

From: Erin Bolton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 4:53 PM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: Public Comment for the Record – Starfish Project Special Use Permit (July 27 Planning Commission Hearing)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Olathe Planning Commission,

I respectfully submit this letter for the public record regarding the Starfish Project's Special Use Permit application. I also request the opportunity to speak during the Planning Commission meeting on **Monday, July 27**.

I am an impacted homeowner living immediately adjacent to the proposed Starfish Project location. My property borders the green space that the applicant has stated it will maintain as part of this development.

I have previously shared my concerns regarding traffic, neighborhood compatibility, and safety. However, I would like to add a personal experience that I believe is relevant to the Commission's consideration of this Special Use Permit.

Several years ago, an individual who appeared to be in mental distress repeatedly walked past my home. The person was wearing what appeared to be a hospital gown and hospital identification bracelet and seemed disoriented. Eventually, they wandered into my yard.

Concerned for both their well-being and safety, I went outside to speak with them. Realizing they needed assistance beyond what I could provide, I contacted the Olathe Police Department. At the time, I believed the City might have a non-law enforcement mental health response team that could assist someone in crisis.

Instead, police officers and a fire department medical response team arrived. I appreciated their professionalism and compassion, but I also realized that responding to someone experiencing a mental health crisis required significant public safety resources. The individual was ultimately transported so they could receive additional assistance.

I share this experience because it illustrates the challenges residents may face when an individual in crisis enters private property. As homeowners, we are not trained to determine the appropriate response, yet we are often placed in the difficult position of deciding whether to intervene and who to call for help.

My concern is not with the individual involved, nor with the mission of the Starfish Project. I recognize that Starfish provides valuable services to members of our

community. My concern is whether placing a regional service provider immediately adjacent to homes, neighborhood green space, walking trails, and an elementary school is an appropriate land use for this location.

If individuals leave the facility while experiencing a crisis or in need of additional assistance, nearby residents may once again find themselves in situations similar to the one I experienced. Being told that residents should simply “call the police” if concerns arise does not address whether this location is appropriate in the first place. The purpose of the Special Use Permit process is to evaluate whether a proposed use is compatible with its surroundings and whether foreseeable impacts on neighboring properties can be avoided before approval is granted.

I respectfully ask the Planning Commission to consider whether this proposal is compatible with the surrounding residential neighborhood, given the expected increase in traffic, the proximity to Tomahawk Elementary School, the adjacent green space and trail system, and the potential impacts on nearby homeowners.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your service to the residents of Olathe.

Respectfully,

Eun “Erin” Suh Bolton

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Objection to SU26-0006

From: Jill Reitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:42 AM
To: Planning Contact <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Objection to SU26-0006

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Olathe Planning Commission,

I woke up this morning feeling restless and decided to offer one final plea, opposing the SU26-0006 permit in question.

I opted (against my better judgment) to read the *Olathe Connect* and *Johnson County Post* this morning. Both articles painted Briarwood residents as entitled, obstructionist neighbors. Fine. Those writing the stories don't live here. The voices and praises are not of those that live here either. And, for what it's worth, they did not write a whole story.

What concerns me most isn't how we're being portrayed—it's that there appears to be no opposing perspective. How is that possible? We are being silenced and our humanity is in question. Our posts and comments, expressing our viewpoint, have not been published. Leaving only one side of the story being heard. To me, that's yet another example of the Starfish Foundation and its supporters failing to listen, refusing to engage in open dialogue, and falling short of becoming the good-faith neighbor our community deserves.

Nobody wants to feel taken advantage of, and nobody wants to feel manipulated. That's how I feel.

Briarwood has legitimate concerns. We have said from the beginning that our issue is not with the Starfish Foundation or its mission. Our concern is the hastily selected location—a property purchased for the foundation by a friend and sponsor. Our problem is now with Joni and her lack of propriety.

To recap our concerns:

- No meaningful recourse if problems arise - and they will!
- No clear process for being heard - they are not listening now!
- No one to address neighborhood concerns or treat us in good faith.
- Joni's own statement: "traffic was a problem" and that they were "growing too fast."
- Mr. Field's statement: "I will protect our property; you will have to protect yours."
- The lack of transparency regarding the property's ownership and leasing arrangement - Joni intentionally held that information back and then was caught in her own lie in our "neighborhood meeting."
- Purchasing a property that, from the outset, did not meet the organization's needs – but they did it anyway!
- Limiting open dialogue - silencing the voices of the neighbors most directly affected.

If the Starfish Foundation wants to become part of our community. One would think, a good place to begin is treating that community with transparency, honesty, and respect. Right now, many of us feel those principles have been missing from this process.

Yet another example of the Starfish Foundation acting in bad faith towards our community... the community they want to move into! Would you want them to move into your neighborhood? Honest question... would you want this in your backyard?

The zoning was done right the first time. There were reasons that it was zone accordingly from the onset, don't change it. This is my final plea, requesting that you deny this Special Use Permit – SU26-0006 – and vote NO tonight.

Your concerned neighbor and constituent,

Jill Reitz

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: Joy Bowen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 2:23 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Officials,

I am writing to address recent concerns raised by residents regarding the Starfish Project's food, clothing, and other items given to people for FREE. As a volunteer, I feel it is important to clarify how Starfish works to make sure the city has an accurate picture of the services provided to the community.

While there is a concern that Starfish will draw a homeless population to their new neighborhood, the daily clients we serve tell a different story. The majority of those we serve are low-income residents: working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and individuals facing temporary crises who already reside within our community.

Starfish is a vital safety net that helps neighbors by giving whatever they can with no questions asked.

I look forward to your continued support in helping our neighbors thrive.

Best regards,

Joy Bowen

Anna Will

From: Karen Myers [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:40 AM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: FORMAL OPPOSITION: Public Hearing Item SU26-0006 – Starfish Project Foundation (16175 W. 135th St.)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chairman Janner and Members of the Olathe Planning Commission,

My name is Karen Myers, and I am a resident of the Briarwood subdivision located directly adjacent to the proposed project site at 16175 W. 135th Street. I am writing to formally request that the Planning Commission **DENY Special Use Permit SU26-0006**.

While the Starfish Project Foundation provides commendable services to the community, the extreme scale of their operational logistics makes this specific proposed location entirely incompatible with a residential neighborhood gateway.

I ask the Commission to consider the following technical land-use and safety conflicts:

1. **Severe Traffic Bottleneck at a Neighborhood Entrance:** Brougham Drive serves as the single ingress and egress for the Briarwood neighborhood. The Starfish Project operates on a centralized, open-door distribution model that serves hundreds of individuals daily (and continues to grow!), often culminating in acute, high-volume spikes. Introducing concentrated retail and service traffic to this exact neighborhood portal will result in gridlock, trapping residents and restricting emergency vehicle access.
2. **Incompatibility of the UDO 18.40.240 D Waiver Request:** The applicant has requested a waiver to permanently utilize and park a 16-to-20-foot commercial box truck on-site. The CP-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) zoning district is explicitly designed to prevent heavy logistics from encroaching on residential borders. Granting a permanent waiver for commercial logistics operations at a subdivision entrance undermines the protections established by Olathe's Unified Development Ordinance.
3. **Pedestrian Safety Hazards:** A high-volume food and personal support center naturally attracts significant pedestrian traffic. The intersection of 135th and Brougham is a high-speed commercial arterial corridor. This location lacks the dedicated pedestrian infrastructure, continuous sidewalks, cross walks and safe queuing spaces required to protect vulnerable clients and neighborhood children who play nearby.

4. **Severe School Zone and Child Safety Impacts (S. Brougham Drive Corridor)**

The entrance to the property in question sits directly at the intersection of 135th Street and S. Brougham Drive. S. Brougham Drive is not just a neighborhood access road—it is a critical school corridor.

- **The School Route Bottleneck:** Tomahawk Elementary School sits just south of this intersection. I live on 138th Street just east the school. I have clear visibility to

Tomahawk Elementary. When school is in session, every morning and afternoon, S. Brougham Drive experiences congestion from Olathe school buses, walking students, and parents navigating school pick-up and drop-off lines. Many Briarwood students can be seen walking or bicycling to this nearby school either accompanied by parents or unaccompanied.

5. **Unregulated After-Hours Nuisance:** By nature, donation-based distribution centers attract frequent, unmonitored after-hours drop-offs. Leaving clothing, household goods, and food items exposed at a primary neighborhood gateway creates a persistent code enforcement issue and an immediate aesthetic detractor for our subdivision entrance. Even donations placed after hours in front of or behind the building would be visible to traffic entering or exiting Briarwood's main entrance on Brougham, and to homes nearby.

The Starfish Project's past relocations demonstrate that their high-volume operational model requires a site located within a light industrial or regional commercial district equipped for heavy logistics—not a sensitive neighborhood funnel.

I urge the Commission to protect the safety and infrastructure of the Briarwood subdivision and deny SU26-0006. Under the legal land-use standards used by the City, the proposed use is entirely **unsuitable** for the character of the neighborhood and poses a clear risk to public safety and child welfare. A regional distribution hub cannot safely operate at a bottleneck shared by hundreds of residential homes and an active elementary school.

Briarwood residents include several supportive Starfish volunteers who agree this proposed location is not suitable for Starfish Project. Personally I have donated to Starfish Project and will do so again. I believe they provide a valuable service to the community but my hope is that future donations can be made at a more appropriate location.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Karen Myers

•

Anna Will

From: Kathy Higginbotham [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:53 AM
To: Planning Contact
Cc: Robyn Essex
Subject: Starfish relocation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please allow me the opportunity to express my support for the relocation of this organization to the former Aldi's building.

This will allow them the space needed to continue to support and provide service the City of Olathe desperately needs and is not currently being supplied or addressed by the City Government itself. By allowing residents to assist each other you help to build a stronger more independent community.

Thank you

Kathy Higginbotham
1380 E Sleepy Hollow Dr
Olathe, Ks 66062

Anna Will

From: Katie Barnette [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 2:54 PM
To: Planning Contact; John Bacon; Dean Vakas; Robyn Essex; LeEtta Felter; Kevin Deneault; Jeff Creighton; Matthew Schoonover
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Starfish Project Location at the Entrance to Briarwood

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Bacon and Members of the Olathe City Council and Planning Commission,

I am writing regarding the proposed relocation of the Starfish Project to the property located at the entrance to the Briarwood neighborhood. Please enter my comments as part of the public record concerning the special use permit.

First, I want to note my support of the wonderful work that Starfish Project does in serving members of our Olathe community. I support its mission and believe these services are important. My concerns are not about the organization itself or the people it serves, but rather whether this particular location is appropriate given its proximity to homes, schools, and existing traffic conditions.

I respectfully ask the Planning Commission and City Council to carefully evaluate the long-term impacts of this proposal and consider whether an alternative location—particularly in a downtown or commercial setting—would better serve both Starfish and the surrounding community.

Traffic and Congestion Concerns

The proposed site is situated at the primary entrance to Briarwood, with essentially one main entrance and exit serving the neighborhood. Residents already experience significant traffic congestion, especially during school arrival and dismissal periods.

During school dismissal, traffic frequently backs up nearly to Santa Fe, creating delays and safety concerns for residents, parents, school buses, and other motorists. Introducing a facility that has reported serving approximately **700 to 800 visitors per day, and at times more than 1,000 visitors per day**, raises legitimate questions about how the existing roads will accommodate this additional activity.

Before approving this proposal, I believe the City should carefully evaluate:

- Expected increases in vehicle and pedestrian traffic.
- Impacts on school traffic and student safety.
- Potential traffic backups at the neighborhood entrance.
- Potential overflow parking into nearby residential areas.

Prior Operational Concerns

Starfish has acknowledged that its previous locations experienced challenges related to traffic, parking, and impacts on neighboring properties. While I appreciate the organization's efforts to address those concerns, the City should carefully consider whether relocating to a site directly adjacent to a residential neighborhood and near a school may create similar issues.

Compatibility with Surrounding Uses

This location is surrounded by important community assets that serve residents of all ages.

These include:

- The Olathe Public Library, located directly across the street.
- The Indian Creek Trail, which is heavily used by families, walkers, runners, and cyclists.
- The wooded and natural areas located behind the property.
- Nearby homes and family-oriented neighborhoods.

The City should carefully consider whether the intensity of the proposed use is compatible with these surrounding residential, recreational, educational, and civic uses.

Existing Community Concerns

Residents already experience concerns in the area related to:

- Litter.
- Loitering.
- Unauthorized camping in nearby wooded areas and open spaces.

Given the proximity of the library, trail system, neighborhoods, and natural areas, it is important to understand how the City and the organization would prevent these concerns from increasing and how they would be managed if they do occur.

Neighborhood Character and Property Values

The entrance to Briarwood serves as the gateway to our neighborhood. Residents have invested significant resources into their homes and have chosen to live in a family-oriented area near schools, parks, trails, and community amenities.

The City should evaluate whether this proposal is consistent with the existing character of the neighborhood and consider the potential effects on nearby homeowners and property values.

Alignment with City Goals

Finally, I ask the City Council to consider whether this proposed location advances Olathe's stated goals regarding:

- Public safety.
- Traffic mobility.

- Congestion management.
- Neighborhood compatibility.
- Responsible land-use planning.

A downtown or commercial-area location may provide better access to public services, transit opportunities, and other support organizations while minimizing impacts on nearby schools and residential neighborhoods.

Again, I want to emphasize that I support the mission of Starfish and the important work it performs. My concern is solely whether this particular site is the right location. I respectfully request that the City Council fully evaluate these issues and consider alternative locations that can support the organization's mission while preserving the safety, accessibility, and character of the surrounding neighborhood.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Katie Barnette
13637 S Sycamore St.
Olathe, KS

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--

Katie Barnette

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 10:42 AM
Subject: Support of Starfish Project Location

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am a resident of the Briarwood neighborhood, and I wanted to let you know that I am in support of Starfish moving into the old Aldis/Quilting HQ building. 135th is a busy street anyway, it's not as if we do not get traffic there. And on the 139th entrance to the neighborhood, we have a 7-11 gas station, which is also popular and draws in many people who don't live here. So I don't know why Starfish would be a problem at all. Thank you for listening,

Kristin Gaddis

Anna Will

From: Lorton (Lee) Curtis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:27 AM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: Against Starfish Project and special use permit, too close to quality residential neighborhood

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to officially protest The Starfish Project and the special use permit SU26-0006! I didn't even know about this until they had already moved in and neighbors were already complaining! After the fact I finally received something in the mail.

My property backs directly up to the property in question and I've lived here since 1994. When Aldi moved in years ago things were a mess, traffic issues, trash all over, people camping out in the woods behind, lots of people living in cars out back, all waiting to rifle through Aldi garbage containers on their back dock. Also my neighbor's work truck was broken into and valuable things stolen. In addition the traffic was and will be a disaster.

A business like Starfish Project should never be located next to residential property!

It was actually a blessing when the quilting shop was located there, things went back to normal for a few years, I was no longer picking up trash and the people camping out and living in cars all disappeared.

Thank you! Lorton Curtis

**Lorton (Lee) Curtis
13516 S Locust
Olathe, KS 66062**

[REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: Melody Kelso [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 11:42 AM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: Starfish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Planning commission:

I am writing in support of Starfish Project Foundation and the Moreland family. I had the privilege of knowing the Morelands before Starfish Project Foundation was created. Long before they built this organization, they were already serving others.

They reached out to support our own nonprofit, The Pet Connection, by offering resources, making connections, and looking for ways to help us better serve our community. That spirit of generosity has never changed. They continue to support our organization today.

In my experience, they are among the most selfless resource developers I have ever met. They don't simply provide services—they bring people, nonprofits, and resources together to solve problems. Their impact extends far beyond the individuals they directly serve.

They have also shown that they care deeply about animals and the organizations that care for them. Their willingness to collaborate with other nonprofits strengthens our entire community.

Starfish Project Foundation is a tremendous asset to Olathe. They are a trusted resource for families, students, and individuals in need. They are thoughtful neighbors, responsible stewards of the community, and an organization that genuinely works to make Olathe a better place for everyone.

I strongly encourage you to support Starfish Project Foundation and allow them to continue the important work they do. Organizations like theirs make communities stronger, more connected, and more compassionate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Melody Huff UW-AAB
Executive Director
The Pet Connection

Anna Will

From: Natalie Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 6:52 PM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to respectfully request that you approve the Special Use Permit for Starfish Project.

Starfish Project provides an invaluable service to our community by offering food, clothing, and household goods completely free of charge to anyone in need. Unlike many assistance programs, Starfish Project has no income or residency requirements, ensuring that every individual and family who walks through its doors is treated with dignity and has access to basic necessities.

In addition to meeting critical community needs, Starfish Project plays an important role in environmental stewardship. By redistributing donated items that might otherwise end up in landfills, the organization reduces waste while giving perfectly usable food, clothing, and household goods a second life. This benefits not only those who receive the items but the community as a whole.

The work of Starfish Project strengthens our community by supporting families during difficult times, reducing waste, encouraging generosity, and creating a welcoming place where everyone is treated with compassion and respect.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to approve the Special Use Permit for Starfish Project. Your support will allow this organization to continue serving thousands of individuals and families while making a lasting positive impact on both our community and our environment.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Natalie Smith

Anna Will

From: Pang Lee [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 10:16 AM
To: John Bacon; Dean Vakas; Robyn Essex; LeEtta Felter; Kevin Deneault; Matthew Schoonover; Jeff Creighton; Planning Contact; City Clerk's Office
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Member,

I am an Olathe resident. I live and work in the City of Olathe. I have created a family and made friends in Olathe. My children go to the schools here in Olathe.

I am writing to express my strong support for the special permit/zoning change for the property located at 1078 W Santa Fe St A, Olathe, KS 66061, Starfish Project.

Updating the special permit/zoning classification for this property is a necessary step that will directly benefit our neighborhood. Specifically, this change will allow for our community to meet the needs of all of your constituents.

Starfish is a vital nonprofit organization that serves more than 1,300 individuals each day, five days a week, providing food, clothing, and other essential resources to low-income families, seniors, veterans, and individuals experiencing hardship. For many in our community, these services are not simply helpful—they are essential to meeting their most basic needs.

In addition to addressing food insecurity and poverty, Starfish strengthens our community by reducing waste through the collection and redistribution of donated goods. Usable items that might otherwise end up in landfills are instead placed in the hands of people who need them most, creating both economic and environmental benefits.

Supporting Starfish means supporting the health, stability, and dignity of our community's most vulnerable residents. Ensuring the organization can continue and expand its mission is an investment in the well-being of families and seniors who rely on these critical services every day.

Furthermore, this special permit/zoning aligns perfectly with the city's Olathe 2040: Future Ready Strategic Plan comprehensive plan, as it will focus on sustainable economic growth, exceptional public services, diverse housing opportunities, a vibrant multimodal transportation network, and a safe, inclusive quality of life. The proposed use will enhance the character of the surrounding area and will bring positive value to our community.

Thank you for your time, your dedication to our city's growth, and for your consideration of this important matter. I respectfully urge the council to approve this special permit/zoning change.

Sincerely,

Pang Lee

Occupancy Specialist
Ridgeview Village Community
11860 S. Sunset Dr. Office
Olathe, KS 66061

A large black rectangular redaction box covering several lines of text.

Anna Will

From: Ryan Stamer [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 6:24 PM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: Starfish Project Location

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Planning Commission/Department, I have copied below a message that I sent to the City Council Members and the Mayor back on 7/10, which was shortly after the referenced organization held a neighborhood meeting. As we are approaching the Planning Commission meeting next week, I wanted to be sure to share my thoughts with you all, as well. Feel free to reach out directly with any questions/comments/concerns that you may have. Thank you so much!

Ryan Stamer

> Earlier this week, I was at the meeting hosted by Starfish Project in regards to the Special Use Permit they are seeking to allow them to open at 16175 W 135th St (corner of Sante Fe and Brougham). I live in Briarwood, and am very much opposed to this location being used for this purpose, and am requesting that the Special Use Permit be denied. There was a large turnout at the meeting, and the overall feeling was that we commend the efforts of this organization, but this location is inappropriate. There are many reasons for me feeling that they need to find another location, and will highlight a few below.

>

> -The amount of traffic will make our neighborhood unsafe. We have kids that ride their bikes to Tomahawk, and having an increased number of pass through traffic (speeding is already a problem) will create an environment where more accidents are likely to happen.

> -The staff at Starfish was pushing off responsibility of trash and potential homeless problems to the residents of Briarwood. While they are pursuing Unauthorized Presence restrictions on their property, they repeatedly told the neighborhood residents that "we would need to contact police" for any issues off their property.

> -Their landlord is a sponsor of the organization. This creates a significant conflict of interest. There will be little to no opportunity for eviction in the event that they repeat their behaviors that are currently being displayed and causing eviction of their past location. It should also be noted that they tried to avoid disclosing this information at the neighborhood meeting.

>

> Again, we believe in the cause of Starfish Project, but this location is a bad choice that will have significant negative impact and do not want them to be allowed to operate at 16175 W 135th St. Thank you for your attention.

>

> Ryan Stamer

> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: "My name is Sandi Ratliff and I support Starfish Project Foundation..."

From: Sandra Ratliff [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 12:16 PM
To: Planning Contact <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: "My name is Sandi Ratliff and I support Starfish Project Foundation..."

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Sandi Ratliff and I support Starfish Project Foundation! For the past five years, I have been a volunteer. I have witnessed, firsthand, the hard work, compassion and dedication of Joni, her family and all of the remarkable volunteers who "make a difference" every single day for the families in Johnson County, as well as our neighboring communities. If anyone is on the fence as to the good Starfish brings to our community, I invite you to come and pay us a visit and let us show you what we do and who we serve on a daily basis. Our outreach is vast; our customers are diverse.

There is a misconception amongst the masses as to who we serve. Here is a small sampling of our clients:

- We serve a 90 year old veteran who picks up pastries to share with his fellow vets over coffee at the VFW.
- We serve a 70 year old mother who is caring for her medically challenged adult children.
- We serve the new parents in need of essentials for their new born baby.
- We supplement the college student, away from home, who just needs a little food assistance to make it through the month.
- We serve the homeless men and women who say “I’m hungry; I’ll take anything.”
- We provide a birthday cake kit, complete with a card and candles, for the parent who can’t quite stretch the budget any further.
- We provide weekend snack packs for school children who are faced with food insecurity.

I could go on and on

Starfish is a glimmer of hope for all of our customers ... young and old. To continue Joni’s mission, we

need this forever home. Here's hoping the City of Olathe will allow us to continue our mission.

Sent from my iPhone

Anna Will

Subject: FW: STARFISH

From: Sandy Rockey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 12:15 PM
To: LeEtta Felter <[REDACTED]>
Subject: STARFISH

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This is my first letter to one of our city officials. Thank you for serving our community.

I'm sending this in regard to the STARFISH proposed location at 135th St. and Broughm in OLATHE Kansas. I know there have been lots of conversations and issues raised from both pros and cons on that being the location for STARFISH. What I want to say is

"the poor will always be with us". I feel strongly that it is our duty and our responsibility to help those less fortunate than we are in anyway we can.

Please do whatever you can to see that the STARFISH organization is given permission to operate out of that location.

Sent from my iPhone

Anna Will

From: Susan Perrin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 6:43 PM
To: Planning Contact; John Bacon; Dean Vakas; Robyn Essex; LeEtta Felter; Kevin Deneault; Jeff Creighton; Matthew Schoonover
Subject: Special Use Permit Application SU26-0006 (Starfish Project Foundation)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Olathe Planning Commission and Olathe City Council,

As a 32-year resident of the Briarwood subdivision, I have raised my family here and deeply care about the safety and well-being of our community. My neighbors know me well, as I walk my two small white dogs daily throughout the area, particularly up and down Brougham Drive. I am writing to formally request that the Planning Commission and City Council vote **NO** on the Special Use Permit for the property located at the intersection of 135th Street and Brougham Drive. While I recognize that the Starfish Project is a reputable organization providing valuable services to our community, this specific location is entirely inappropriate for its intended use.

I ask that you enter my formal objections and concerns into the public record based on the following critical points:

- **Inadequate Traffic Infrastructure:** The entrance to the Briarwood subdivision was never designed or renovated to handle high volumes of commercial traffic. This intersection has become severely congested due to adjacent commercial properties, the Indian Creek Library, and the neighboring Kohl's retail center. Furthermore, drivers frequently use our residential streets as a shortcut. From my daily walks, I regularly observe significant traffic backups and dangerous speeding on Brougham Drive—an infrastructure issue that will only intensify if this permit is granted.
- **Environmental and Public Safety Impact on Indian Creek Trails:** My residential property directly backs up to Indian Creek, and I frequently utilize the surrounding trails. I have personally observed a growing unhoused population establishing campsites along the creek, and I have had to call the police on multiple occasions to report active fires built within these camps. Granting this permit will cause the unhoused population to heavily gravitate toward our neighborhood. Within a compact, half-mile radius, individuals would have immediate access to campsites at Indian Creek, climate-controlled shelter at the public library, and daily food distribution at the Starfish building. This highly concentrated hub will incentivize long-term encampments directly adjacent to our doorsteps.
- **Documented Operational Issues:** I am deeply troubled by the public, documented complaints from businesses adjacent to the Starfish Project's previous locations. Prior neighbors have experienced persistent issues with loitering, panhandling, and related disturbances. Allowing these same operational issues to relocate to the primary entrance of a quiet, residential neighborhood is entirely unacceptable.

For the safety of our residents, children, and pedestrians, I strongly urge you to deny this Special Use Permit and protect the integrity of the Briarwood subdivision.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Perrin

13632 South Locust Street

Briarwood Subdivision Resident

Anna Will

From: Tim and Marian Rose [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 4:55 PM
To: Planning Contact; John Bacon; Dean Vakas; Robyn Essex; Kevin Deneault; LeEtta Felter; Matthew Schoonover; Jeff Creighton; Taylor Breen; Keith Brown - Planning Commissioner
Subject: Fwd: Starfish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marian Rose [REDACTED]
Date: July 27, 2026 at 5:21:55 PM EDT
To: Marian Rose [REDACTED]
Cc: Tim Rose [REDACTED]
Subject: Starfish

Good Afternoon,

I hope you have time to read and process a few more facts.

A few more quick thoughts about starfish. When Joni met with the neighborhood at the library, she had a former police officer and SRO. He made **guarantees** that they would keep the property clean and chase off people of are loitering. A couple of important considerations on this: I don't think he can fulfill that promise, especially during off hours when the operation is closed. And even if they are able to move people along, where are they moving them to? Into the AutoZone parking lot? Into the dentist office? Into the neighborhood backyards? Off to the library? And we would rather not invite this problem in the first place. They have somebody addressing it because they know it's already been a problem for them in the past and continues to be a potential issue.

My more pressing opposition has to do with another comment of the Joni made during the meeting. She indicate they are excited that they serve other many other organizations throughout the metro, as far away is Independence. This is not simply a small Olathe concern.—she is a distribution site and as such, I do not believe for one instant that this is the appropriate location for her.

Finally, I believe this group is trying to force your hand because one of her partners has already acquired the building. I believe that was premature on both of their parts, however unfortunate it may be - they can fix it. Please don't make their problem into a much bigger problem. I've heard other people say what about Chuck E. Cheese empty location; I think

that is just as problematic as the site you're looking at now. It belongs in a more it belongs in appropriately zone area.

I said nothing when Casey's was interested -I am speaking now, though. What makes sense? Not an attractive nuisance, which is what this is.

PLEASE, don't allow this non-retail, distribution center to move in here - please.

We are out of town this week, but we would like this to be included in the city record / meeting record.

Tim and Marian Rose

Sent from my iPad

Anna Will

From: Tyler Murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 7:41 PM
To: Planning Contact; City Clerk's Office; John Bacon; Dean Vakas; Robyn Essex; LeEtta Felter; Kevin Deneault; Jeff Creighton; Matthew Schoonover
Subject: Starfish SUP

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as an Olathe resident who lives near the entrance to the Briarwood neighborhood to respectfully ask that you deny the Special Use Permit request for the Starfish Foundation.

I appreciate the desire to help those in need, and I recognize that organizations like Starfish serve an important role in our community. My concerns are not about helping people, but about whether this particular location is appropriate for the proposed use.

As someone who lives nearby, I am concerned about the increased traffic that this facility could bring into our neighborhood. I am also worried about the potential for increased loitering and other public safety issues that could affect the quality of life for the families who live here.

The nearby Indian Creek Trail has already experienced issues that make many residents uncomfortable. Reports of assaults and ongoing concerns about loitering have made it difficult to feel comfortable allowing our children to play or spend time in that area. My fear is that placing this facility adjacent to our neighborhood could further increase those concerns and make residents feel less safe in the place they call home.

Throughout this process, many neighbors have expressed concerns based on challenges reportedly experienced near some of Starfish's other locations. I have not seen those concerns meaningfully addressed or heard a clear plan explaining how similar issues would be prevented here. Without that reassurance, it is difficult to support placing this use in such close proximity to a residential neighborhood.

I respectfully ask the Council to consider the long-term impact this decision could have on the safety, character, and quality of life of the Briarwood neighborhood. I believe there are other locations that may be better suited for this type of facility without placing the burden on nearby families and residents.

Thank you for your time, your service to our community, and your careful consideration of this important decision.

Sincerely,

Tyler Murphy

Anna Will

From: Amanda Berger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 1:08 PM
To: Planning Contact; [REDACTED] John Bacon; Dean Vakas; Robyn Essex; LeEtta Felter; Kevin Deneault; Jeff Creighton; Matthew Schoonover
Subject: Starfish Project Support

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor & Members of the Olathe City Council -

I am writing as a neighbor to the Starfish Project I ask that you approve the relocation of this organization. I live in Wexford subdivision at 139th and Brougham. The commitment that this organization has to serving people in our community with passion and dignity. Starfish is about bringing people together, supporting those right here in our neighborhood and encouraging each of us to have an active part in our community.

I know the proposed location well and can't think of a better location to serve our olathe community. Accessible sidewalks, easy access off 135th and along a bus route. Close to other public locations and services like the library, medical offices, and banks. As a neighbor who has donated to them for years, this access to my home is even easier and if we could all look at this as a place where our community comes together vs what we think it will bring to our area we could see into the good this project brings.

Your approval of this relocation will allow an organization to help ALL members of Olathe, each of us has a duty to one another to love thy neighbor as thy self and with the help of the Starfish Project we can continue to serve our amazing community.

Thank you for serving our community, and may you find the facts within the information vs. the emotions.

Amanda Berger
[REDACTED]

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Support Starfish

From: John & Ann Martin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 06 August 2026 12:48:01
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support Starfish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am an Olathe resident and I support Starfish Project's proposed new location. For more than 12 years, Starfish has served our community with dignity, compassion, and integrity. They help local families, seniors, veterans, foster families, and neighbors facing temporary hardships. They are not a shelter and do not have overnight housing or camping. They are a place where donations, volunteers and hope come together. They work alongside local businesses, volunteers and the Olathe Police Department. They are committed to being an outstanding neighbor.

I respectfully ask you to support this project so they can continue helping families in Olathe.

Thank you for your service to our city.

Ann Martin
11562 S. Montclair Dr.
Olathe, KS. 66061

P.S. I moved to Olathe in 2019 and have found the city to be diverse, kind, caring and progressive; a place I am proud to call home. I hope you will support this project so Starfish can continue to serve so many who find themselves in need.

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish Project Foundation Special Permit Approval

From: Ann Thompson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2026 3:16 PM
To: [REDACTED] City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED]
Subject: Starfish Project Foundation Special Permit Approval

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon:

I did not think I would have to write a letter or support for the Starfish Project Foundation. I have been following their struggle with their new location and not being an Olathe resident, I thought there should be enough support in Olathe. But now I see for whatever reasons, which are beyond me, there is extensive opposition. For the life of me, I cannot understand why. I was raised in Prairie Village and now live in Shawnee. I was raised to help others by seeing my father bring donations from Kansas City clothing manufacturers to our church clothing drives. I continued that volunteering spirit by volunteering with my company and now with a non-profit that serves families with needs for their pets in Wyandotte and Jackson counties.

I have known Joni Moreland ever since she started the Starfish Project Foundation. Her volunteers help the local animal rescue I volunteer with when we were just getting started. Her volunteers included TLC volunteers, school children who needed volunteer hours for school, etc. Those adults and children were able to do something to help others that they might not have been able to do if it had not been for Starfish's inclusion program. As our rescue grew, we began to support the Starfish food pantry when people needed dog or cat food. I was able to give outreach support where there might normally not be outreach support for people's pets in and around the Olathe area. I am aware that Olathe Animal Services does assist families' animals with food, but we all are aware that with most cities there is never enough to provide all families with their pet food needs.

In all my time spent at the Starfish locations, I never saw any issues with the clients they support, whether they were houseless or not. I do not understand the resistance of anyone to help serve those in need, especially in the current economy. Why would people not support an organization whose primary mission is to serve people who include veterans, children and individuals facing difficult circumstances. **But let me ask: in the years that the Starfish Project Foundation has been in their past and current location, have there been any reported issues with any individuals??**

I was told of some of the comments/objections of some of the members at the Olathe Planning Commission last Monday's meeting. I would like to comment on the concerns that were communicated:

- At least one member, potentially more, live in the neighborhood that was directly opposing the issue
- I assume this concern is home values. **When you bought your home, were you not aware of the**

major streets your subdivision backed up to? There are plenty of businesses in the area with more traffic and more opening hours than the Starfish Project. Is that building supposed to just sit empty with overgrown trees, bushes grass, i.e. an eye sore abandon building.

-One council member voted against it after saying that she would vote for it if the city would commit to fixing the EXISTING safety issues regarding people sleeping in tents on the trail behind it on city land, but did not motion to table until they could speak to the city. **This is a separate issue that the city needs to deal with and should be handled whether or not the Starfish Project occupies this space. This issue has been a known city problem that was there before the Starfish Project and will probably be there after the Starfish Project. The Starfish Project, if anything, is trying to help assist people to find housing. Without the Starfish Project, there is one less resource.**

-One member voted against it, citing traffic volume, but using incorrect data when quoting the amount of cars that would be there daily, despite city staff going over this in the session - **Traffic is always going to be there and it sounds like correct data needs to be used. Remember this location is open 10-5 normally.**

-One member wanted information from OPD from a study that is not usually public but did not motion for tabling the vote until provided with that - **I will just ask that this member make a motion.**

-One member suggested a shorter initial term for the SUP but no motion was made - **I will just ask that this member make a motion.**

Please consider the benefits that the Starfish Project has and can provide to their clients and think what would have happened if the Starfish Project had not been there the last few years and in the future are not able to support the community.

Ann Thompson

[REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish project

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 4:45 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Honorable Members of the Olathe City Clerk Office

I am asking you today to do something that has become all too rare in our world: choose compassion over perception. Choose people over politics. Choose hope over fear.

Please allow The Starfish Project to remain at its new location.

Like many people, I never imagined I would need help. I have worked hard my entire adult life. I earn a six-figure income. From the outside, most people would assume my family is doing just fine.

The truth is very different.

Over the last five years, the economy has devastated so many hardworking families. Inflation, rising interest rates, medical bills, and debt have left many of us drowning despite doing everything “right.” There are months when I don’t know how I’m going to put enough food on the table for my family.

That is why The Starfish Project matters.

It reminds people that needing help does not mean you have failed. It means you’re human.

The Starfish Project doesn’t judge. They don’t ask for pay stubs. They don’t ask about your income or your mistakes. They ask only two questions: “How many people are in your family?” and “What county do you live in?” Then they treat every single person with dignity.

That is what community is supposed to look like.

I’ve been there nearly every weekday for months. If the concerns are about traffic, safety, or people loitering, I can honestly say I have never witnessed any of those issues. Not

once. And that's at their current location, where they share a parking lot with other businesses that is significantly smaller than the proposed location.

The fears simply don't match reality.

What I have seen are parents trying to feed their children. Grandparents stretching fixed incomes. Veterans. Working families. People who never thought they would need assistance. I've seen volunteers giving their time without expecting anything in return. I've seen neighbors helping neighbors.

I've seen hope.

This organization isn't just handing out food and clothing. It is restoring dignity to people who are quietly fighting battles that no one else sees.

The Starfish Project serves everyone because hardship does not discriminate. Financial hardship doesn't care what your job title is, what your salary is, or what neighborhood you live in. It can happen to any one of us.

One unexpected medical bill.

One layoff.

One family emergency.

One economic downturn.

For many families, that's all it takes.

Please don't allow fear or assumptions to take away one of the few places where people can receive help without shame.

History won't remember whether a parking lot had a few extra cars. It will remember whether a community chose to care for its people when they needed it most.

In a time when our country often feels divided, The Starfish Project is one of the few places where those divisions disappear. Rich or poor, young or old, different backgrounds, different beliefs—it doesn't matter. Everyone is welcomed with kindness and respect.

That is the kind of organization every city should be proud to support, not push away.

I ask you, from one parent to another, from one neighbor to another, please think of the families whose cupboards are empty tonight. Think of the children who don't understand why there's no food in the pantry. Think of the parents who lie awake wondering how they'll make it through another week.

Then ask yourselves:

If this were your family... wouldn't you want The Starfish Project to be there?

Please make the decision that reflects the very best of Olathe. Allow The Starfish Project to remain in its new home and continue doing what so few organizations are able to do—help anyone who walks through their doors with dignity, compassion, and love.

Respectfully,

Ashley Tush

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish

From: Beth Eppler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 10:53 PM
To: Planning Contact <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I strongly disagree with your initial decision to not allow Starfish Project to use the property at 135th and Brougham.
Beth Eppler

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Doing Good

From: William Fitzpatrick <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 03 August 2026 13:25:44
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Doing Good

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day. Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I was born in KCK and moved to Olathe 30 years ago. (I am happy to tell you about my vast experience within the city of Olathe if you find it of value.)

I have seen a lot of good done in Olathe. One of the most notable things is the expansion of the Garmin complex. As recorded, the planning commission voted four to three against the complex expansion back in 2015. The city council then went on to vote seven to zero to approve the expansion. I think we can all say that the expansion has done a lot of good for city of Olathe. And it has not brought about any of the issues that the neighboring homeowners were concerned about.

But good does not just come in jobs and tax revenue. Good comes to a kid who grew up in KCK that had hard times and needed a little assistance but there was no one or no place to provide it.

I see some of the same trends between the Starfish Project and the Garmin expansion. The planning commission vote for starters along with the concerns that many of the neighboring homeowners have.

I know Joni and her husband and they are good people. The kind of people that if anyone asked for some assistance of any kind, they would do everything they could to find someone or something to provide that assistance.

I have been to the Starfish Project many times. I am not the one that currently needs assistance but some of the other things that they do are good beyond just helping someone who is in need. Like finding a home for the bunch of Honey Baked Ham product that was just going to go into the dumpster. Or taking a pallet of orange juice that a grocery store decided they didn't need and the truck driver was just going to throw it in the dumpster. (Happy to tell you more about that one if you're interested) The list goes on and on. And these products would have been available to anyone in the neighboring subdivisions without question.

Good comes in a lot of ways. Not just in taxes and jobs, but in doing the small things the right way. So, I'm asking you to vote in favor of the Starfish Project's request for a special use permit and getting the necessary approvals to move into the building on 135th and Brougham.

Thanks,
Bill
[REDACTED]

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish Project - Please approve the Special Use Permit

From: Bing Chen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 15:31:42
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project - Please approve the Special Use Permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilman Creighton,

As a resident of Olathe (Ward 3) for the past 20 years, I strongly support granting the special use permit for the Starfish Project at their new location at 135th & Brougham.

I don't think there's any doubt about Starfish Project's mission and the good it does for people in need in our community. The question is whether the location at 135th & Brougham is appropriate. Some who live nearby have expressed concerns about increased traffic, property values, safety, and attracting unhoused encampments. I believe those concerns stem from fear and misunderstanding for the following reasons:

1. Traffic - Any business occupying that location would likely cause an increase in traffic compared to the currently vacant building. There is no indication that traffic would be significantly worse due to Starfish Project occupying that location versus many other potential tenants. The location is also very close to a RideKC bus stop (Route 403) at 135th & Mur Len that may allow more people to forgo driving there.
2. Property Values - Starfish Project only takes donations during operating hours. There is no unmanned donation drop box that encourages dumping and unsightly trash. In their prior location, you wouldn't have even been able to tell that a non-profit donation center was even there.
3. Safety - Starfish Project gives away everything for free and has no cash registers so there is no incentive for crimes like theft. Also, Starfish Project does not operate in the evenings whereas a number of other potential tenants might. The neighboring AutoZone is open until 9pm most evenings and has cash registers. Any other business that occupies this building that holds cash on-premises would likely be a bigger draw for thieves.
4. Unhoused Encampments - I have personally volunteered for Starfish Project at their prior location. I never saw anyone loitering around outside and felt perfectly safe. The people who come into Starfish Project look no different than someone you might see at Walmart or a grocery store. I've never seen anyone come into Starfish that looked obviously unhoused. The fact that there is no qualification needed to "shop" at Starfish Project means that it is more likely to help those who have a home and are maybe even employed, but just need a little bit of help to get by. Some of the people I've seen come in are dressed up like they came from work or are on their way to work. People come, get what they need, and then they leave.

Finally, I believe that the location at 135th & Brougham could fill a real need in the surrounding community. If you look at the demographic information from the Kansas Department of

Education, the surrounding schools have some of the highest proportion of students in the Olathe School District that are classified as Economically Disadvantaged. Here is the KSDE Data for the 2025-2026 School Year:

- Tomahawk Elementary: 49.6% of students approved for free or reduced price lunch
- Briarwood Elementary: 34.3% of students approved for free or reduced price lunch
- Indian Creek Elementary: 65.5% of students approved for free or reduced price lunch
- Havencroft Elementary: 61.0% of students approved for free or reduced price lunch
- Heritage Elementary: 37.3% of students approved for free or reduced price lunch
- Black Bob Elementary: 26.3% of students approved for free or reduced price lunch
- Frontier Trail Middle School: 25.4% of students approved for free or reduced price lunch
- Indian Trail Middle School: 53.0% of students approved for free or reduced price lunch
- Pioneer Trail Middle School: 52.3% of students approved for free or reduced price lunch
- Olathe East High School: 31.8% of students approved for free or reduced price lunch
- Olathe South High School: 24.8% of students approved for free or reduced price lunch
- Olathe North High School: 44.0% of students approved for free or reduced price lunch

There are many people in our community (and in the immediate vicinity of the new location) who need some assistance but either don't qualify or are too embarrassed to share details about their situation. Starfish Project allows people to keep their dignity and get the help that they need without having to disclose their struggles. Please allow Starfish Project to help them.

Sincerely,

Bing Chen
16451 W 158th Ter.
Olathe, KS 66062
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: brian curtis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:27 PM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: RE: Project Starfish
Attachments: IMG_7582.jpeg; IMG_7586.jpeg; IMG_7583.jpeg

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The planning commission is meeting right now on the proposal for Starfish's special use permit, in that packet there is an inclusion for an exemption for starfish for ONE (1) Commercial vehicle under 20 feet. Currently they have been parking that commercial vehicle at the location for a month now, every night, in the parking lot and inside the loading dock which is a violation of the CURRENT zoning ordinance.

Moreover, the vehicle is actually larger than the exemption request, at 22 feet 8 inches, as provided here in this photograph.

The commission needs to re-assess or deny this exemption, as the vehicle is larger than the exemption.







Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: Carole Pugsley <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2026 12:46:56

To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]> Matthew Schoonover <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Fwd: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

If you don't support this worthwhile charity in your own city, who will? You will be known for the company you KEEP. Please vote for a compassionate decision. Residents of Tallgrass Creek are counting on YOU to do the right thing. Peace.....

Anna Will

From: Chandra Blackwell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 12:31 PM
To: Planning Contact; [REDACTED]
Cc: City Clerk's Office; John Bacon; Dean Vakas; Robyn Essex; LeEtta Felter; Kevin Deneault; [REDACTED] Matthew Schoonover
Subject: Starfish Support

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Food insecurity in and around Olathe has risen to its highest levels in a decade, and I'm not sure that's going to change anytime soon. That's why I'm writing to express my strong support for the Starfish Foundation's proposed move to the old Aldi/Quilter's Haven building in Olathe it can continue serving members of our community who rely not only on food assistance, but also on the other programs and services Starfish provides, such as free hygiene kits and health screenings.

The Starfish Foundation has built a reputation for providing meaningful support, hope, and practical assistance to people in need — work that benefits not only those they directly serve but the community as a whole.

I understand that some nearby residents have expressed concerns about the proposed location, and I support that, too; neighbors *should* ask questions and seek information whenever a new use is proposed in their area. That said, I believe that — weighed alongside the significant public benefit provided by Starfish — those concerns can be easily mitigated with appropriate operating guidelines, communication, and cooperation, allowing the organization's vital services to continue. Furthermore, preventing the Starfish Foundation from using the space will likely result in a pause in operations, jeopardizing service to the people who depend on it — which is perhaps an even more significant concern for the community.

Olathe has long demonstrated a commitment to being a caring, welcoming community, and collectively recognizing that **serving our neighbors in need is a shared responsibility**. Approving the Starfish Foundation's relocation elevates those values, and I respectfully ask that you support the relocation request, so Starfish can continue working for the benefit of the entire Olathe community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chandra Blackwell

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish and Briarwood entry

From: Alan Pramann <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 13:55:19
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish and Briarwood entry

Dear Mr. Creighton

Two of my sons reside in Briarwood neighborhood with their wives and young families. One has four children under the age of 8 and the other three kids 4 and under. They are hardworking families who haven't taken the easy road to build careers, protect their families and choose to live in what they thought would be a solid middle class area to raise their kids, in Olathe. Starfish Project is a decent nonprofit/printing profit endeavor. However the entryway of the Briarwood neighborhood is not the appropriate place to rezone for the allowance of it, for the following reasons:

- It is a statistical fact that businesses like this will inevitably draw more homeless and vagrants right on the doorstep of Briarwood.
- Homeless are often without secure transportation and will likely move in closer and loiter overnight after procuring free food during the day and more free food readily available to be obtained again in the morning.
- The neighbors will unwillingly be providing a harbor for them to huddle into the trees.
- Previously, when some homeless attempted set up there, drug needles were left and defecation was done in residents backyards. This will only end up becoming a magnet for more such incidents over time.
- There was also over 3 dozen vehicle break-ins in Briarwood over a two week period, when a homeless camp set-up, when Aldi was vacant.
- This business lot is set up to force all traffic back onto Brougham, a residential street. The amount of increased traffic expected with a Starfish is unfair to load on the neighbors too.
- If 1 in 15 people served by Starfish are homeless - this means approximately 65 homeless people per day would now be drawn to this neighborhood.
- The undeniable statistical fact is that homeless populations bring higher rates of crime, drug use and general disorder.
- As for me, if this passes and is allowed, my sons are seriously planning to sell and move out of Briarwood and looking into moving out of Olathe altogether. I will always encourage them to do what's best for their families. However that isn't great for my husband and myself if they do. We live nearby and my husband is battling cancer and we hoped to age near our sons. Driving responsible people like them out would be a loss for the community and a huge loss for us too.
- A total free giveaway facility like Starfish is no doubt a boon for different people -from resellers profiting to the homeless. But seriously it needs to be better placed where the real need originates and where the cost isn't born by a group of people who invested in establishing their family's lives in Briarwood - and under a different zoning rule they trust won't be readily disregarded by a City Council who's job it is to keep crime down and keep Olathe a great place to raise a family.

I sincerely appreciate your kind consideration that this is not the best location for Starfish to serve its constituents, without disrupting the lives of hard working, tax paying people.

Thank you!

Charlene Pramann

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish Organization Permit

From: Christi Schreffler <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 11:19:13

To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Starfish Organization Permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Creighton-

I am a lifelong Olathe resident, writing to urge you to vote in support of Starfish Organization's permit for their new space in Olathe. This organization does imperative work for our community. The support provided by the organization's resources actually keeps more Olathe citizens off the streets. In providing basic necessities such as food, clothing, and hygiene products, this organization is allowing citizens to free up income to pay for things such as housing and utilities. This directly impacts the amount of homeless individuals in our community, which keeps our community safe and raises our property values. Please vote in favor of the Starfish Organization's requested permit for their new property.

Sincerely,
Christi Schreffler

--
Christi Schreffler

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish Project Support

From: Cindy Kolich <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2026 8:50 AM
To: John Bacon <[REDACTED]> Dean Vakas <[REDACTED]> Robyn Essex
<[REDACTED]> Matthew Schoonover <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton
<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] LeEtta Felter <[REDACTED]> City Clerk's Office
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project Support

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to offer support for the Starfish Project proposed move to their new location at 135th and Brougham, previously occupied by Quilters Haven.

This non-profit organization does so much for the community needs, providing food, clothing, and household items free of charge to those unable to pay. This location meets the organization's needs, as well as the community's needs. There is plenty of parking, deliveries and donations can be made away from the front door, and there's room inside for those coming for items to shop comfortably.

As one who frequently drives around this location, I cannot envision a problem with traffic getting in/out of the business.

Please consider approval for the Starfish Project to move to this location. The community will thank you.

Cindy Kolich
Olathe, KS

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Please support Starfish Project

From: Dana Elaine Carr <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 18:45:27
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Please support Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Member Creighton:

As a county resident who travels the Santa Fe/135th Street corridor frequently, quite likely also a future resident of Olathe, I am asking you to support Starfish Project by approving their permit for the new space. I spent a 38-year career serving students and the community at JCCC and currently volunteer in the adult literacy program, making me acutely aware of the need for services to families in an economic environment that has always been a struggle for many families. I grew up in the country when those families and individuals hung on, helping each other and pretending their need didn't exist because...well, this was Johnson County. The last few decades have seen a growing admission that we need to do more and better for each other.

I support Starfish Project's proposed new location. For more than 12 years, Starfish has served our community with dignity and integrity. I respectfully ask you to support this project so they can continue helping families in Olathe.

Thank you for your service to your city and our county.

Dana Elaine Carr
Gardner, KS 66030
[REDACTED]

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Reject Starfish Foundation Special Use Permit

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 03 August 2026 17:58:34
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Reject Starfish Foundation Special Use Permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attn J. Creighton:

This is in respect to the Starfish Foundation attempt to locate a store at the corner of 135th St and Brougham Street. I think this would be very bad for several reasons.

1. This seems to be a violation of a city ordinance that prohibits two donation type stores locating within ½ mile of each other. Savers have been in their location several years and is much less than a ½ mile away. When Goodwill attempted to go back into their previous store it was blocked, thank goodness. I am not an expert here, but it seems this would open the city up for a large lawsuit from a large organization that has lawyers and money to do the challenge.
2. Starfish, I believe, has made 4 moves to new locations in only 5 years. 1 ¼ year per location is pretty poor history and indicates big issues not addressed there. This means they are not stable, cause too many issues, and gets far too much negative feedback from the local community.
3. Starfish also had a long history of not keeping the properties cleaned up, lots of trash which leads to other issues, rats included and being right beside a creek, it will draw lots of critters including but not limited to raccoons, opossums, and etc.
4. Starfish has a history of people loitering around and, in the store, undesirable and encourages other things like drugs and violence.
5. Starfish allows panhandling around their store, undesirable which also encourages other issues not desired.
6. This faces another of the same issues that made Casey's undesirable, TRAFFIC. Traffic would have issues going in and out, and it forces ALL traffic to be dumped into a residential neighborhood streets and school.
7. All of the above issues lead to issues for public safety, roads, schools, parks, and even taxes. Property values would for sure be impacted.

I want you to vote against this and do not allow another problem to be created that will not last but the problems they cause, linger for years. Consider that we have schools quite nearby, library which will be invaded too, and other business that do not want this kind of environment for their business. We do not want to drive a very good and nice neighborhood to become a problem that will never be corrected. I do not see any economic value for the neighborhood or the city with Starfish.

Thank you for your attention.

David Drost

Briarwood community

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Vote against the special use permit for the Starfish Foundation

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, 08 August 2026 10:35:41
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Vote against the special use permit for the Starfish Foundation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attn Mr. Creighton:

Please reject the Starfish Foundation attempt to locate a store at the corner of 135th St and Brougham Street. I think this would be very bad for several reasons.

- Starfish allows panhandling around their store, undesirable which also encourages other issues not desired.
- Starfish, I believe, has made 4 moves to new locations in only 5 years. 1 ¼ year per location is pretty poor history and indicates big issues not addressed there. This means they are not stable, cause too many issues, and gets far too much negative feedback from the local community.
- Starfish also had a long history of not keeping the properties cleaned up, lots of trash which leads to other issues, rats included and being right beside a creek, it will draw lots of critters including but not limited to raccoons, opossums, rats, and etc.
- Starfish has a history of people loitering around and, in the store, undesirable and encourages other things like drugs and violence.
- This seems to be a violation of a city ordinance that prohibits two donation type stores locating within ½ mile of each other. Savers have been in their location several years and is much less than a ½ mile away. When Goodwill attempted to go back into their previous store it was blocked, thank goodness. I am not an expert here, but it seems this would open the city up for a large lawsuit from a large organization that has lawyers and money to do the challenge.
- This faces another of the same issues that made Casey's undesirable, TRAFFIC. Traffic would have issues going in and out, and it forces ALL traffic to be dumped into a residential neighborhood streets and school.
- All of the above issues lead to issues for public safety, roads, schools, parks, and even taxes. Property values would for sure be impacted.

I'd appreciate your vote against this and do not allow another problem to be created that will not last but the problems they cause, linger for years. Consider that we have schools quite nearby, library which will be invaded too, and other business that do not want this kind of environment for their business. We do not want to drive a very good and nice neighborhood to become a problem that will never be corrected. I do not see any economic value for the neighborhood or the city with Starfish.

Thank you for your attention.

David D

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish Project Location

From: Debbie Merdic Kapaun <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 1:42 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project Location

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do what is right and work with this nonprofit agency to find a suitable location for them and our community! There is no reason to vote against the location if you work with them like you should be, that is why we voted for all of you in these positions, to work to make Olathe a better and caring city to live in!

Sincerely,
Debbie Kapaun

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish - message to city council

From: Deborah Ruder <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 9:38 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish - message to city council

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am an Olathe resident and work with people who rely on Starfish pantry for their basic needs to be met. Starfish has served the community for over 12 years with compassion, dignity, and respect. I respectfully ask you to support this project so they can continue to help lives in this community.

Please pass along the the city counsel of Olathe. Thank you.

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Please approve Starfish applicaiton

From: Debbie Kertz Southard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 10:54:41
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Please approve Starfish applicaiton

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jeff,

I support Starfish Project's proposed new location. For more than 12 years, Starfish has served our community with dignity and integrity.

Starfish is a wonderful organization for the community to share resources with each other without spending any city tax dollars. Starfish helps people provide for their families when they need it the most.

I respectfully ask you to support this project so they can continue helping families in Olathe. Thank you for your service to our city.

Thanks,
Deborah Southard
12389 S. Solomon Rd
66061

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish project

From: Deb Kempenar <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 9:58 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

There is a huge need in Olathe for nonprofit organizations such as Starfish Project . And what a wonderful location right on Santa Fe in Olathe. I recently visited the current location and feel that their new location would be much better suited for their needs. There is so much more room which means there is so much more room to give to the needy of our community.

Sincerely, Debra Kempenar

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: Keeling <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 9:05 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Respected Members of the City Council,

I'm not going to bore you with facts, because I'm sure you have been receiving many opinions. I will start with how much this organization is needed in Olathe. People are under the impression that it means homelessness..it does not. I volunteered at the Johnson County Christmas Bureau and even 10 years ago a large percentage were the working poor. Olathe is not known for its 'liveable ' places to rent as you know. Many residences might have more than 2 families staying there. Why should we as a community not help those who are less fortunate than us. If I hadn't had insurance while going through my and my husbands cancer diagnosis we might have had to use their services. My daughter who works for OSD has went there to get extra clothes for her students because she can't afford to by new or even used clothes for them.

One thing I have continually heard from the Briarwood neighborhood is the traffic situation. Today I noticed that they will be starting to replace the curbs at AutoZone . Why not end the curb before you reach the entrance and make it an exit as well. There is space and you have the materials to do so. You can make Briarwood an entrance only..so cars coming from the east will only drive that short stretch to enter. I think this could be workable as Starfish has been a good tenant before and no fault of their own have had to move. One being the city acquiring their property. And there were no tents being erected on property. The trail is more of a concern to me about homeless. It could also be suggested that Starfish erect a privacy fence between their property and those houses that back up to it.

I volunteer at Always and Furever Animal Sanctury and they had a long contentious zoning issue in Miami County from the neighborhood that surrounded their facility. The zoning board in Miami County reasoning were beyond belief..one committee member rambling on about how the farmland was being sold and it wasn't like when he was younger..etc. it really pitted the members of the community against the neighborhood. I don't want to see this happen here.

I hope that you might take my suggestions seriously.. I'm just trying to offer an alternative that will be halfway acceptable to all.

Thank you for all the work you are doing.

Elizabeth Keeling
16265 S Hunter

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Project Starfish - sick of this one yet? Yeah, me too.

From: Eryn La Forest <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2026 11:29 AM
To: LeEtta Felter <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> City Clerk's Office
<[REDACTED]> Kevin Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Matthew Schoonover <[REDACTED]> Robyn Essex <[REDACTED]> Dean Vakas
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Project Starfish - sick of this one yet? Yeah, me too.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I live on Locust in the cul-de-sac directly along the Indian Creek within a couple houses of being directly behind the property Project Starfish is seeking to set up as their distribution center. My home, along with the other homes along that end of S Locust are easily accessible from city greenspace along the creek, which has wide-open drive through access from behind the Autozone, and the bordering property in question for the mowers and maintenance along the creek.

I feel most people within Briarwood are against this and have effectively expressed their objections on the intended usage of this property as a distribution center by Project Starfish. I agree with all the arguments against it to one degree or another. Yet, I am compelled to officially cast my “vote” against it. As I see the community-at-large on social media feel, with their short-sighted understandings of seemingly everything, that they should have input, and judgement on OUR neighborhood.

Though not unusual, it remains greatly disturbing to me that so many people who are not directly impacted by the situation feel they have a right to make decisions for those who are. Unchecked blind naïve emotionalism; it has no place in decision-making, particularly for things like this. But such is the mass of humanity, and social media our modern window to such distant voices, detached from consequence, amplified by social media into a chorus of self-appointed coaches calling plays from the stands on games they don’t understand the intricacies of. Given a window into and platform for every issue, but not always the wisdom, context, or accountability required to judge it fairly. But I digress.

I *wish* to not beat dead horses, but maybe to add a somewhat unique perspective here as I insert my objection to your inbox. The points I make about myself are to help qualify my perspectives rather than say I am an expert who absolutely knows best.

I have been directly affected by several planning and zoning disputes over my life, across a few different communities ranging from St. Louis City, deeper rural areas, and in-between.

My husband and I moved to Olathe, from the St. Louis metro side of Missouri, about 16 years ago; this is our primary residence. We chose our home for its location; quiet neighbors with no rear neighbors but

instead plenty of adjacent greenspace, in the heart of an organized, mature, and flourishing city, close to everything. Olathe has consistently maintained a strong reputation in many respects, save for the out-of-control property taxes. Though my urge to get further away from the increasing population density provokes me, particularly as crime becomes more visible *right here*, it remains a somewhat ideal spot to live for us. I have worked from home for most of the 16 years we have been here. That is to say; I am here more than not, and more than most on a daily basis. I am connected to the comings and goings in the neighborhood during times others may not be. I walk the neighborhood, in the creek greenspace, both on our side, and along the trail. We are also out of town relatively often. If this becomes an area where I can't leave my home for a few days comfortably, I won't stay here.

Though working professionally otherwise in data and business analysis, and not fully active in real estate sales, I am also an actively licensed realtor in Kansas and Missouri. The training and tools available from both areas enable some robust insights. Briarwood still holds a rather sought-after status for the area. Particularly for families with young children.

When we moved in, the property in question was an Aldi. I am not a fan of Aldi, I was even less of a fan of them because of the traffic issues caused by it at that intersection at *that* time! It was a huge sigh of relief for me when they left. Then it made no sense that something that high traffic was there. Yet, as others have stated, it is not a reasonable comparison, nor is the low-flow of Autozone. Regardless, adding more chaos crossing through this corridor which is to be a nightmare of construction for the next 6 years makes no sense.

Before the Quilters HQ moved in there our neighborhood fought out a Casey's. What I learned at that time was how that section was zoned differently from the original planning of this area because of some political slimery at the time. Whether or not that is in fact the reason I do not know. But such things happen, and it sounds quite plausible of a more youthful growing suburb at that time. My family's long history in politics allowed me sufficient insight to those realities. The fact that the current owner of the property is a sponsor of the organization may not be political per say, and maybe not full "slimery", it is ethically questionable, per the accountability issues which have already been brought up.

That attempt of shoving a Casey's on our corner here hit close to my heart. Many years ago I watched my quiet semi-suburban city override the wishes of the community to allow a QuikTrip in a very quiet neighborhood, tearing down some large beautiful old homes and greenspace to do so. As feared, within a very small amount of time, the increased traffic and crime drove people out and home values went way down for the surrounding blocks. That is how things work. That is the whole purpose of having thoughtful considerate planning and zoning; to provide for growth in an ethical manner to benefit the community as a whole. To this day, some ~35 years, I *do not* patronize QuikTrip because of that despite it often being the most convenient.

I am no expert, but I like to think my fondness and experience since youth playing SIMCity and other such city and civ simulations has helped provide me with some basic appreciation for the complexities of civil planning. I have appreciated Olathe's city planning as being small-town-like in community consideration, while being as sophisticated as their status as a county seat and a major city in the state reveals them to be. I love our hay bales in-between strip malls. Our city-meets-country feel, albeit fading more into city each year.

I am also a historical commercial property owner dealing with current long standing, on-going issues with planning and zoning in a small. much less developed. town/county in Missouri, whose zoning and use matrix is practically useless in protecting the citizens in that community. Causing everything from litter, noise, and crime issues to devastating flooding issues. It is a relief to have the detailed established processes and guidelines here at home in Olathe. One of the reasons to stay in such a place despite the high density.

If Project Starfish wanted only administrative offices in this location, I don't think a single one of us would have an issue with that. I don't believe ANYONE is against the mission of the organization. **We are against poor spatial planning.**

As previously stated by others, we already have problems growing around the area along the creek and trail. The depth of the creek and limited options to traverse allow some relative protection to our side of the creek. We do not want to encourage those problems over here, for obvious, already stated reasons of being a family neighborhood with two schools. **Adding this kind of foot traffic to this location is inappropriate.** It would be fuel to a fire. It is too bad that there are people that don't grasp life's realities, or do not care because it is not going to affect them.

But this is not a Disney movie, this is real life. My daily, all-day life.

That said, I would argue beyond this use of Project Starfish to the point that the current designation for the property there is inappropriate for the location altogether. QuiltersHQ was ideal as a low volume retail. Despite some associated rush hour traffic issues the spot, with its very close adjacent neighborhood, is better suited for neighborhood office/limited office.

The fact is that the growth is closing in around Briarwood and it may not be the ideally comfortable space for some of us anymore. There are some things city planning cannot help. But I think most of us, and most of you involved in city/county administration, enjoy making national lists of safe places to live and the like. So I do beseech you all to keep that course.

Sincerely,
Eryn La Forest

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: Daniel Raetzel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 03 August 2026 19:11:29
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am an Olathe resident and I support Starfish Project's proposed new location.

For more than 12 years, Starfish has served our community with dignity, compassion, and integrity. I respectfully ask you to support this project so they can continue helping families in Olathe. Thank you for your service to our city.

Together, we can continue building a stronger Olathe.

Sincerely,

Gina Raetzel

Sent from my iPhone

Anna Will

From: Darcy Morrison <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 10:44 AM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: STARAFISH PROJECT

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This is email is to show our support for the Starfish Project at 135th & Brougham.

This is a fantastic non-profit organization that works so hard to provide a nice clean environment for those in need to shop. It is a wonderful atmosphere for citizens to share their extra goods. This is a location that our city should be proud to allow StarFish Project to continue to thrive.

Greg Morrison
Darcy Morrison
W 157th Terrace, Olathe

darcy
ad astra per aspera

Subject: FW: Starfish company special use permit

From: James Cahill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 05 August 2026 13:20:15
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish company special use permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jeff as a residence of the Brairwood subdivision in Olathe, I am writing for your support to turn down the special permit hearing request that has been put in front of the city council by the starfish company. Your vote is gonna be on August 18 on Tuesday at 7 PM and the city planning commission already turned down the special permit 5 to 3 on their meeting on July 27 due to the issues concerns of homeless people congregating in the parking lot panhandler and the trash are the issues are currently have with their downtown current location. We feel that this is a government to our neighborhood to have this homeless people there and they have a starfish has not committed to having any kind of 24 hours seven days a week security to keep the homeless from congregating in their parking lot when their business is closed, we feel also the police department is not going to address the loading in the parking lot because they stated that if they're not breaking the law, they can't arrest them, but we feel that the additional traffic of 40 cars plus an hour coming in and out of these the entrance of the business starfish is also gonna be a safety issue for the children walking to school in the neighborhood. I appreciate your support. Attorney is down in the special permit hearing to be held on August 18. thank you if you have any questions you can contact me based on my email address. My name is Jim Cahill.

