Join the fiesta!
Discover a new dimension of Olathe’s history.

September 15 – October 15
Listen to tales of traders who carried Hispanic culture along the Santa Fe Trail. Hear the stories of families who fled to Olathe during the violence of the Mexican revolution. Move your feet to the sounds of local Latino musicians. Admire traditional Latin-American fashion. Understand the struggle for civil rights and equality. Select events will feature scholar-led discussions and viewings of episodes from Latino Americans: 500 Years of History, a PBS documentary. There are games and activities for children and families, too!

Grant support provided by:
Sept. 15: Mayoral Proclamation, 7 – 8 p.m.
Olathe City Hall, 100 E. Santa Fe
Mayor Michael Copeland proclaims September 15 to October 15, 2015, National Hispanic Heritage Month. OlatheKS.org

Oct. 6: Tuesday Tunes with Maria the Mexican, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.*
Olathe Downtown Library, 201 E. Park St.
Mariachi music meets folk, rock and blues. OlatheLibrary.org

Sept. 29: Hispanic Family College Fair, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Olathe North High School, 600 E. Prairie St.
Hispanic high school students and families are invited to Spanish-language presentations (en español) about college prep and enrollment, financial aid and scholarships, application processes and timelines, course schedules and other opportunities for high school graduates. Attendees can visit with college and university representatives. OlatheSchools.com

Sept. 19:
Story Walk, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Olathe Community Center, 1205 E. Kansas City Rd.
In case of rain, event will move to 315 N. Lindenwood.
Families can stroll along an outdoor trail and read a fun, educational story in Spanish and English. Children three and under will receive a complimentary book. This event is sponsored by Parents as Teachers. OlatheKS.org/ParksRec
Sept. 26 & 27: Wild West Days, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Saturday); 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sunday)
Heritage Center at Mahaffie, 1200 E. Kansas City Rd.
Experience live music and children's activities, stagecoach rides and games in the spirit of the Old West. Sunday, Rose Marie’s Fiesta Mexicana Dancers will perform.; $5 per person ages five and up or $20 for a family of five. Mahaffie.org

Oct. 5: Enrique’s Journey Author Chat, 6:30 -8:30 p.m.*
Indian Trail Middle School, 1440 E. 151st St., 66062
Meet Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Sonia Nazario, and join the discussion about this story that puts a human face on the immigration reform debate. OlatheSchools.com

Sept 17: American Girl Memory Boxes, 4 - 5 p.m.
Olathe Downtown Library 201 E. Park St.
Create a personalized memory box perfect for storing your small treasures and mementos while you learn about the Santa Fe Trail. Children grades K-5 are recommended for this program inspired by the American Girl character Josefina and presented in conjunction with Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm. OlatheLibrary.org

Oct. 13: Latino American Culture Celebration, 7 - 9 p.m.*
Heritage Center at Mahaffie, 1200 E. Kansas City Rd.
Music by local Latino band Trio Atzlan, a fashion show of traditional Latin American dress and dancing by El Grupo Folklorico Atotonilco. Spanish-language CERT participants will graduate. Mahaffie.org

U.S. Economic Policies Panel, 5 - 6:30 p.m.*
Olathe Public Library, 12990 S. Black Bob Rd.
Judy Ancel, director, Workers Education and Labor Studies Program, University of Missouri at Kansas City, and Peter Haney, assistant director, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, University of Kansas, will discuss the impact of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and other U.S. economic policies on Latin America. OlatheLibrary.org
Sept. 19: Mi Casa es Su Casa Open House, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Olathe Family YMCA, 21400 W. 153rd St.
Stop by for healthy family fun and wellness activities, including ZUMBA, wall climbing, soccer shootout, salsa food workshop, gym and pool access. KansasCityYMCA.org

Sept. 17: Trade Along the Santa Fe Trail, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.*
Heritage Center at Mahaffie, 1200 E. Kansas City Rd.
After a showing of Foreigners in Their Own Land, an episode of the PBS documentary, Latino Americans: 500 Years of History, Gene Chavez, Ed.D., will discuss trade along the Santa Fe Trail, including the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm. Mahaffie.org

Sept. 22: Latinos Laid the Rails, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.*
Heritage Center at Mahaffie, 1200 E. Kansas City Rd.
Railroads crisscross Olathe, carrying goods and people throughout the nation. We’ll watch Empire of Dreams, an episode of the PBS documentary series, Latino Americans: 500 Years of History and learn about the families who fled the Mexican Revolution of 1910. Then Antonio Delgado, Ph.D., will share his recent research regarding refugees who fled north to Kansas and worked for the Santa Fe Railroad. Mahaffie.org

Sept. 15: The Continuing Struggle, 6:30 – 10 p.m.*
Heritage Center at Mahaffie, 1200 E. Kansas City Rd.
Gene Chavez, Ed.D., will provide a historical overview of the Latino struggle for civil rights. Watch Prejudice and Pride, an episode of the PBS documentary series, Latino Americans: 500 Years of History. Members of groups past and present who led those efforts are encouraged to attend. Music will be provided by local Panamanian/Mexican musician Enrique Chi. Mahaffie.org

Sept. 25-26 and Oct. 2-3: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Academy Training
Olathe Fire Administration, 1225 S. Hamilton Cir.
Attend four days of Spanish-language (en español) emergency preparedness training for a total of 24 hours. Training includes terrorism response, team organization, fire suppression, search and rescue, and disaster medical. Advance signup is required. OlatheKS.org/Fire/CERT
Sept. 24: Hispanic Chamber After Hours, 5 - 8 p.m.*
Enterprise Bank & Trust, 444 E. Santa Fe
Network with KC Metro business owners and representatives. This event is hosted by Sysco and Enterprise Bank & Trust. EnterpriseBank.com

Gene Chavez, Ed.D.
featured presenter

Antonio Delgado, Ph.D.
featured presenter

Latin Art Exhibit, Ongoing
HealthRidge Fitness Center, 17800 W 106th St.
HealthRidgeFitness.com

Trio Atzlan Live
featured performers
Oct. 13: Latino American Culture Celebration, 7 - 9 p.m.*
Heritage Center at Mahaffie, 1200 E. Kansas City Rd.

Enrique Chi
featured performer
Oct. 15: The Continuing Struggle, 6:30 – 10 p.m.*
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El Grupo Folklorico Atotonilco
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LATINO AMERICANS is the first major documentary series for television to chronicle the rich and varied history and experiences of Latinos, who have helped shape North America over the last 500-plus years and have become, with more than 50 million people, the largest minority group in the U.S. The changing and yet repeating context of American history provides a backdrop for the drama of individual lives. It is a story of immigration and redemption, of anguish and celebration, of the gradual construction of a new American identity that connects and empowers millions of people today.

Watch and discuss:

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(*) Denotes events made possible by Latino Americans: 500 Years of History, a grant from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities.