainder of 2016, weather dependent.

In addition, drivers should be aware of street maintenance this summer along another section of College Boulevard, from K-7 to Lone Elm Road.

THIS SUMMER
Indian Creek Library Gets Temporary Location

See page 8

Inside This Issue

Mayor’s Message .................................. 2  Fight the Bite ........................................... 5
Options Abound for Active Agers .................. 3  Keep Students Safe .................................. 5
What’s Being Built in Olathe ........................ 4  Olathe Earth News ................................. 6-7
Youth’s Message

Youth Are Engaged in Our Community

As Mayor of Olathe, I have the privilege of meeting a lot of people. Some of the most impressive residents I meet are the young people of this community. The City of Olathe is very successful in developing our youth and their leadership skills, and young Olatheans are giving back to our community in so many ways.

We are committed to engaging our youth in local government through several avenues, including the Olathe Teen Council. Comprised of 15 high school students, the Teen Council allows youth to make a meaningful impact on our city, while learning about local government. Among the Teen Council’s initiatives this year was a Community Forum, hosted with the Citizens Police Advisory Council and the Olathe Police Department. The forum featured facilitated discussion groups to help inform residents about Police operations and identify community priorities. Interested students can learn more about the Teen Council at OlatheKS.org. The deadline for applications is Aug. 26.

Youth also make valuable contributions to our local government by volunteering on City boards and committees and in many City programs. The Carrie Newson Youth Volunteer Award recently honored Girl Scout Troop 27 and Boy Scout Troop 86 for their outstanding leadership and service at the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm historic site.

As an Olathe Northwest senior, Bessie Bauman suggested that the Kansas School for the Deaf benefit from the 2016 Leadership Olathe class service project. Bessie was among six high school students nominated by their school administrators for Leadership Olathe this year. Class members partnered with community donors to enhance the KSD athletics program, including a new football storage building and concession stand.

As a champion for youth with disabilities, Olathe resident Aubrey May was named 2016 Little Miss Wheelchair Kansas this spring. Aubrey will be a fifth grader at Cedar Creek Elementary School and is working alongside Tiffany Walter, also of Olathe, who was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Kansas. They shine as strong advocates for those with disabilities across the state.

Olathe Public Schools programs also provide excellent platforms for enhancing youth leadership skills, such as the Olathe Youth Court. Middle and high school students serve as judges, jurors, attorneys, and clerks for the Youth Court, which provides an alternative to the District Court for first-time youth offenders referred by the Johnson County District Attorney’s Office.

We know that our future is bright because of Olathe’s outstanding young residents, whose service and actions exemplify the vibrant, caring spirit of our city.

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland
Mayor
Options Abound for Olathe’s Active Agers

Active Agers, a senior enrichment program, helps older adults stay active. Since the opening of the Olathe Community Center in July 2014, the Active Agers program has taken off by offering programs for all levels of fitness, adventure, and budget. Whether you are looking to drop in for a quick card game, to meet new people, or to explore Olathe, Kansas City, and beyond, the Active Agers program has a little something for everyone.

Nominations Open for Community Awards

Do you know an individual, group, or business who has made a significant contribution to enhance human rights, equality, cultural diversity, and disability inclusiveness? Consider nominating them for a Community Award.

Award winners are honored at the 2016 Community Awards Banquet, Thursday, Oct. 13, 6 – 8 p.m., at the Olathe Community Center.

Nominations can be made by Sept. 1 at OlatheKS.org/CommunityAwards, or by calling the community relations manager, 913-971-8827.

The awards program is sponsored by the Olathe Human Relations Commission and the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Board.

Important City Phone Numbers

- **EMERGENCY** 911
- **Emergency TDD/TTY Calls** 911
- **GENERAL INFORMATION** (TDD/Voice) 971-8600
- **CUSTOMER SERVICE** 1385 S. Robinson 971-9311
- **Billings**
- **Trash**
- **Water & Sewer**
- **FIRE ADMINISTRATION** 1225 S. Hamilton Circle (Non-Emergency) 971-7900

OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY
201 E. Park Street 971-6850

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
OLATHE COMMUNITY CENTER
1205 E. Kansas City Rd. (TDD/Voice) 971-8563

POLICE DEPARTMENT
501 E. 56 Highway 971-7500

HUMAN RESOURCES
100 E. Santa Fe 971-8735

OLATHEKS.org/CityDirectory

Stay Connected With Us

Olathe City Council

- **Mayor**
  - Michael Copeland
  - John Bacon
  - Ron Ryckman

- **Ward 1**
  - Larry Campbell

- **Ward 2**
  - Jim Randall (Clerk)

- **Ward 3**
  - Wes McCoy

- **Ward 4**
  - Marge Vogt

OlatheKS.org

Larry Campbell
Ward 1
913-488-7278
lcampbell@olatheks.org

Jim Randall
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913-424-3999
jrandall@olatheks.org

Wes McCoy
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913-269-1035
rwmcloy@olatheks.org

Marge Vogt
Ward 4
913-269-0625
mvogt@olatheks.org

OLATHE KANSAS
Stay Connected With Us


Active Agers enjoy day trips such as “Strawberry Picking and a Picnic.”
Stop by the Olathe Community Center, or call 913-971-8563 to learn how you can stay active in your community.
Program Decreases Domestic Violence Homicides

In 2011, the Olathe Police Department began using a Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Program in an effort to reduce homicides in our community. The program involves officers conducting an on-scene assessment of the victim to determine the risk for repeat domestic violence or homicide. Only one domestic violence-related homicide has occurred in Olathe since 2011, a significant decrease from prior years when the city averaged two to three of these homicides each year.

“This program is saving lives,” says Olathe Police Chief Steve Menke. “Looking back, had we not implemented this program, we would have likely seen 10 to 12 domestic violence-related homicides at this point.”

Based on the program’s standardized questions asked by officers, should a domestic violence victim score high on the on-scene assessment, the officer will bring in additional resources to assist the victim. This includes directly contacting SAFEHOME to allow the victim immediate access to their shelter as well as counseling and advocacy services. Within 72 hours of an incident, police officers check on the victim’s well-being to ensure their continued safety and to confirm the offender is complying with all of the bond conditions, if they have been released.

“The Olathe Police Department does an excellent job of implementing the program to make it successful,” says Johnson County District Attorney Steve Howe. In addition, Howe says Olathe is committed to helping other communities in Kansas adopt similar policies as a teaching partner with the District Attorney’s Office.

The Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment helps determine the extent of a problem at an early stage, which assists the courts in determining what kind of bond to set. The program originated in the Johnson County District Attorney’s Office because of a countywide need to address domestic violence homicides.

For more information about the program, please contact Olathe Police Captain David Schroeder, 913-971-7500.

What’s Being Built in Olathe

The Olathe School District is planning an addition and renovation to the Mill Creek Learning Center, 330 E. Loula St. in downtown Olathe. The Center will serve as home for the District’s alternative high school education based programs, and includes classrooms, a conference center, and Parents as Teachers spaces. The original high school building will retain its existing architectural design and the annex will be renovated with a new terra cotta exterior.

The Olathe School District is getting ready to construct a new middle school on the north side of 119th Street, west of Sunnybrook Boulevard. The site is located next to The Villages of Sunnybrook Townhomes. The School District anticipates an initial enrollment of 400 students with a capacity of approximately 700 students. Construction will begin this year and the school will be open in August 2018.

The Planning Commission recently approved a final site development for Black Bob 151 Shops. It includes a new multi-tenant retail building and office building in front of the HyVee grocery store at 151st Street and Black Bob Road. Tenants have not yet been identified for the buildings.

More National Recognition for Olathe

Olathe is number 10 on Zippia’s list of the Most Successful Cities in America. The ratings of successful cities considers poverty levels, median household incomes, and unemployment rates. Other top-rated cities include Frisco, Texas; Cary, North Carolina; Naperville, Illinois; and Centennial, Colorado.

SafeWise ranks Olathe ninth among the 30 safest cities to raise a child (with populations of at least 10,000). SafeWise analyzed crime data, graduation rates, schools, and unique kid-friendly programs in communities. Other cities recognized include Carmel, Indiana; Greenwich, Connecticut; Essex, Vermont; and Irvine, California.
Keep Students Safe with Back to School Driving Awareness

With schools soon to open, be especially alert and keep our students safe as they travel to and from school.

- Watch for children entering the street from behind buses or running to catch the bus.
- Follow the school’s drop off and pick up procedures to ensure safety for pedestrians and drivers.
- Stop immediately when a school bus has the stop sign extended. Stop no matter what direction you are traveling.
- Watch your children until they are safely on school grounds.
- Drive slowly when approaching children who are riding bicycles and walking near the street.
- Avoid distracted driving. Make school zones a no phone zone.

Fight the Bite

Mosquitoes are known for spreading diseases such as West Nile virus, dengue fever, malaria, Chikungunya, and more recently, the Zika virus.

The most important things Olathe residents should do for protection from mosquito borne diseases are wearing insect repellent and mosquito-proofing their homes, according to the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.

Personal protection and mosquito breeding prevention are key actions:

- Wear long sleeves and pants, and use EPA-registered insect repellents to prevent mosquito bites. When used as directed, these insect repellents are proven safe and effective.
- Pregnant women should avoid travel to any area with Zika.
- Mosquito-proof your home by installing or repairing screens on windows and doors. Use air conditioning, if you have it.
- Empty and scrub out any items that hold standing water in and around your home, such as flower pots, buckets, gutters/downspouts, kiddie pools, and birdbaths.

Questions about mosquito-borne diseases, including the Zika virus, may be directed to Johnson County Health and Environment, 913-826-1200.

Additional information about preventing mosquito-borne diseases is available at Jocogov.org/Dept/Health-and-Environment/Home.

2017 — Second Year of Biennial Budget Process

This summer, the City Council is reviewing the conditionally approved 2017 budget for any adjustments. Transportation improvements, public safety, and infrastructure maintenance remain priorities for 2017. Budget adoption is expected Aug. 16.

In 2015, the City of Olathe transitioned to a two-year operating budget preparation process, adopting the 2016-2017 operating budget. The biennial budget process complements long-term and strategic initiatives, such as the five-year Capital Improvement Program and performance measurements.

Budget documents are available at OlatheKS.org/Budget. Questions about the budget may be directed to 913-971-8633, or budgetcomments@olatheks.org.

Send Your Olathe Summer Photos

Your photo may be used in a future Olathe Link newsletter. Send them to linkcomments@olatheks.org. High resolution photos are preferred for printing purposes.
It is important to know the main water valve’s location in your home and how to operate it in case of a water emergency such as a broken water pipe within your walls or a malfunctioning toilet. Every home in Olathe is required to have a main water shut-off valve installed inside the home. Shutting off this valve should stop the flow of water to sinks, toilets, and appliances to allow for repair and prevent further damage.

If your main shut-off valve does not work, and you need the water shut off, please contact the City at 913-971-9311 to schedule a water shut off at the water meter. The shut-off valve at the water meter pit should only be accessed by authorized City employees. Damages to the valve, water meter, water meter lid, or meter pit caused by unauthorized access will result in fines.

Where is the shut off valve located?

- **Basement** – The shut off valve is typically located near the front foundation wall. Typically, it’s three to five feet from where the main water enters the home.
- **Crawl space or slab-on-grade construction** – In some older homes, the shut-off valve may be inside the crawl space. It could also be located near the water heater or under the kitchen sink.

How to close the main valve

- Round “wheel” handle valves will turn-off by turning the handle clockwise two or more revolutions.
- Level handle valves should be turned until the handle is not parallel with the pipe. It should stop at ¼ turn.

How to open the main valve

- Close all faucets. Leave a tub or sink faucet located on the highest level of the home open.
- Slowly open the valve. Turn the handle ½ revolution, stop. Proceed ½ of a ¼ turn. When water is flowing, slowly turn off the faucet that was left open.
- Listen for water pressure to equalize, proceed by fully opening the main valve. Bleed air from lines by slowly opening all faucets until air stops flowing, and then close the faucet.

Once located, it is good practice to operate your main water shut-off valve at least twice a year and ensure there are no obstructions blocking its accessibility. Check the valve handle to ensure it is not damaged or missing.

Have a plan!

Make sure that every member of the family knows the shut-off valve’s location and how to use it, including young children. Additionally, it’s a good idea to have a plumber’s name and phone number near the shut-off valve. Tape the business card to the wall or place a tag on the valve. You may need to reach a plumber quickly if in-home plumbing repairs are required.

**Swales Help Prevent Flooding**

A swale is a shallow, grass-lined ditch that collects rain water from rooftops, sump pumps, and the yard. Swales prevent water from ponding near home foundations, which reduces the likelihood of flooding. Swales often drain toward the nearest stormwater inlet.

All stormwater eventually flows into a stream, lake or pond. Please do not block swales with fences, sheds or other permanent structures. If you dam the swale, it can pond water, and potentially flood your house.
Doing More to Reduce Waste

Increasing household recycling and knowing what items can be recycled helps keep costs down and offsets recycling rates. Many residents have done a great job of recycling for years by separating plastic containers, cans, and paper from other household waste. Some are putting leaves and grass clippings into backyard compost piles to use on their gardens. Overall, residents diverted 43.88 percent of waste from the landfill in 2015.

Suggestions to Reduce Household Waste
• Buy two-liter bottles instead of buying small individual containers.

Know What to Recycle

Paper & Cardboard
• Cardboard boxes FLATTENED
• Chipboard
• Cereal boxes - liners removed
• Paper egg cartons
• Junk mail
• Catalogs / magazines
• Phonebooks
• Office / school papers
• Newspapers

Plastic
• Plastic containers (#1-#7) - lids removed
• Tubs
• Yogurt containers
• Food take-out clamshells

Metal
• Aluminum cans
• Tin cans

Do Not Place these Items in the Blue Recycling Cart

Unacceptable Paper & Cardboard
• Wrapping paper
• Food-contaminated (paper plates, pizza boxes)
• Milk cartons
• Juice boxes
• Dog food bags

Unacceptable Plastic
• Styrofoam
• Plastic bags
• Plastic film
• Plastic not marked #1-#7
• Lids
• Plastic toys
• Construction types of plastic (PVC)

Unacceptable Metal
• Foil / pie plates
• Wire hangers
• Scrap metal
• Aerosol cans
• Paint cans

Unacceptable Glass*
• All Glass

When in doubt — throw it out. Thanks for your participation!

*Glass can be recycled at Ripple Glass recycling drop-off sites: Olathe Walmarts and downtown on Kansas Ave. just north of Santa Fe.

Not Sure About an Item? Call Customer Service, 913-971-9311, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday, or visit OlatheKS.org/OMS/Recycling
Interim Library Location Planned Near 135th and Mur-Len

A temporary Indian Creek Library location will open later this summer in the Santa Fe Square Shopping Center, 135th and Mur-Len Road. This location will host all of the Indian Creek Library collections in adult, teen, and children sections. Library services will be available at this location until renovations are complete at a new Indian Creek Library home in the former Hy-Vee space at 135th and Brougham.

"Everyone at the library is excited and eager to once again see Indian Creek Library provide excellent service to the community. Even though this location is temporary, it will definitely pave the way to the establishment of a new, larger library in east Olathe," says Library Director Emily Baker.

The City of Olathe has a contract pending to acquire permanent library space in the former Hy-Vee location on 135th Street. Remodeling of the 68,000 square-foot building is expected to take 24 months.

The City and Library recently updated the Library Master Plan that called for, among other projects, more than doubling the size of the Indian Creek Library to address a significant lack of capacity, overcrowding, and a parking shortage. Portions of the plan implementation were accelerated following a March 3, 2016 water line break at the Indian Creek Library. The break caused significant flood damage and erosion of the foundation’s sub-base.