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish Project
Attachments: Starfish aerial view.png; Old Starfish location.png

From: Jane Yearout <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 07 August 2026 15:04:43
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilman Creighton,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at the August 4 Council meeting regarding Starfish Foundation. The allotted time did not allow for several points I wished to make. I will elaborate now.

- I volunteered at the former location at Santa Fe/Hwy 7. As the front desk greeter, I checked in each visitor and asked, "How many people are you shopping for?" If one person said, "5 people," I wrote "5 people SERVED." There is a misconception that the 700-1,000 people SERVED daily means 700-1,000 people come through the door. Some visitors carpool, and some come by bus, which makes the number of cars entering the parking lot fewer.
- From my vantage point at the front desk, I monitored the parking lot. I NEVER saw loitering or panhandling. Competition for parking existed. A steady stream of customers went in/out of the liquor store next door, and even with 5 parking spaces out of 7 on the front row reserved for the liquor store customers (signs furnished by Starfish as a neighborly gesture), the liquor store, Starfish, the restaurants, and other businesses' needs made parking tough at times, especially for Starfish clients, some of whom were handicapped.
- Some comments I heard on August 4 were misleading. The gas station/convenience store on the corner had issues with loitering/panhandling/crime long before Starfish's tenancy. For this reason, although my husband and I patronize some businesses in that center, we will not patronize the gas station.
- Regarding the unhoused population, visits by the homeless were infrequent and brief. They had specific requests (tents, sleeping bags, cooking utensils, food); they got what they needed, and left.
- Some Briarwood residents expressed concerns that the homeless will camp in the parking lot of the new location. That large lot is exposed on all sides. Open parking lots on busy streets such as 135th are not conducive to camping! Starfish plans to install external security cameras to monitor the areas around the building.

- No residential property adjoins the new Starfish property. To the south, a street connecting to AutoZone provides a significant barrier between the parking lot and the backyards of several homes. Obscured by fencing/heavy vegetation, these homes have no driveways or direct access to that street ... or to Starfish.
- Starfish clients will not park near that back street. The parking lot is very large, so clients and volunteers will park near the front door, closer to 135th Street. The front door is not visible to those referenced homes. Client and volunteer cars look like those in the many parking lots surrounding the Briarwood subdivision.
- No 18-wheelers will idle at the dock or wait in the parking lot to enter the subterranean and fenced-off dock, as they did when Aldi occupied the space. The truck(s) utilizing the dock are much smaller.
- Starfish clients comprise people and families needing assistance. They are trying to make car and house payments, rents, insurance premiums, medical bills, and buy school supplies. They are simply trying to make ends meet during these hard economic times.
- Starfish provides a critical service appreciated by Olathe schools, businesses, and citizens; it is a highly respected community asset. While fear of the unknown is often understandable, in this case, it is unwarranted.
- I have attached two photos of the old parking lot and the new one on 135th Street. You can see that the old lot served several businesses and was at or near capacity. This will not be an issue at the new location.
- I urge you to approve the Special Use Permit recommended by your city planning department. Their recommendation is fair, reasonable, well thought out, and correct.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your service to our community.

Jane Yearout, 11020 South Cottage Lane, Olathe 66061

Attached: 2 photos



Mini Dental Implant
Center of Kansas City



AutoZone Auto Parts
Auto parts store



Star Fish Project

Views of Starfish are very limited.
Highly obstructed by residential fences
and heavy vegetation.



S Brougham Dr

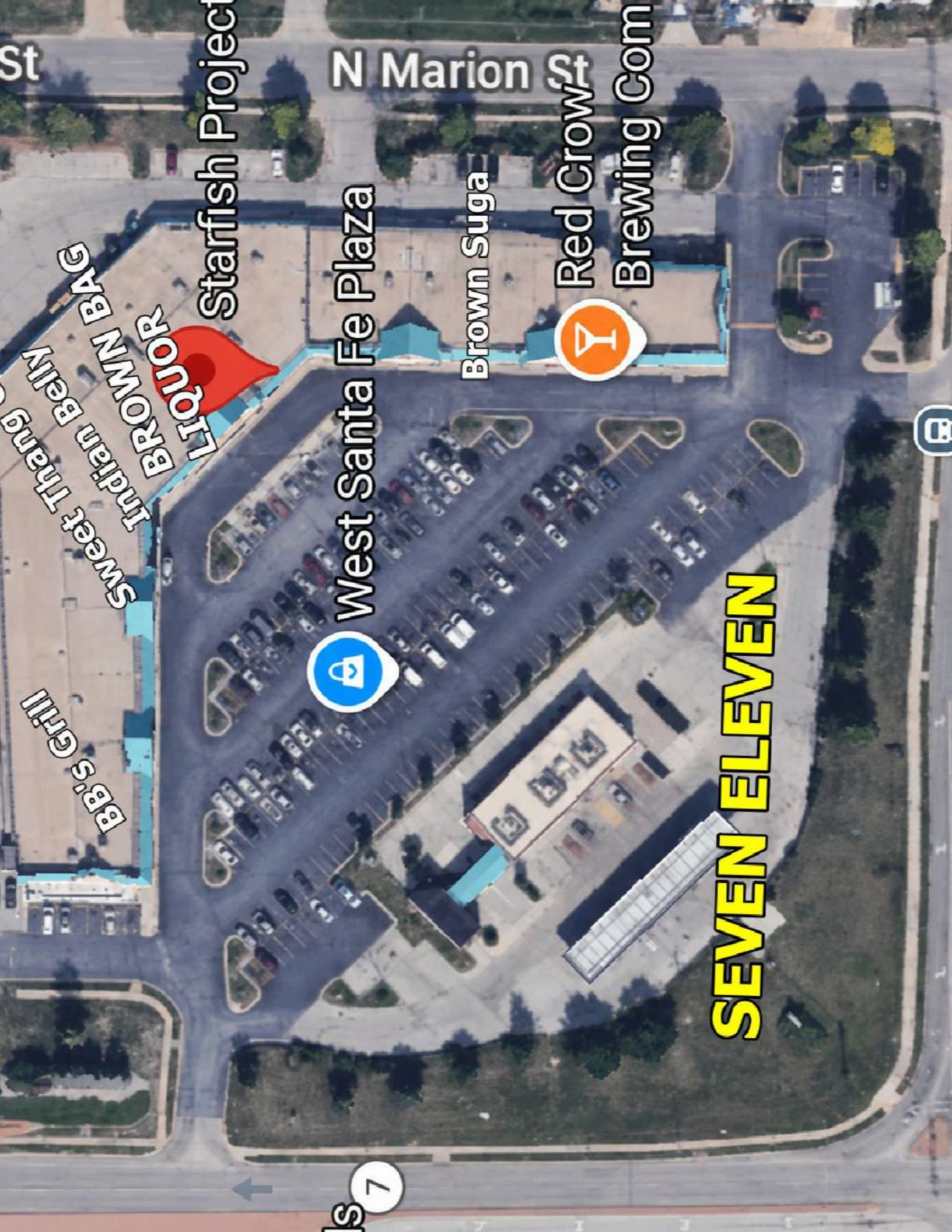
S Locust St

S Locust St

S



Layers



St

N Marion St

Sweet Thang
Indian Belly
BROWN BAG
LIQUOR

Starfish Project

West Santa Fe Plaza

Brown Suga

Red Crow
Brewing Co

BB's Grill



SEVEN ELEVEN

7

Anna Will

From: Jane Yearout <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2026 10:51 AM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: Starfish Project
Attachments: Starfish aerial view.png; Old Starfish location.png

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Regarding the upcoming City Council vote concerning the relocation of the Starfish Project, please enter my comments into the record. Thank you!

- I volunteered at the former location at Santa Fe/Hwy 7. As the front desk greeter, I checked in each visitor and asked, "How many people are you shopping for?" If one person said, "5 people," I wrote "5 people SERVED." There is a misconception that the 700-1,000 people SERVED daily means 700-1,000 people come through the door. Some visitors carpool, and some come by bus, which makes the number of cars entering the parking lot fewer.
- From my vantage point at the front desk, I monitored the parking lot. I NEVER saw loitering or panhandling. Competition for parking existed. A steady stream of customers went in/out of the liquor store next door, and even with 5 parking spaces out of 7 on the front row reserved for the liquor store customers (signs furnished by Starfish as a neighborly gesture), the liquor store, Starfish, the restaurants, and other businesses' needs made parking tough at times, especially for Starfish clients, some of whom were handicapped.
- Some comments I heard on August 4 were misleading. The gas station/convenience store on the corner had issues with loitering/panhandling/crime long before Starfish's tenancy. For this reason, although my husband and I patronize some businesses in that center, we will not patronize the gas station.
- Regarding the unhoused population, visits by the homeless were infrequent and brief. They had specific requests (tents, sleeping bags, cooking utensils, food); they got what they needed, and left.
- Some Briarwood residents expressed concerns that the homeless will camp in the parking lot of the new location. That large lot is exposed on all sides. Open parking lots on busy streets such as 135th are not conducive to camping! Starfish plans to install external security cameras to monitor the areas around the building.
- No residential property adjoins the new Starfish property. To the south, a street connecting to AutoZone provides a significant barrier between the parking lot and the backyards of several homes. Obscured by fencing/heavy vegetation, these homes have no driveways or direct access to that street ... or to Starfish.
- Starfish clients will not park near that back street. The parking lot is very large, so clients and volunteers will park near the front door, closer to 135th Street. The front door is not visible to those referenced homes. Client and volunteer cars look like those in the many parking lots surrounding the Briarwood subdivision.

- No 18-wheelers will idle at the dock or wait in the parking lot to enter the subterranean and fenced-off dock, as they did when Aldi occupied the space. The truck(s) utilizing the dock are much smaller.
- Starfish clients comprise people and families needing assistance. They are trying to make car and house payments, rents, insurance premiums, medical bills, and buy school supplies. They are simply trying to make ends meet during these hard economic times.
- Starfish provides a critical service appreciated by Olathe schools, businesses, and citizens; it is a highly respected community asset. While fear of the unknown is often understandable, in this case, it is unwarranted.
- I have attached two photos of the old parking lot and the new one on 135th Street. You can see that the old lot served several businesses and was at or near capacity. This will not be an issue at the new location.
- I urge you to approve the Special Use Permit recommended by your city planning department. Their recommendation is fair, reasonable, well thought out, and correct.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your service to our community.

Jane Yearout, 11020 South Cottage Lane, Olathe 66061

Attached: 2 photos



Mini Dental Implant
Center of Kansas City



AutoZone Auto Parts
Auto parts store



Star Fish Project

Views of Starfish are very limited.
Highly obstructed by residential fences
and heavy vegetation.



S Brougham Dr

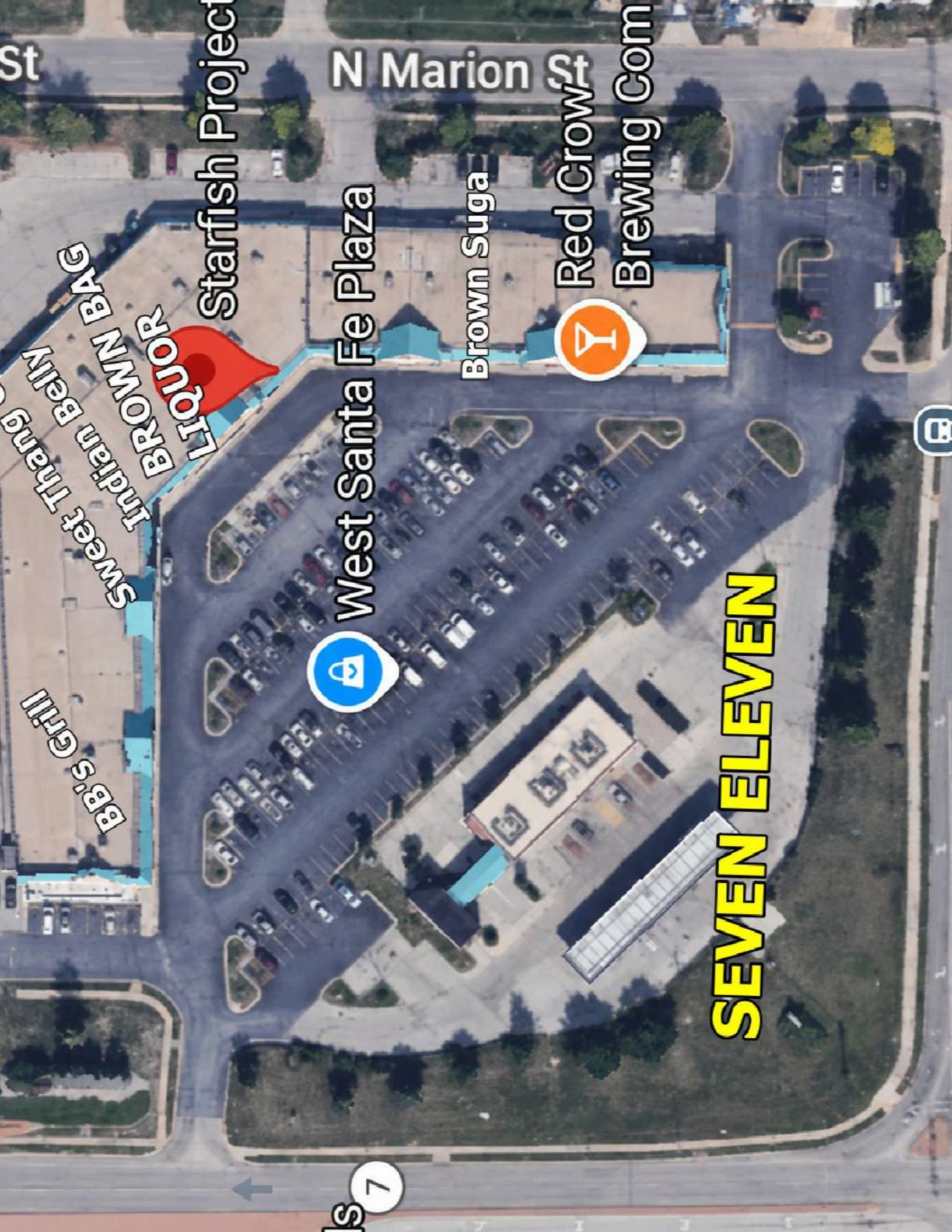
S Locust St

S Locust St

S



Layers



St

N Marion St

Sweet Thang
Indian Belly
BROWN BAG LIQUOR

Starfish Project

West Santa Fe Plaza

Brown Suga

Red Crow
Brewing Co

BB's Grill

SEVEN ELEVEN



Anna Will

Subject: FW: StarFish Project

From: Jane. Zaccardi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 05 August 2026 17:29:05
Subject: StarFish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have been an Olathe resident since 1986. I am fully in support of Starfish Project's proposed new location on 135th Street. I once lived in that neighborhood and can conceive of no negative impact on that area.

Starfish has served individuals and families facing hardships in our community for over twelve years. They serve their clients with dignity, respect, compassion and integrity. They meet a critical need for our neighbors during times of need and duress.

I respectfully ask you to support their project so this very necessary service can continue to be available to anyone who needs their help.

Thank you so much for your service to Olathe.

Jane Zaccardi
22571 WEst 112th Street
Olathe, KS 66061

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish special use permit

From: janice smeall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 9:45 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish special use permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to respectfully request that you approve the special use permit for Starfish to use the building on 135th St . This location is only a few blocks from their original Location that they had to move out of due to the new street interchange being built there. Starfish is not your typical clothes/food closet it is a wonderful organization that supplies food, clothing and many other services to people in need. These are families who come from all walks of life, some from very expensive homes who just need a helping hand on occasion to those who literally would starve without their help every week. They offer this without proof of residency or income, without judgment. Many families from all walks of life depend on them to make ends meet. Without it many families would go hungry and many would not have the services they need. There truly is no other organization like it.

Starfish is respectful of not only the people they serve but also their volunteers and the property they use. They are a respectful organization who take great pride in what they do and would be a great asset to the proposed area. They are an invaluable resource and Blessing to Olathe.

Please vote yes to allow the special use permit. Thanks for your time.

Respectfully
Janice Smeall

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: Jeanne Kasten <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 15:19:10
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Creighton,

I am writing to encourage you to support the Starfish Project's move to the old Aldi location. I have used their services in three locations and I have never seen any disruptions or problems among the clients or volunteers. The new location would be perfect for them since it has the parking area and room for the trucks.

I am almost 70 and am forced to continue to work part-time to cover my frugal living expenses. SSA and KPERS only cover my rent and electricity, nothing more. I rely on Starfish for almost all of my food and clothing needs. I am thankful that this location will still be convenient for me.

