Street Maintenance Work Continues on Track

During 2015, the City of Olathe exceeded the record amount of street resurfacing work that occurred in 2014 with an emphasis in preservation on the local, residential area streets.

### Street Preservation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resurfacing Type</th>
<th>2013 Lane Miles</th>
<th>2014 Lane Miles</th>
<th>2015 Lane Miles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arterial Mill &amp; Overlay</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local/Collector Mill &amp; Overlay</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface Treatment</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to street resurfacing during 2015, City crews replaced more than 21,000 linear feet of curb throughout Olathe. Curb replacement is another street maintenance improvement that can help revitalize neighborhoods.

Street maintenance projects and curb replacement materials are accomplished with additional funding from the Street Maintenance Sales Tax, approved by voters in 2013. Revenue collected through Oct. 15, 2015 totaled $8,536,790.16.
Our public schools have long been recognized for the foundation they provide in our community by offering students the solid groundwork, life experience, and tools they need to pursue their dreams and succeed. The school district, the second largest in Kansas, is skillfully shaping the future of education in our hometown.

Look at the results! Our schools’ excellence is evident through numerous recognitions, such as the 17 Blue Ribbon Awards from the U.S. Department of Education, more awards than any other school district in Kansas. Last year, 71 percent of seniors took the ACT exam, scoring a composite 24, the highest in the school district’s history and well above state and national peers. SAT scores for 2015 graduates increased in all assessed areas and were also well above state and national scores. This excellence is further demonstrated with exceptional teachers, several recognized with Presidential Awards for Excellence, Kansas Teachers of the Year, and numerous other awards.

Our outstanding student scholars and athletes make us known as the “City of Champions.” In the past five years alone, Olathe high school students have captured 24 state titles in various sports. That’s amazing.

The City of Olathe’s collaboration with our schools supports the safety of our students, furthers opportunities for education, and enriches lives for those with a variety of backgrounds and abilities. This partnership extends to 55 collaborative programs, such as School Resource Officers, Fire and Life Safety, Crossing Guards, Safe Routes to School, Camp Rolling Along, Miracle League, and Student Development, to name just a few. A complete report about partnerships with our schools is available at OlatheKS.org/Schools.

In 2003, the school district began offering innovative 21st Century High School Programs for additional depth of study and experience in several career areas. The City of Olathe is pleased to be a partner in several of those programs, including Animal Health, Geosciences, Leadership Studies, and Professional Careers. We’re excited to join the district in developing a Public Safety 21st Century Program to be located at the new Olathe West High School.

With our fifth high school set to open soon, the Olathe Public Schools continues to grow, following a distinguished history of educating our children. This year, our schools marked 50 years as the Olathe Unified School District 233, following consolidation of smaller districts in the 1950s. The District’s beginnings came much earlier. The “Olathe School District” originally formed in 1874. One of the first school buildings was the Old Stone School House built in 1868 at Water and Loula Streets. Existing Central Elementary and Washington Elementary Schools have histories dating to the 1880s.

When the school districts unified in 1965, student enrollment was 3,687. Now enrollment is approximately 29,567.

The outlook for education in Olathe is bright because as a community we never waver in our fundamental commitment to education. We couldn’t ask for a better community partner than our school district.

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland
Mayor
What’s Behind Those Names?

Have you ever wondered where the names Black Bob, Mur-Len, or Strang Line Roads originated? Many of Olathe’s street names find their roots in area history.

Black Bob Road is named after a chief of an area band of Shawnees. The 200,000 acre Black Bob reservation was in the southeastern part of the county, near the sources of the Blue and Tomahawk Creeks and covered four townships, including Olathe. Outside of Olathe, Black Bob Road is known as Lackman Road. Curtis Street is named for Kansan Charles Curtis, U.S. Vice-President, 1929-1933.

Lone Elm Road, known as Parker and Kansas 7 Highway in some segments, is named after a specific tree. Those who traveled the historic Oregon, California, and Santa Fe Trails camped in a grove of elm trees near what is now 167th Street and Lone Elm Road. Many people frequented the campground and cut down the trees for firewood — all but one elm tree. What was once known as Round Grove Campground was renamed Lone Elm Campground in 1844.

Mur-Len Road is named after Owen DeMurrell Crump and his wife, Helen Louise Crump. The street name is the first part of Murrell and the last part of Helen.

Loula Street is named for the daughter of John P. St. John, first Kansas governor from Olathe, and one of six state governors from our city.

Santa Fe Street is a major east-west road named after the trade route that extended from central Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico, passing through Olathe. The Santa Fe Trail roughly followed the existing I-35 from Kansas City to Olathe.

Strang Line Road was once the route of the world’s first self-propelled, gas-electric vehicle developed by W.B. Strang. The trolley-like vehicles ran 1906-1940 on about 25 miles of track, Kansas City to Olathe, with stops in Overland Park and Lenexa.

More Street Name History

In the downtown Olathe area, at least 27 streets are named after trees, such as Cherry, Chestnut, Mulberry, Spruce, and Poplar. Originally, Olathe had only “named” streets, not numbered street names, in the area from approximately 119th Street south to 151st Street, and from Lakeshore Drive east to Mur-Len. As the Metro grew, that growth caused Olathe to merge with the Kansas City street naming system with numbered streets.

A “History of Olathe Street Names” will be presented by the Olathe Historical Society at 7 p.m., Jan. 21 at the Olathe Heritage Center, 1200 E. Kansas City Road. For more information contact Bob Courtney, Olathe Historical Society, 913-764-2494.
Work resumes in spring 2016 on the KDOT I-35 pavement reconstruction project through Olathe. The second phase will involve closings of the Santa Fe Street entrance ramp to southbound I-35, the Old U.S. 56 Highway entrance ramp to northbound I-35, and the I-35 northbound exit ramps to Santa Fe Street. For more information, contact Kimberly Qualls, 785-640-9340, kqualls@ksdot.org, or Joshua Welge, field engineering administrator, 913-764-4525.

Updated information about the Johnson County Gateway project, which impacts I-435, I-35, and K-10 area travel, is available at JoCoGateway.com. Sign up to receive project text alerts on the website. Questions and concerns may be directed to the project office at 913-577-0000, or jocogateway@hntb.com.
We’re Here for You

Olathe staff works to respond to residents’ service requests in a timely manner. In 2014, we received 4,159 requests for service through OlatheConnect, our Internet and mobile app tool that directly conveys your comments, concerns, or questions to the appropriate staff. Through June 30, 2015, we’ve received 2,294 requests and responded to 95 percent of them within two business days.

9,529 Olathe residents subscribed to Nextdoor

3 minutes average response rate to Facebook messages

TrashDay Never Miss It Again

48% of Olathe households use Olathe Trash Day app

What’s Being Built in Olathe

Olathe Leads Johnson County in Single-Family Home Construction

For 2015, Olathe leads Johnson County in issuing single-family home building permits, with 398 single-family permits issued through the end of October 2015. That is the highest number for that time frame in any year since 2007. In August 2015, Olathe issued 76 single-family permits, which was the highest monthly count since March 2007.

QuikTrip

A new QuikTrip is planned for the northeast corner of Old 56 Highway and Parker Street. The development will replace five existing apartment buildings at the corner, with a new 5,700 square foot convenience store and gas station. The other nine apartment buildings to the east of the site will remain. A rezoning and preliminary development plan was approved in September. QuikTrip plans construction to begin in 2016.

Dial Senior Apartments

A three-story senior apartment building will be constructed on the southeast corner of 116th Street and Ridgeview Road. The development will include 146 dwelling units with amenities such as a swimming pool, bocce ball/shuffleboard courts, and community gardens. A rezoning and preliminary development plan was approved in October. A final plat and final site development plan is pending.

Southside Pet Hospital

A veterinary hospital is planned next to the new Sherwin Williams store in West Village Shopping Center, Spruce and K-7 Highway. The clinic will be a free-standing building with a total area of 4,600 square feet and includes surgery and exam rooms, and an indoor kennel. The new hospital will replace the existing clinic at 231 E. Dennis Street.

Lone Elm Industrial Park

A new office/warehouse building is under construction near 167th Street and Lone Elm Road, north of Lone Elm Park. The new building consists of a 716,000 square foot distribution warehouse building. A future industrial building is also planned at the northeast corner of 167th Street and Lone Elm Road.
Holidays Are a Good Time to Recycle

Christmas Trees
Olathe residents can easily recycle cut Christmas trees. Place at the curb on collection day, or drop off trees at the composting site, 127th and Hedge Lane, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Please remove all plastic bags, ornaments, tinsel, lights and tree stands.

