

# OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 2014

## Calendar

### General Meeting

March 13, 2014

### OHS Board Elections

#### Program

Heritage Center

7:30 p.m.

### OHS Board Meeting

April 14, 2014

Heritage Center

7:00 p.m.

### General Meeting

May 8, 2014

### Tour of the new Mahaffie barn

7:30 p.m.

### Sunflower Wickets

### Mahaffie Foundation Fundraiser

June 6, 2014

### OHS Board Meeting

June 9, 2014

Heritage Center

7:00 p.m.



Join us on Thursday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Heritage Center to learn more about the new Olathe Community Center. The community center will include basketball courts, swimming pool, water slides, fitness areas, party rooms, gym equipment, walking track, and a catering kitchen. Mike Fields, the manager of the community center, will share information about the center, scheduled to open on July 1, 2014.

In addition, the Olathe Historical Society will hold its annual election. The following positions will be up for election this year:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lisa Karstetter  
Secretary Margaret Endecott  
Board Members Ann Johnson, Mary Jo O'Brien, Karen Sutton

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact Maureen Donegan at [modoneg@hotmail.com](mailto:modoneg@hotmail.com). If receiving the newsletter by email, be sure to set your inbox settings to recognize my email as not being junk mail. Newsletters and meeting announcements can also be found on the Olathe Historical Society website at <http://www.olathehistoricalsociety.org>

*Olathe: The City Beautiful*, film series can be purchased online at the OHS website, at the Heritage Center, or at Feeney's Hallmark Shop at 16150 W. 135<sup>th</sup> St. in Olathe.

## Did you know.....?

The Olathe Historical Society has accomplished a lot over the last three years with the help of many volunteers. Here are some things that have been accomplished regarding the collections:

- Organization of books, journals, and maps
- Categorization of photographs
- Newspapers filed by year in horizontal file cabinet
- Vertical files with folders on topics related to Olathe in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century
- Desk files including OHS newsletters and itemized lists of acquisitions
- Textiles and fiber art collection itemized and preserved (ongoing)
- Established a collections policy
- Tracked and itemized donations
- Formed a collections committee to review donations pertinent to Olathe

**Olathe Historical Society  
Board Meeting  
Mahaffie Heritage Center  
February 10, 2014**

Attending: Bob Courtney, Maureen Donegan, Jayne Jones, Anne Seitz, Ann Johnson, Mary Cochran, Lisa Karstetter, Karen Sutton, Margaret Endecott

**CORRECTION TO THE MINUTES OF THE  
DECEMBER 9, 2013 MEETING:**

Bob Courtney recently attended the dedication of a story board located at 78<sup>th</sup> and State Line which is the site of the first evidence found of wagon ruts from the first trip on the Santa Fe Trail by William Becknell in 1822. It was measured 9 miles south of the then confluence of the Kansas and Missouri River's. A final survey was being made defining the border/state lines between Kansas and Missouri when this discovery was made.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 9, 2013 meeting were approved as corrected.

Note: Minutes of today's meeting are not yet approved. If corrections are needed they will appear in the following bi-monthly newsletter.

**FINANCIAL**

No report given.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Jason Sanburg of the south Olathe Home Depot contacted Bob Courtney to locate historic photos that could possibly be used in a mural for the store.

Betty Torrel, daughter of Mr. W. B. Kintigh, Superintendent of the Olathe Schools in the 1950's, sent memorabilia for donation to the Historical Society. We will add this to our collection and her thoughtfulness is appreciated.

**COLLECTIONS**

An update of activities taking place in the Research Room at the Heritage Center was given. The collection of maps belonging to the Historical Society is currently being added to Past Perfect which is a software program for cataloguing our collections.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**FILM SERIES**

Volume 4 Olathe Naval Air Station

Volume 5 Old Settlers, Mid-America Nazarene University, Urban Renewal, Early Olathe Churches

Volume 6 Johnson County Trails - We will partner with Johnson County Trails Historic Association, Chief Black Bob

Work is in progress with some already complete. Be watching our Newsletters for the next viewing of a "new film release"!

Volumes 1, 2 and 3 are currently available at the Heritage Center and Feeney's Hallmark. Volume 3 is also available at the Deaf Cultural Center. Also visit [olathehistoricalsociety.org](http://olathehistoricalsociety.org) to place an order.

**STORY BOARDS**

Five (5) story boards are currently being planned for the Olathe and surrounding area. Be watching the newsletters for date of dedication and location.

**ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS**

The following positions will be up for election this year:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lisa Karstetter  
Secretary Margaret Endecott  
Board Members Ann Johnson, Mary Jo O'Brien,  
Karen Sutton

Elections will take place at the March 13, 2014 meeting, 7:30pm at the Heritage Center.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**LIBRARY TEA**

The "Novel" tea will be Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Tickets are available at the Olathe Public Library. The theme this year is "animals". The speaker will be Greg Kincaid, writer, from Olathe. The event will take place at the Indian Creek Community Church with donations to benefit the Olathe Public Library. Karen Sutton has volunteered to coordinate the table for the Olathe Historical Society with volunteer help.

**PROGRAM IDEAS**

MARCH 13, 2014 we will have a presentation on the new Community Center scheduled to open in July, presented by Mike Fields, new Olathe Community Center Manager.

MAY 8, 2014 will be a TOUR of the new MAHAFFIE BARN.

Please note the above 2 dates and meetings have changed from our usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday because of Spring Break and scheduling conflicts. Mark your calendars now for these fun dates.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The Annual Sunflower Wickets Tournament will take place Friday afternoon, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Olathe Community Center Park area. This is always a fun competitive event with the winners boasting of their skillfulness for a year. Come and enjoy an afternoon of excitement and fun as we play by the "Old Rules"!

A motion was made to sponsor a field for this event, it was seconded, discussed and approved.

Information was given on a history book of the Olathe School District. This would be in cooperation with the Olathe Schools Foundation. Bob Courtney will return with more detail. This book would be available for purchase. The proceeds planned to be used for scholarships.

#### NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 13, 2014 , 7:30PM AT THE HERITAGE CENTER

Program: PowerPoint presentation of the Olathe Community Center

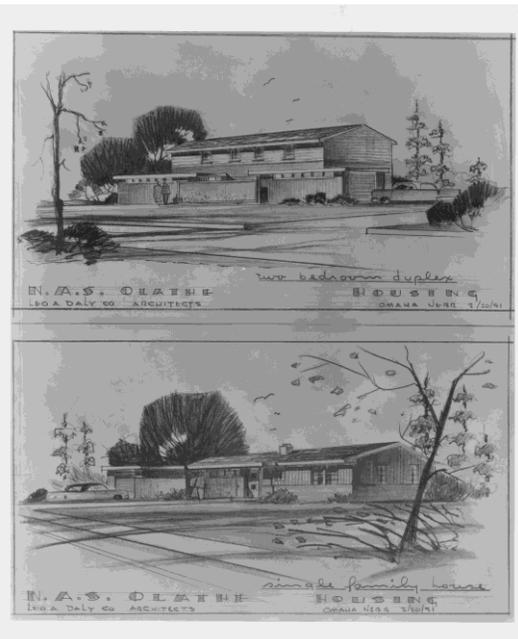
#### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Heritage Center – April 14, 2014, 7:00PM.

ADJOURNED

## Coming soon...!

Work has started on the development of the next display for the Olathe Historical Society gallery. The current exhibit on the Jefferson Highway and other early highways will close at the end of March. The next exhibit will be on the Olathe Naval Air Station, just in time for the upcoming film in the *Olathe: the City Beautiful* series on the air station. Included in the exhibit will be a propeller from an early aircraft flown at the air station, a typewriter used at the station, and an original Walt Disney design of the logo that represented the ONAS. The display will focus on three aspects of the Olathe Naval Air Station: a general history of the ONAS, what it was like to be stationed at the ONAS, and the impact of the ONAS on the community of Olathe. The exhibit is scheduled to open later this spring.



One of the needs that came with the establishment of the Olathe Naval Air Station in 1942 was to provide housing for ONAS personnel and their families. Olathe's Highland Park, nicknamed "Navy Hill" became home for many. Located in what was then southeast Olathe, the original 30 homes in the development were supplemented by twenty-five duplexes. Most of the homes were small and built on concrete foundations. Original home costs ranged between \$4,000 and \$4,500 and were typically purchased by officers. Built to last, most of these homes are still in use today.

*Architect's rendering of proposed duplex and single family residences for ONAS personnel from the collection of the Olathe Public Library*

## **Officers and Board Members**

### **Officers**

President	Bob Courtney (13-15)	764-2494
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Lisa Karstetter (12-14)	783-4626
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Jayne Jones (13-15)	764-8039
Secretary	Margaret Endecott (12-14)	782-0269
Treasurer	Vicki Holdman (13-15)	764-5076
Historian	Anne Seitz	768-6954

### **Board of Directors**

Mary Cochran (13-15)	829-5078	Karen Sutton (12-14)	
Maureen Donegan (13-15)	782-0960	Ann Johnson (12-14)	829-2299
Maron Moore (13-15)	764-1824	Mary Jo O'Brien (12-14)	782-4270

**Olathe Historical Society**  
**1200 Kansas City Road**  
**Olathe, KS 66061**