Please continue to be a good example for all those in city government who care about the people who need help. We are all doing our best, but because Olathe is so expensive (and moving is prohibitively expensive as well) we need all the support we can get. Starfish provides that support that the local government does not.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Kasten

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Request to Approve Special Use Permit for Starfish Foundation Project

From: George DeWayne and Jeanne Meadows <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 11:47 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> Dean Vakas
<[REDACTED]> Robyn Essex <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter <[REDACTED]> Kevin
Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]> Matthew Schoonover
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Request to Approve Special Use Permit for Starfish Foundation Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I am requesting you approve the Starfish Project Foundation's request for the Special Use Permit. I would like to share my personal experience with you.

My daughter is a Montessori teacher and four years ago she was teaching 3-6 year olds in a Title 1 school. One student needed a winter coat, one needed a pair of shoes and the school nurse had no clothing to have on hand for accidents. Starfish filled these needs. My daughter said the nurse shed tears when she received a bag of clothing. Starfish continued to provide clothing, books, snacks, and art supplies when requested.

After seeing Starfish in action, I began volunteering and have witnessed the caring and dignity Starfish shows to the people who ask for help. I personally know people who come to Starfish for food and/or clothing, they have homes but still need more assistance.

I also bring my 10 year old granddaughter with me to Starfish to volunteer. She has enjoyed the many tasks she is asked to do at Starfish and looks forward to the next time she can volunteer.

I have read all the emails from the Planning Commission meeting on July 27, and although unable to attend the session, I watched the video later. I understand the fear the Briarwood residents have as they deal with the homeless in their neighborhood and their traffic concerns. I can't say that the homeless will disappear or there won't be any traffic if Starfish receives their permit, but from my perspective as a volunteer with Starfish I feel Starfish would be a definite addition to the area and I look forward to volunteering in the new building.

Thank you for reading my email and thank you for your service to the city of Olathe.

Respectfully,

Jeanne Meadows
11619 S. Deer Run Street
Olathe, KS 66061

Anna Will

From: Jennifer Billam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 10:52 AM
To: Planning Contact; City Clerk's Office; John Bacon; Dean Vakas; Robyn Essex; LeEtta Felter; Kevin Deneault; Jeff Creighton; Matthew Schoonover
Subject: Starfish Project Move

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

I am writing again to voice my concern and objection regarding the proposed relocation of the Starfish Project, a site located directly within our Briarwood neighborhood. I kindly request that the City Council deny the special use permit for this location.

While I fully support charitable organizations and food banks, this specific location is not suitable for such operations. A residential neighborhood that houses an elementary school is not the appropriate setting for this type of facility. The organization's recent public requests on social media for aid with panhandling and littering underscore the clear safety risks and challenges that relocating this facility would bring into our neighborhood setting.

They have given numbers of 40 cars per hour, but in their meeting with our neighborhood they said that number is from the temporary location and they expect the new location to grow. That amount of traffic coming into and through our neighborhood will increase accidents and safety.

Our primary priority is the safety of the many neighborhood children who walk to and from the nearby elementary school daily. Additionally, we are concerned about the long-term impact this decision could have on our neighborhood's overall safety and property values.

We are being painted as the bad guys, when we are simply asking for the city to maintain the zoning that is in place. We are not the people that chose the location that is not zoned for their business, they should have done their research.

I strongly urge the city to direct the organization toward an appropriately zoned, more urban commercial area better equipped to handle their operational needs.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to our community's safety.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Billam

Anna Will

Subject: FW: support for Starfish

From: Jennifer Boudreaux <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 09:51:23
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: support for Starfish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Creighton,

I am a long-time Olathe resident and am writing to express my support for the Starfish Foundation in its attempt to permanently move to a new location at 135th and Brougham Drive.

I'm sure you are each aware of the stellar reputation of Starfish and the challenges it has had to find a permanent home. They are doing the work that many of us cannot or are unable to do to support our fellow citizens in their times of need.

There is also ample evidence that their move will not dramatically change the character of the surrounding area. I live near their prior temporary location, and never saw any of the issues that some people have raised - and if those issues do exist, I trust the Starfish leadership to address each situation appropriately with the proper authorities as needed.

I understand the recent denial of the special use permit may be due to how the criteria for such a permit us (or is not) defined. As a layperson, it can be challenging to understand the nuances of city planning, codes and the other work that goes into developing Olathe into the community we love and support. So I am asking for each of you to help.

My ask for you is to look at what we want for our future in our community and how we can get there - not just marketing slogans or pretty speeches, but actual solutions. Of course listen to those who will live nearby and their concerns, and then look for and please strongly encourage your staff to build the types of support we want for our citizens to help them and organizations find a way to co-exist. In our country we rely so heavily on organizations like Starfish to close the gaps in our social support network - we can debate forever on whether that is the best approach, but for now let's use these organizations that stand up and do the hard work, and help them and us find a way to fit them into our community. If that means a special permit, great - if not, how can you help them find this permanent home? What is their path forward? Please do not just kick this to the curb and leave them to fend for themselves - please help Olathe be the supportive and inclusive community we want it to be, and let our local government be part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

Thank you for your service to our city, its citizens, and organizations like Starfish that offer a lifeline to those in need.

Jenny Boudreaux
[REDACTED]

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Opposition to SU26-0006

From: Jill Reitz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 27 July 2026 09:39:50
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Opposition to SU26-0006

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jeff,

I woke up this morning feeling restless and decided to offer one final plea, opposing the SU26-0006 permit in question.

I opted (against my better judgment) to read the *Olathe Connect* and *Johnson County Post* this morning. Both articles painted Briarwood residents as entitled, obstructionist neighbors. Fine. Those writing the stories don't live here. The voices and praises are not of those that live here either. And, for what it's worth, they did not write a whole story.

What concerns me most isn't how we're being portrayed—it's that there appears to be no opposing perspective. How is that possible? We are being silenced and our humanity is in question. Our posts and comments, expressing our viewpoint, have not been published. Leaving only one side of the story being heard. To me, that's yet another example of the Starfish Foundation and its supporters failing to listen, refusing to engage in open dialogue, and falling short of becoming the good-faith neighbor our community deserves.

Nobody wants to feel taken advantage of, and nobody wants to feel manipulated. That's how I feel.

Briarwood has legitimate concerns. We have said from the beginning that our issue is not with the Starfish Foundation or its mission. Our concern is the hastily selected location—a property purchased for the foundation by a friend and sponsor. Our problem is now with Joni and her lack of propriety.

To recap our concerns:

- No meaningful recourse if problems arise - and they will!
- No clear process for being heard - they are not listening now!
- No one to address neighborhood concerns or treat us in good faith.
- Joni's own statement: "traffic was a problem" and that they were "growing too fast."
- Mr. Field's statement: "I will protect our property; you will have to protect yours."
- The lack of transparency regarding the property's ownership and leasing arrangement - Joni intentionally held that information back and then was caught in her own lie in our "neighborhood meeting."
- Purchasing a property that, from the outset, did not meet the organization's needs – but they did it anyway!
- Limiting open dialogue - silencing the voices of the neighbors most directly affected.

If the Starfish Foundation wants to become part of our community. One would think, a good place to begin is treating that community with transparency, honesty, and respect. Right now, many of us feel those principles have been missing from this process.

Yet another example of the Starfish Foundation acting in bad faith towards our community... the community they want to move into! Would you want them to move into your neighborhood? Honest question... would you want this in your backyard?

This is my final plea, requesting that you deny this Special Use Permit – SU26-0006 – and vote NO tonight.

Your concerned neighbor and constituent,

Jill Reitz

On Thu, Jul 16, 2026 at 10:47 AM Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Ms. Reitz,

Thank you for taking time to share your concerns about the proposed Starfish project. Your information will be provided by the Planning Department to the Planning Commission prior to their public hearing, with their recommendation being forwarded to the council for our consideration at a future date.

I appreciate your involvement in the process.

Jeff

Jeff Creighton
Olathe City Council
At-Large

[REDACTED]

From: Jill Reitz <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2026 10:14:22

To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Opposition to SU26-0006

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Creighton,

I am reaching out as a proud member of the Olathe community, a supporter of your campaign, and a concerned resident.

Last Monday evening, I attended the community meeting hosted by Starfish Project Foundation regarding its proposed relocation to 135th Street and Brougham. The meeting was presented as an opportunity for residents to receive information, ask questions, and provide feedback about the proposed Special Use Permit.

Re:

Neighborhood Meeting for Starfish Project Foundation - SU26-0006
16175 W 135th Street, Olathe, KS 66062

I attended with an open mind and genuinely hoped to leave reassured by Starfish Project President Joni Moreland and her team that this relocation would be a mutually beneficial addition for both the foundation and our community, including the residents of Briarwood. Unfortunately, I left more concerned than when I arrived.

I was surprised by the apparent lack of preparation from the project team. It seemed as though they had not anticipated that residents would have legitimate questions about how this proposal would affect our neighborhood. While they effectively introduced their organization, explained their mission, and described how they intend to operate from the new location, those points were never the issue.

No one in attendance questioned the value of the Starfish Project or its mission. In fact, many residents expressed admiration for the organization's work, and several shared that they have personally supported or donated to the foundation. There is no opposition to the cause itself.

Our concern is solely the proposed location.

This property sits at the entrance to our neighborhood, and we are deeply concerned that approving Special Use Permit SU26-0006 could negatively affect the safety, character, and long-term value of our homes. That concern—and that concern alone—is why many of us oppose this application and respectfully ask that you vote **no** on Special Use Permit SU26-0006.

My name is Jill Reitz and I reside at 13543 S. Sycamore Street in Olathe, KS. Our property is adjacent to a large green space and East Briarwood Park. I object to SU26-0006 for several reasons. My objections include the following:

- Within the last 30 days, I personally contacted the Olathe Police Department regarding a transient individual sleeping overnight in the nearby field.
- Our area already experiences issues related to transient activity, particularly along Indian Creek and the surrounding trails and green spaces. Providing additional daily services in this location may unintentionally encourage continued activity rather than relocation.
- As a nonprofit organization, Starfish Project will not generate property tax revenue and will provide limited economic benefit to the immediate area through taxable business activity or employment.
- Starfish Project was previously required to leave its former leased location after neighboring businesses petitioned the property owner. In this case, the property owner is Mitzi Ryburn, a longtime friend and supporter of Joni Moreland, leaving nearby residents with little confidence that concerns raised in the future would receive meaningful consideration.
- During the meeting, Vice President LaVern Fields assured attendees that Starfish would protect its own property, while making it clear that residents would be responsible for addressing any issues affecting theirs.

Although the project team listened respectfully as residents spoke, they failed to provide meaningful answers to the concerns that were raised. Questions regarding traffic, loitering, litter, neighborhood safety, and transient activity were repeatedly met with explanations about how Starfish would manage its own property rather than how it would address impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.

The only direct answer offered came from Vice President LaVern Fields, a retired member of the Olathe Police Department, who stated, "It's your responsibility to reach out to OPD with problems or concerns."

That response was deeply disappointing. Residents came seeking assurance that the organization had thoughtfully considered the potential impacts of its relocation. Instead, we were left with the impression that any resulting problems would simply become the neighborhood's responsibility to manage.

I also have concerns regarding the transparency of the project team throughout this process. Residents received inaccurate information regarding meeting dates and times, creating unnecessary confusion. Additionally, questions surrounding the ownership and leasing of the proposed property were handled in a manner that raised concerns about credibility.

During the meeting, Ms. Moreland was asked directly whether Starfish owned or leased the property after earlier communications appeared inconsistent. She initially stated that she was unsure of the property owner's name. When pressed further, she did not provide a clear answer and instead appeared to avoid the question. Regardless of the intent, this exchange undermined my confidence in the transparency of the process and the trustworthiness of the information being presented.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you oppose Special Use Permit SU26-0006. I believe the Planning Commission reached the correct conclusion when it recommended maintaining the property's current zoning. The need for a loading dock is not sufficient justification to alter the character of an established residential neighborhood or place additional burdens on the families who live there.

There are other commercially appropriate locations that could accommodate the Starfish Project Foundation while allowing it to continue its important mission without creating unnecessary impacts on an adjacent residential community.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your service to our community. I respectfully ask that you vote **no** on Special Use Permit SU26-0006.

Thank you for your time and dedication to our wonderful city.
Your concerned resident and constituent,
Jill Reitz

Anna Will

From: Eric Strimple
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2026 2:04 PM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Support for the Starfish Project Foundation

From: Karen Gleason <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2026 12:36 PM
To: John Bacon <[REDACTED]> City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> Dean Vakas
<[REDACTED]> Robyn Essex <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter <[REDACTED]> Kevin
Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]> Matthew Schoonover
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support for the Starfish Project Foundation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As someone who has lived in Olathe for 30 years, and a Starfish Project Foundation volunteer, I ask you to vote to approve the request for a special use permit. The location previously has had two different retail stores, and the Starfish Project work will simply mimic retail. Cars will come and go but that area is used to that. The hours are NOT in the evening and are limited on weekends. As someone who has volunteered there, I can clearly state that homeless people are not sitting outside the building nor wandering around. The majority of the clients are WORKING poor who come in to shop, dressed for WORK, and shop on their way to or from their jobs. They are hard working people who need some assistance and the Starfish project can provide that. The people are always polite and so grateful. Additionally, as someone who cares about our environment, this foundation DRASTICALLY reduces what is sent to our ever-growing trash dumps. Additionally, it reduces food waste and helps people who don't make enough money to feed their entire family all of the time. Besides volunteering my time there, I also donate items instead of throwing them away. This organization is well-run and provides a much needed service. If the potential neighbors who are complaining actually volunteered at the Starfish project, they would be surprised by what they see, and would hopefully have some sympathy for others.

Please vote in support of the special use permit.

Sincerely,
Karen Gleason

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: In Support of Starfish-Briarwood Resident

-----Original Message-----

From: Kari Jackson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2026 11:26 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> Dean Vakas
<[REDACTED]> Robyn Essex <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter
<[REDACTED]> Kevin Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton
<[REDACTED]> Matthew Schoonover <[REDACTED]>
Subject: In Support of Starfish-Briarwood Resident

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I appreciate this informative outline of Elevate Olathe and have added my own clarifications regarding the Starfish SUP. As a resident in Briarwood, I've been sorely disappointed and embarrassed by the public performance of those fighting Starfish and their Special Use Permit. It is my understanding that no matter where Starfish calls "home" they will be required to file a special use permit based on the unique service they provide. The implied attitude that the SUP, in itself, illustrates that this location is NOT for them is invalid, misleading and should be publicly negated. All of this to say, I commend you and your efforts to do what's best for Olathe and I also do not envy you in this position. I know Briarwood residents have fought every single business considered for this commercial parcel and I believe this will never end. In some way, those in opposition feel entitled to that parcel and find combative reasons to stop development every time.

Here are my thoughts as I consider this SUP permit filed by Starfish, to be approved on Aug 18th. Thank you for your consideration:

Information from LeEtta Felter (thank you!)

“ Elevate Olathe: Building a Strong and Diverse Commercial Base

A thriving city needs more than great neighborhoods. It also needs places to shop, dine, work, and gather.

That's why Elevate Olathe, our comprehensive land use plan, includes a vision for strengthening our commercial base while ensuring development is intentional and connected to the neighborhoods it serves.”

Some of the key ideas include:

 Expanding neighborhood-serving businesses like restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, and everyday services closer to where people live. *** It's already been clearly identified that this area of Olathe includes citizens in various situations of economic struggle. What a perfect, central location for a core community resource on a major corridor of our city. Access to support for families, seniors and anyone struggling is obviously a core component to the Elevate Olathe plan.

 Supporting small businesses and locally owned retailers that give Olathe its unique character.

*** Starfish has built something substantial in our Olathe community and as a key resource our city and police department utilize and depend on, their homegrown and intentional service for our citizens should be held in the same high-regard.

 Planning commercial corridors to include a thoughtful mix of housing, retail, offices, restaurants, and services as the area develops over time, rather than allowing growth to occur in a piecemeal fashion. *** The parcel at 135th and Brougham is already zoned commercial and has been utilized for thoughtful services all along. To allow Starfish to operate their intentional and high-demand services within this existing commercial corridor makes perfect sense. When it comes to supporting ALL of Olathe there isn't a valid reason to exclude them as a piece to this community-centric focus.

 Designing commercial areas with landscaping, attractive architecture, internal parking, sidewalks, and pedestrian connections that create welcoming places, not just shopping centers.