Old Electronics
If you’re the lucky recipient of a new television or computer, what do you do with the old one? Bring it to Olathe’s eWaste Recycling Program. This service is by appointment only at the Household Hazardous Waste facility, 1420 Robinson. Call 913-971-9311 to schedule a drop-off.

Items Accepted Free of Charge
- TVs
- Computers, monitors, computer parts, printers, scanners, and peripherals
- Small electronics (e.g., microwaves, VCRs, DVD/CD players, fax machines)
- Electronics weighing less than 15 lbs. each

Plan to provide a photo ID and complete a waiver accepting the program requirements. eWaste is not accepted at Household Hazardous Waste collection events.

Box and Gift Wrap Recycling Guidelines
- All types of cardboard boxes (corrugated and/or pressed paper board) can be recycled. All boxes must be broken down and flattened for collection.
- “Clean” wrapping paper can be recycled as long as it has no metal or plastic. NO string, rope, yarn, ribbons or bows go in recycling. These items should be disposed of in the trash.

Sign Up for Free Electronic Billing
City of Olathe water, wastewater and solid waste customers are encouraged to sign up for free electronic billing. E-billing customers receive an e-mail link to their online account login page when the bill is generated each month. Customers have the option to pay their bill online or mail their payment through the postal service.

Sign up at OlatheKS.org/CCS/ElectronicBilling. Once an online account is set up, customers can track water and sewer usage and account balances.
Prevent Frozen Pipes

During bitter cold weather, water in pipes can freeze and expand with nowhere to go — resulting in burst pipes. Be especially aware of the possibility of frozen pipes when temperatures dip to 20°F and lower. At-risk areas for frozen pipes are located against your home’s outside walls and in unheated spaces.

What You Can Do

- Let water run in a very slow drip from a faucet farthest away from water’s entrance to the house. This will help keep water moving to reduce the chance of frozen pipes.
- Open cabinet doors that lead to exposed pipes to allow circulation of warmer, household air.
- Keep garage doors shut. Plumbing routed through unheated space leaves it vulnerable to cold air.
- Install pipe insulation products on exposed pipes — such as a “pipe sleeve,” or UL-listed “heat tape,” “heat cable,” or similar products.
- Keep your thermostat set above 65°F when away from your home or business for several days.

To Thaw Pipes

Safely thaw the pipes as soon as possible, or call a plumber.

- If you’re thawing the pipe, shut off the water. Starting near the faucet end, slowly apply heat with the faucet open, and work toward the coldest section. Slower is better.
- A hair dryer is appropriate for the job; a blow torch is NOT. To avoid electrocution, don’t use electrical appliances while standing in water.
- Check the other faucets around your home for additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze as well.

For more information, please contact a licensed plumber.

Be a Good Neighbor

Olathe’s switch to carts for trash and recycling collection has been a tremendous success. It has allowed us to operate significantly more efficiently, saving time and money. The carts have also helped lead to very high citizen satisfaction with solid waste services.

The City often receives questions about cart storage. When not at the curb for collection, carts should be stored in the garage. If a garage is not available, carts should be stored beside the residence. Remember, acceptable cart storage is not only neighborly – it’s also municipal code!

Lights Out?

Report power outages to the correct utility company. Look up services for your address at OlatheKS.org/ServiceLookup.
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Receive Olathe news and updates weekly. Look for Newsletter in the footer area at OlatheKS.org to subscribe. Additional newsletters are available at e-Newss under OlatheConnect at OlatheKS.org.

Love Illuminates Life

16th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
presented by The Olathe Human Relations Commission and the Olathe Public Schools
Sunday, January 17, 2016
3-5 p.m.
Olathe Conference Center at the Embassy Suites
K-10 and Ridgeview

Featuring:
• Free Community Event
• Mass Choir
• Youth Presentations and Awards
• Performances
• Dr. Alveda King, message
• Ryan Jones, keynote speaker

National Civil Rights Museum

For event sponsorships and information, contact Vanessa Vaughn West at vluaughnwest@olatheks.org or 913-971-8827.