*** This particular parcel has struggled to fulfill a long-term goal for this commercial corridor as the surrounding businesses have saturated our market for many potential businesses coming in. The property lends itself to a community-feel with berms, extensive landscaping and a significant set-back. The city planners suggest expanding on these architectural features to further improve the aesthetics and transition to the neighboring neighborhood. I know Starfish is open to beautifying the property and has already done extensive landscaping and clean up to which the neighbors have even commented "That place looks better than it has in years!!" Parking is abundant and far exceeds the documented traffic patterns for the existing Starfish daily use. The parking lot sits on the northernmost area of the parcel and is actually laid out with best-use of land in mind.

 Continuing to build on destination assets like the Garmin Olathe Soccer Complex, which attracts visitors from across the country and supports local hotels, restaurants, and businesses.

One thing I appreciate about this section of Elevate Olathe is that it recognizes commercial development isn't just about generating tax revenue. Done well, it improves quality of life by giving residents more choices close to home, creating jobs, supporting small businesses, and reducing the need to leave Olathe for everyday needs.

*** Along with the obvious better quality of life Starfish dedicates itself to providing, by inviting them to serve Olathe in this location this supports the Elevate Olathe plan by including more choices and opportunity in this main area of our city. Resources for community members needing support should be dispersed to offer equal access to all residents.

As our city continues to grow, the goal isn't simply more commercial development. It's better commercial development that fits our community, supports our neighborhoods, and creates places people enjoy visiting.

The vision behind Elevate Olathe outlines the abundant reasons to support the approval of Starfish. As a Briarwood resident I would be remiss to not share that the group of 15-20 neighbors in opposition have been challenging to converse with and have been unable to listen to facts, base concerns on true reality or look beyond their fabricated fears. Some have even gone so far as to claim the "perception of Starfish" will bring down our property values. I've been unable to relay the message that the true "perception of Starfish" lies in the eye of the beholder and it is common knowledge that Starfish has a very vast reach, extensive local-financial support, and are a vital component to the City of Olathe.

It is imperative that our community sees that our Olathe leaders will make decisions based on what is best for our city as a whole. Loud, narrow-minded and abrasive residents do not reflect the citizens of Olathe. Thank you for all that you do for our community.

From industrial growth, economic development and the continued prosperity of Olathe is a huge responsibility and I commend you all for making hard decisions and committing to making the best Olathe for all of us.

Sincerely,
Kari Jackson
16374 W 138th Terrace

Top of Mind KC Business Consultant

<<https://signaturehound.com/api/v1/png/email/default/02264b.png>>

 <mailto:>

<<https://signaturehound.com/api/v1/png/website/default/02264b.png>>

topofmindkc.com <<https://www.topofmindkc.com/>> <<https://www.topofmindkc.com/>>

<<https://www.facebook.com/topofmind.kc>>

<<https://www.linkedin.com/company/top-of-mind-kc>>

The content of this email is confidential and intended for the recipient specified in message only. It is strictly forbidden to share any part of this message with any third party, without a written consent of the sender. If you received this message by mistake, please reply to this message and follow with its deletion, so that we can ensure such a mistake does not occur in the future.

Anna Will

From: Eric Strimple
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 9:26 AM
To: Planning Contact; Jeff Creighton; Matthew Schoonover; LeEtta Felter; John Bacon; Dean Vakas; Robyn Essex; Kevin Deneault
Subject: FW: Starfish

From: Karla Hoscouer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 9:24 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,
I'm writing in support of the Starfish Foundation. They provide a much needed service to all Olatheans. I have been to their past location. There was no sign of homeless people or anyone else loitering around there. Just people going in & getting what they need & leaving. This is obviously a place we need for families in this day & age. Please vote yes on August 18th. Thank you, Karla Hoschouer

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Anna Will

From: Eric Strimple
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2026 2:04 PM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Support for the Starfish Project Foundation

From: Karen Gleason <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2026 12:36 PM
To: John Bacon <[REDACTED]> City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> Dean Vakas
<[REDACTED]> Robyn Essex <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter <[REDACTED]> Kevin
Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]> Matthew Schoonover
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support for the Starfish Project Foundation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As someone who has lived in Olathe for 30 years, and a Starfish Project Foundation volunteer, I ask you to vote to approve the request for a special use permit. The location previously has had two different retail stores, and the Starfish Project work will simply mimic retail. Cars will come and go but that area is used to that. The hours are NOT in the evening and are limited on weekends. As someone who has volunteered there, I can clearly state that homeless people are not sitting outside the building nor wandering around. The majority of the clients are WORKING poor who come in to shop, dressed for WORK, and shop on their way to or from their jobs. They are hard working people who need some assistance and the Starfish project can provide that. The people are always polite and so grateful. Additionally, as someone who cares about our environment, this foundation DRASTICALLY reduces what is sent to our ever-growing trash dumps. Additionally, it reduces food waste and helps people who don't make enough money to feed their entire family all of the time. Besides volunteering my time there, I also donate items instead of throwing them away. This organization is well-run and provides a much needed service. If the potential neighbors who are complaining actually volunteered at the Starfish project, they would be surprised by what they see, and would hopefully have some sympathy for others.

Please vote in support of the special use permit.

Sincerely,
Karen Gleason

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: WWJD

-----Original Message-----

From: Katie Dixon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 8:45 AM
To: Planning Contact <[REDACTED]>
Subject: WWJD

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jesus would not vote against the Starfish Project. He's ashamed of your vote and so am I.

Olathe has one wheel on the road and one wheel in the rut.

May you remember your inability to help others. May it stay with you for the rest of your life and compel you to choose differently. No one escapes karma. Especially those who use their position of power to put out their neighbors in need.

And may the city council over turn your poor decisions.

Namaste all the way.

Katie Dixon
(Former Olathe resident who is proud that you do not represent my interests.)

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Support for Starfish Project

From: kelly gaddis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, 01 August 2026 17:31:35
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support for Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

> I am a resident of the Briarwood subdivision. I am in support of Starfish moving into the old Aldis/Quilters HQ building. Our street, 135th Street, is a busy street, so it is not as if we do not get traffic there. The building is highly visible from 135th Street, which will help deter any issues, because passerby cars and people can see the parking lot and building. When Aldi's was here, we had traffic coming and leaving from that building and parking lot. By the 139th entrance to the neighborhood, we have a 7-Eleven gas station, which is frequented and draws in many people who don't live here. Those types of gas stations draw in armed robbers looking for money and items. That is why adult men usually work in those stations. I do not think Starfish would be a problem at all.

Thank you.

>

> Kelly Gaddis

Sent from my iPhone

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: Kenneth Kirk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 10:55 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Members of the Olathe City Council

Subject: Decision on permit for Starfish Project located at Sante Fe & Brougham (Briarwood Addition)

Dear Council Member,

Thanks for your dedicated work on the council for the benefit of Olathe. Fourteen years ago, my wife and I moved from the country hills of Northwest Missouri to Olathe. For years we have believed that this city was one of the best, and happily chose to purchase our home on West Forest Ave. on the west side. After five years we decided to sell and move to the east side of the city to be near MNU and our church. We now live about a mile from the proposed Starfish building.

Our daughter worked for over 20 years for United Cerebral Palsy in St. Joseph as supervisor of education for the developmentally disabled. She has a heart for those who are less fortunate than she is. Four years ago, she suffered a debilitating stroke but still looks for every outlet to help others! Starfish Project has been one of the recipients of her donations which has been considerable. She desperately hopes that Starfish will be allowed to continue their ministry to the less fortunate at the proposed location!

Our understanding is that there has been opposition by the neighborhood to allow this building to be used by Starfish. This is so disappointing to us. There are many in Olathe who benefit from the work of the volunteers at Starfish. There are some in our part of the city. It seems clear that some of the elite desire to ignore the needs of their neighbors. I know there are many struggling families who benefit from the donations from Starfish. There is obviously, I believe, a very small percentage of those who need Starfish that are homeless. We must not forget that all the people in Olathe are not as fortunate or as well-off as the rest of us. We have a moral obligation to care for others in the city!

I want to continue to be proud of Olathe and our surrounding community. The purpose of this letter is to urge the council to give this worthy project permission to serve the needy all around us! As council members, please do not ignore a significant number of people who live in our city and would greatly benefit from Starfish.

I realize you face difficult decisions often, but this is a project that will not provide any money for the city, perhaps, but would benefit a lot of people who struggle from paycheck to paycheck.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ken and Marilyn Kirk

Anna Will

From: Eric Strimple
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 3:02 PM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish Project Special Use Permit Support

From: Keri Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 2:40 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> Dean Vakas
<[REDACTED]> Robyn Essex <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter <[REDACTED]> Kevin
Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]> Matthew Schoonover
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project Special Use Permit Support

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, City Council,

Thank you for taking the time to read my last email regarding the support of Starfish Project. I appreciate that many of you wrote back despite how busy you must be. With the upcoming discussion on August 18th, I wanted to send another email after attending the Planning Commission meeting. During that session, I made note of a few items that I thought seemed of importance.

When voting on the SUP:

- One member stated she would vote to approve the SUP if the city would take care of the existing issues on the trail behind the parcel. No motion to table the vote or discuss with the city was made. Starfish has no control of existing issues involving security, loitering, or tents, especially on city of Olathe property.
- One member stated he wanted non-public Olathe PD data because he was on the fence about his vote. City staff advised this data isn't typically public but would be happy to look into obtaining it. No motion to table the vote or discuss with OPD was made.
- One member stated that traffic was an issue and voted to deny, but used the number of people served, NOT the number of cars actually visiting the parcel, which are significantly different (the number served is approximately three times higher than the number of cars visiting each day). City staff went over this information during their presentation.
- One member suggested reducing the SUP to one year for review rather than two, however no motion was made.
- Some members of the planning commission reside in or near Briarwood, which seems like it *could be a potential conflict of interest*, when thinking about the fact that there are only 9 members total that represent the entirety of our city.

While listening to public comment and reading through the packet:

- Some residents that oppose the SUP approval cited that there are existing homeless/tent issues on the trail, which is owned by the city of Olathe. Other residents claim this may not be entirely accurate. I'm unsure which is true, but this is entirely unrelated to Starfish moving to the parcel.
- A number of Briarwood residents wrote in support of the SUP. Please do not let the opponents outweigh those that welcome the SUP approval.
- Many speakers confirmed their first hand experience of the nonprofit being safe, family friendly, welcoming, good neighbors, and not witness to loitering, crime, or dangerous activity.
 - My husband, who has also volunteered alongside me at Starfish for a decade, has spent over twenty years serving the Johnson County community as a Master Deputy on patrol, as well as a Community Policing Officer; is CIT certified and a Squad Leader on the Public Order Response Team; and has never witnessed unsafe or dangerous conditions at Starfish.
- Despite city staff recommending approval, it felt like fears of what could happen from a handful of neighbors were being considered more greatly than the city staff's recommendation or the past proven history of how things have been successfully and safely run at Starfish.

Over the years, I have found it interesting that each time this parcel is available, there have been issues with some neighbors who fight what may be established there. While I understand the exit to Auto Zone and this parcel do go to Brougham, the parcel is not the "face" of the neighborhood. It has never represented all of Briarwood. If it was a clubhouse or part of Briarwood, it would make sense that the neighbors get to drive decision making. However, I firmly believe it should be the planning commission and city council doing what's appropriate, and also listening to the recommendations of city staff.

We live just over 2.5 miles away from the proposed location. I have lived in Olathe for 15 years and my husband almost his entire life. We have first hand experience showing us that Starfish Project is safe, successful, and will be an absolute asset to the area. Starfish has proven time and time again that they care about the community, about being good neighbors, about the safety of volunteers and clients both, and about how to optimally run their nonprofit and all activities associated with it. I read a comment today from an opposing Briarwood resident that said this shouldn't fall on Briarwood; and I agree-it should not be up to Briarwood residents to decide the fate of this SUP request. It should be left up to those that represent our entire city and community here in Olathe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Keri L. Johnson
W. 151st Terrace, Olathe, KS, 66062

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish Project - Vote No for Briarwood Special Use Permit

From: Pramann, Kyle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 12:06:22
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project - Vote No for Briarwood Special Use Permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mr. Creighton,

I live with my wife and four young children in the Briarwood neighborhood at 135th and Murlen. Last night, the Olathe Planning Commission voted 5-3 against providing Starfish Project with a special use permit to move into the vacant Quilters HQ building at the entrance to our neighborhood.

We specifically selected Briarwood as a safe place to raise our kids in Olathe. While I am sure that Starfish Project is a needed organization, it does not make sense to attract its clientele to our family neighborhood. **Please protect Briarwood as a great place to raise our family by voting “no” against the special use permit for Starfish Project.** Do not chase families like mine out of Briarwood and potentially out of Olathe.

Thanks,

Kyle Pramann
Tax Director



Murphy-Hoffman Company

[REDACTED] | direct
[MHC website](#) | [vCard](#) | [blog](#)



This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and solely for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed and intended. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not read, copy, retain, print, disclose, or distribute this message or its contents to any other individual, for such actions may be unlawful.

WARNING: We take certain precautions to prevent viruses, but we are not responsible for loss or damage arising from the use of this e-mail or attachments.

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Project StarFish Concerns

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry & Carmen Griggs <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 12:23 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Project StarFish Concerns

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, me, and my wife have lived in Briarwood at 13703 S. Edinburgh since 1986, we have seen many new homeowners move in since that time, and also many homeowners who have lived here equally as long as us, there are a total of 487 homes in the edition and I see many children walking by our home daily.

We are both completely against a non-profit organization such as Starfish Project operating in the proposed location where Aldi's and the previous Quilting company resided.

We along with many neighbors feel this will have a huge negative impact to the future resale value of our homes, this is of no concern to Starfish project, they only want to continue offering a free support offering that is completing funded by donors, and potentially government grants.

It's our understanding that the location has a CP-1 zoning for retail business, not zoning for a resource for homeless people to acquire free meals and clothing, etc. this is obvious since the request for a special use permit is needed.

We attended the meeting last held on the 27th of this month, I was out of town when the initial meeting took place on the 6th, but I reviewed many of the correspondence letters and share the same concerns that many residents in our community have.

Most importantly:

* Traffic concerns:

* Since it is the only main entrance to access our home from 135th when traveling to and from i35 and many local businesses, many have already noted the fact remains there are already traffic issues at the traffic light at 135th and Brougham and adding additional 700 to 1000 visitors daily is not desirable to the Briarwood residents.

* Negative Curb Appeal, 135th st Brougham Intersection:

* The City just finished completing the beautiful new side walk east of the intersection, this intersection experiences literally thousands of cars daily east and west, once the i35 bridge project is completed there will likely be even more than now, this will discourage potential first time home buyers looking for a prominent/safe home for their family and children.

* Trash and Panhandling Concerns:

* These are not issues that currently characterize the Briarwood neighborhood. They are concerns that Starfish itself has publicly identified as requiring attention. Residents are understandably concerned that relocating the organization could introduce challenges that do not currently exist in this area.

* Proposed location negative outcomes:

* I feel like Starfish is doing an admirable job that is needed, it is just not a proper fit for the proposed location to operate without creating negative outcomes to our local residential community.

* Crime and Loitering Concerns:

* Research has shown that there were numerous complaints from previous locations, while the owner of Starfish believes the complaints are not justified, I feel there is a motivation to research this concern further.

* The owner is providing a needed service and many of the volunteers support them:

* However, the reality is the vast majority do not live in our housing area and the people who need the free services obviously do not live in our housing area either, I realize people's lives have been effected by many world events and changes financially, but an operation such as Starfish should be able to locate a more suitable location not right next to a prominent residential housing area.

* Protecting Our Neighborhood Preserving the safety:

* Security, and character of the Briarwood neighborhood is essential. This location serves as the entrance to a residential community, and many families have chosen to make this their home because of the quality and character of the area. It is important to emphasize that many of us who oppose this Special Use Permit are not opposed to Starfish or its mission. Our concern is that this particular location is not appropriate for an operation of this size and volume.

Would you want these same concerns about, traffic congestion, sanitation issues, and the potential for additional public safety challenges, immediately adjacent to your own neighborhood?

Please respect the residents and families who call Briarwood home and vote no on the Special Use Permit for the proposed Starfish location at 135th and Brougham.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anna Will

From: Larry Newkirk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 12:10 PM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Members of the Olathe City Council,

I am writing as a grandparent, church member, volunteer, and a forty-year resident of Olathe to respectfully ask that you carefully consider the Starfish Project's proposed relocation. What stands out to me is its commitment to serving people with compassion and dignity. I believe organizations that bring neighbors together, support families, and encourage volunteerism contribute positively to the character of Olathe.

From my perspective as a grandparent, church member, volunteer, and a forty-year resident of Olathe, compassion matters. I hope you will weigh the organization's history of service, its volunteers, and the many residents who value its work. I respectfully ask that you support a path that allows Starfish to continue serving our community.

Thank you for your time, your thoughtful consideration, and your service to Olathe.

Sincerely,

Larry Newkirk

610 E Layton Dr, Olathe KS 66061

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: Eric Strimple
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2026 12:04 PM
To: Planning Contact; Jeff Creighton; Matthew Schoonover; LeEtta Felter; John Bacon; Dean Vakas; Robyn Essex; Kevin Deneault
Subject: FW: Starfish Foundation

-----Original Message-----

From: Laurie And Dennis Henricks <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2026 12:01 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Foundation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As an olathe resident, I hope the city council will support this organization and allow them to continue serving our community and neighbors. We are fortunate to not currently need assistance but we never know when we will. It's nice to know they will be there in a time of need. We also know that those needing help are not bad people but just need some help and starfish doesn't discriminate

Please allow them to continue or find them a place they can operate.

Thanks,
Laurie and Dennis Henricks

Sent from my iPhone

Anna Will

From: LeAnn Kruckenberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 2:46 PM
To: Planning Contact; City Clerk's Office; Robyn Essex
Subject: Letter of suport for Starfish Project
Attachments: Starfish Project.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find attached a letter of support for the Starfish Project.

"Work for a cause, not for applause. Live life to express, not to impress. Don't strive to make your presence noticed, just make your absence felt." - Unknown

August 4, 2026

Dear Mayor and Members of the Olathe City Council,

I am writing as a volunteer to respectfully ask that you carefully consider the Starfish Project's proposed relocation. As a recently retired new member of the Olathe community, I have done an exhaustive search to find a place where I felt I could volunteer to make a difference in my new community. I have had many of my neighbors recommend the Starfish Project as a wonderful place to volunteer. What stood out to me was its commitment to serving all people with compassion and dignity. I believe organizations that bring neighbors together, support families and encourage volunteerism contribute positively to the character of Olathe. The Starfish Project is an amazing resource that is not available in any other city in the state.

From my perspective as a volunteer, hope matters. Our economy continues to challenge people of all income levels. Many families are having difficulty making ends meet. I hope you will weigh the organization's history of services, its volunteers, and the many residents who value its work. I respectfully ask that you support a path that allows the Starfish Project to continue serving our community.

Thank you for your time, your thoughtful consideration, and your service to Olathe.

Sincerely,

LeAnn Kruckenberg
11284 S. Aminda St.
Olathe, KS 66061


Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish project support

From: Alforque, Leilani <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2026 9:40 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Starfish project support

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

As a citizen of Olathe, I do hope you consider the good this establishment has done for our city. The morale it brings to the citizens who are less fortunate and need the help. As a citizen myself and with kids who went to Tomahawk elementary I may not live in that neighborhood, but I know this business has no control over the homeless any more than any other business that would potentially go there. If the neighbors are concerned they need to be encouraged to call non-emergency hotline to report the things they are unhappy about.

This business brings good light to our community and shines in support as well as highlights the good we have in Olathe and the helping kind of compassion we need to utilize when visitors come. We have a beautiful community. This business may not make profits, but they give back the dignity and respect for those who need help, that is something you can't put an amount of money on.

I do hope you and the board will let this be their forever home. We need them as much as they need us to support them. I have brought many elders from my facility there to get clothes and some items to decorate their rooms. As a single mom I used this charity to help with clothes and furniture when I went thru a divorce. As a stable citizen I give back to the place that opened their arms and doors to me when I was in need and to the many who I brought there who are in need. I have never seen homeless loitering around. I have not seen where a huge mess is made from drop offs and it would have no more traffic than any other business around.

So, when you are making a decision, please don't let 3-4 houses who back up to the lot dictate who can rent a commercial lot for business that is zoned for business especially one who is so deep rooted to Olathe and supports Olathe and brings hope to Olathe.

Mahalo,

Leilani A. Alforque

Activities/OT Marketing

Healthcare Resort of Olathe

21250 W 151st St

Olathe, KS 66061

P: [REDACTED] x 237

F: [REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Support for Starfish

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Coble <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 8:27 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter
<[REDACTED]> Kevin Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support for Starfish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I urge you to approve the Starfish location. I live near the proposed site. It will help all the people who are struggling in these times-not specifically the houseless. Those who say it isn't representative of the area are one job loss away from being the clientele they serve. It is the perfect site. Do the right thing to help the people in your city who are barely scraping by.

Lisa Coble
Olathe resident

Anna Will

From: Liz Hiersche & Gabriel Alford <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 3:18 PM
To: Planning Contact; City Clerk's Office; John Bacon; Dean Vakas; [REDACTED]
LeEtta Felter; Kevin Deneault; Jeff Creighton; Matthew Schoonover
Subject: Support for starfish new location

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom this may concern,

Nineteen years ago, I moved to Olathe because this community offered the accessibility, accommodations, and understanding my family needed. As a parent of two severely autistic children, I have been proud of how Olathe accepts the disability community—from school support and the Olathe Community Center to accessible parks and the development of Michael's Wonder World.

Five years ago, a neighbor introduced me to Starfish when I was struggling financially to keep up with my oldest son's habit of tearing his clothes off while wearing them. Starfish immediately stepped in, holding shirts for me and providing supplemental food so I could redirect my budget toward his clothing needs. They asked for no financial proof or paperwork; they simply helped us stretch our dollar to get by. Saving me several hundreds of dollars a month as my son can go through 20 to 30 items of clothing a week.

This is exactly what community is about. Starfish impacts families profoundly, even without knowing our full stories and how its truly positively impacted our and our children's future lives. I am disheartened by objections from neighbors at the proposed new location who claim the organization won't serve the area, especially when reports show that 48% of the students at the nearby school are in need.

When I first moved into my neighborhood, not everyone accepted my family due to a lack of understanding, but over time, most the community grew to embrace us. It just took time. I believe Starfish's new neighbors will do the same once they understand its mission. The vast majority of social media posts show that the community wants Starfish to thrive here and be here in Olathe.

Despite multiple relocations and continuous uncertainty, Starfish has maintained a positive mindset and secured strong support from businesses and community. We need you to support them too by approving their new location and saying yes. I do not know what my family would do without Starfish, and I am proud to give back by donating items we no longer use. Please allow them to continue giving our community what it needs. It truly does take a village to raise children and they are appart of my and many others villages. Please say yes to support the community and their needs and accept all of our community to have the best quality of life.

Best regards,

Liz Hiersche

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Constituent's response to Starfish Project vote

From: Lynne Hayes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 03 August 2026 18:19:28
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Constituent's response to Starfish Project vote

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jeff:

I am an Olathe resident who regularly contributes goods to the Starfish Project and knows well the much-needed assistance this excellent organization gives to our neighbors in Olathe.

I urge you to vote "Yes" and keep this valuable asset in our community in their new location.

I wish they could have stayed in their K-7 location, but that said, I fully support Starfish Project's proposed new location.

It is far enough away from neighborhoods and located in a strip shopping center tucked back behind Olive Garden. Not in anyone's way. I strongly believe their presence will not negatively affect these neighbors as far as traffic congestion or the area's "ambiance" or Olathe's respectability.

The fact is, the dense apartment complexes that you have recently green-lighted in so many areas of Olathe have a FAR better chance of creating the traffic issues you're concerned about.

For more than 12 years, Starfish has served our community with dignity, compassion, and integrity. Please support this project so they can continue helping families in Olathe.

Thank you for your service to our city...and to ALL of the people who live here. Please do the right thing and vote yes to allow Starfish to stay in their new location.

Sincerely,
Lynne Hayes

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Protecting our community

From: Mallory Hilvitz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 04:45:46
To: Mallory Hilvitz <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Protecting our community

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

"I support Starfish Project's proposed new location. For more than 12 years, Starfish has served our community with dignity and integrity. I respectfully ask you to support this project so they can continue helping families in Olathe. Thank you for your service to our city." I have an Overland Park address but I live within the Olathe School District boundry lines and I want to continue to see those needing help to receive it.

We are stronger together. 🧡

Warm Regards,
Mallory Hilvitz

Anna Will

From: Ramila Vargas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 9:17 AM
To: Planning Contact; [REDACTED]
Subject: The Starfish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The Olathe Council

I am writing to express my strong support for Starfish and the important work they do for families in our community.

I have personally helped transport families who did not have transportation to Starfish, and as a result, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand how they treat the people who come to them for help. What has always stood out to me is the kindness, dignity, and respect they show to everyone who walks through their doors. They help people without making them feel ashamed or judged, or making an already difficult situation even harder.

The families I have taken to Starfish were people who simply needed help. Sometimes a family can be working hard and still find themselves unable to afford food, clothing, household items, or other basic necessities. Not everyone has transportation or easy access to the resources they need, which makes having an organization like Starfish in our community incredibly important.

When people are struggling, being able to go somewhere where they are welcomed and treated with compassion can make a tremendous difference. Starfish does more than provide basic necessities. They give families support, dignity, and the feeling that their community has not forgotten them.

I have seen how the staff and volunteers interact with the people they serve, and how grateful families are to receive that help. Starfish serves people from our own community who may otherwise have nowhere else to turn.

I respectfully ask the City Council to consider the real impact this organization has on Olathe families and to do everything possible to help Starfish continue serving our community from an accessible and appropriate location.

Programs like Starfish are needed. They strengthen our community by helping families during some of their most difficult moments, and I sincerely hope they will continue their work in Olathe for many years to come.

Thank you for your time and for considering my personal experience with Starfish.

Sincerely,

Maria R. Vargas
Olathe Community Member

Anna Will

From: Mark Boguski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:09 PM
To: Planning Contact; John Bacon; LeEtta Felter
Subject: Starfish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the possibility of Starfish receiving a Special Use Permit to operate their business at the entrance of the Briarwood subdivision. While many consider Starfish a worthwhile organization, the entrance to Briarwood is NOT a proper location for this kind of business. It is well documented that this organization and its clientele have caused problems for commercial businesses at their previous location, and these problems would only be magnified at the entrance to a residential subdivision.

The entrance and exit to this commercial property differs from most commercial areas and is unsuitable for the high traffic volume Starfish estimates. The exit onto Brougham is already congested and adding this kind of traffic is unsuitable for a residential neighborhood.

The reports of vagrancy, trash and homeless activity associated with Starfish are well documented and will contribute to an increased public safety risk for the residents. We already have a problem with homeless camps along the Indian Creek trail and Starfish would become an attractive nuisance for this kind of illegal activity.

While Starfish may be an admirable enterprise, it does not belong in this location. I request that you deny the Special Use Permit

for Starfish to operate at the entrance of the Briarwood subdivision.

Best regards,

Mark Boguski

--

Mark Boguski

CFI / CFI-I / MEI

NAFI Master Flight Instructor

AOPA 2025 Distinguished Flight Instructor

LIV2FLY Aviation



Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Project Starfish

From: Mary Marshall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 6:52 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Project Starfish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to encourage you to vote to allow Project Starfish to relocate into the vacant building on 135th Street near Brougham. It will be a perfect location. The ideals of this enterprise are ones we all should aspire to. It's not a great look to go to church on Sunday and vote against something of this caliber on Monday.

Thank you,

Mary Marshall
16416 W 167th Ct.
Olathe, KS 66062

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: Mary Kay Whitacre <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 10:31:28

To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I support Starfish Project's proposed new location. For more than 12 years, Starfish has served our community with dignity and integrity. I respectfully ask you to support this project so they can continue helping families in Olathe. Thank you for your service to our city.

Mary K. Whitacre, DMIN

14205 S Raintree Dr, Olathe, KS 66062

[REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: Misty Welter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2026 10:43 PM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: A Realtor's Perspective on the Starfish Project Location
Attachments: Open House map.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilperson,

My name is Misty Welter, and I am writing to ask you to support the Starfish Project and its efforts to establish a permanent home in Olathe.

I am reaching out first as a **real estate professional**, because property values, neighborhood desirability and traffic are among the concerns being raised about this location, and I believe that perspective has been underrepresented.

I have been a licensed real estate agent since 2013 and am also a real estate coach and mentor. In just the last two years, I have been connected to or participated in **well over 100 real estate transactions in Olathe**. I work with buyers, sellers and agents every day, and I know what buyers actually tell us matters to them.

Buyers absolutely care about location. I hear, "I don't want to back to a main road," "I don't want to back to commercial property," or "I want a cul-de-sac."

What I have **never** had a buyer tell me is that they don't want to live near a food pantry or community-service organization.

This subdivision already backs to multiple commercial developments, including Lowe's, AutoZone, the Kansas Driver's Licensing Bureau and Savers. A buyer may reject a particular home because it backs to commercial property, but that is very different from concluding that Starfish itself will lower property values throughout the neighborhood. **Based on my professional experience with Olathe buyers and sellers**, I do not believe that claim should be accepted without evidence.

Traffic is another concern where I have a unique perspective. I have attached a map of this neighborhood that **I did not create for Starfish**. I have used this exact map for years when training real estate agents about Open House marketing and traffic flow because of the neighborhood's numerous access points.

Residents are not dependent upon a route requiring them to pass Starfish, and traffic traveling to Starfish does not need to be funneled through the residential neighborhood. This was my professional assessment of this neighborhood years before this issue arose.

The property's current zoning also matters. Businesses such as a **liquor store, vape shop or adult-oriented retail store could occupy this location**. As a Realtor who regularly drives buyers through

neighborhoods, I know first impressions matter. A maintained building housing a community nonprofit creates a very different impression than prominent signage for one of those businesses.

The choice is not Starfish versus a permanently vacant building. If neighborhood desirability is the concern, we should consider Starfish alongside the **realistic uses already permitted at this property**.

On a Personal Level, This Matters to Me Too

I have spent 25 years living and working in Olathe and Johnson County. I raised three children in the Olathe school system. Thanks to the 21st Century program, they attended three different Olathe high schools, became Eagle Scouts, and are now either productively working in Olathe or attending college—including one who is currently student teaching in Olathe.

My connection to this community runs deep. But there is another reason I care so deeply about this issue:

I have needed Starfish.

After my divorce, I found myself financially responsible for my own life for the first time in more than 20 years. I was self-employed and commission-only, dealing with more than \$30,000 in debt, and at 46 I went back to waiting tables in addition to working in real estate to try to make ends meet.

I remember standing at a gas station with three maxed-out credit cards and an overdrawn checking account, crying because I didn't know how I was going to put gas in my car to get to work.

There were times when getting food from Starfish relieved just enough financial pressure to get me to the next paycheck.

Until speaking about this issue, I had told no one that.

I wasn't homeless. I wasn't unemployed. I was working two jobs.

I was a mom. I was a Realtor. I was an Olathe community member.

And I needed help.

That is why it is difficult to hear "the people who use Starfish" discussed as though they are a separate population that needs to be kept away from a neighborhood.

Starfish is not an overnight shelter or simply a "homeless service." It provides supplemental groceries, clothing, necessities and resources to people in our community who need help. The homeless population near Indian Creek Trail already exists; Starfish did not create it, and preventing Starfish from operating here will not make it disappear.

The people Starfish serves are our neighbors. They are seniors, veterans, families, single parents and working people whose paycheck simply didn't stretch far enough this month.

Sometimes they are Realtors helping someone buy a home.

I respect the neighboring homeowners' right to ask questions and expect reasonable safeguards regarding traffic, hours, maintenance, security, parking and trash. Those concerns can and should be addressed. If there is actual evidence that Starfish's operations have created safety concerns for nearby neighborhoods or children, that should be considered as well.

But assumptions should not be treated as evidence, and **needing assistance should not be equated with being dangerous.**

I am a Realtor who understands why homeowners care deeply about property values and neighborhood desirability. I am also a working member of this community who once needed Starfish to help me get to the next paycheck.

Sometimes getting groceries for a week means the electric bill gets paid or there is enough gas to get to work. That is not a threat to a community. That is what community is supposed to do.

For both professional and personal reasons, I believe Starfish can be a good neighbor and an incredibly valuable resource for Olathe.

I respectfully ask for your support.

Thank you for your time, your service to our city and your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Misty Welter
Olathe Community Member
Licensed Real Estate Agent since 2013

Misty Welter

REALTOR & Real Estate Coach
Keller Williams Realty Partners, Inc.

*Each office is independently owned & operated.

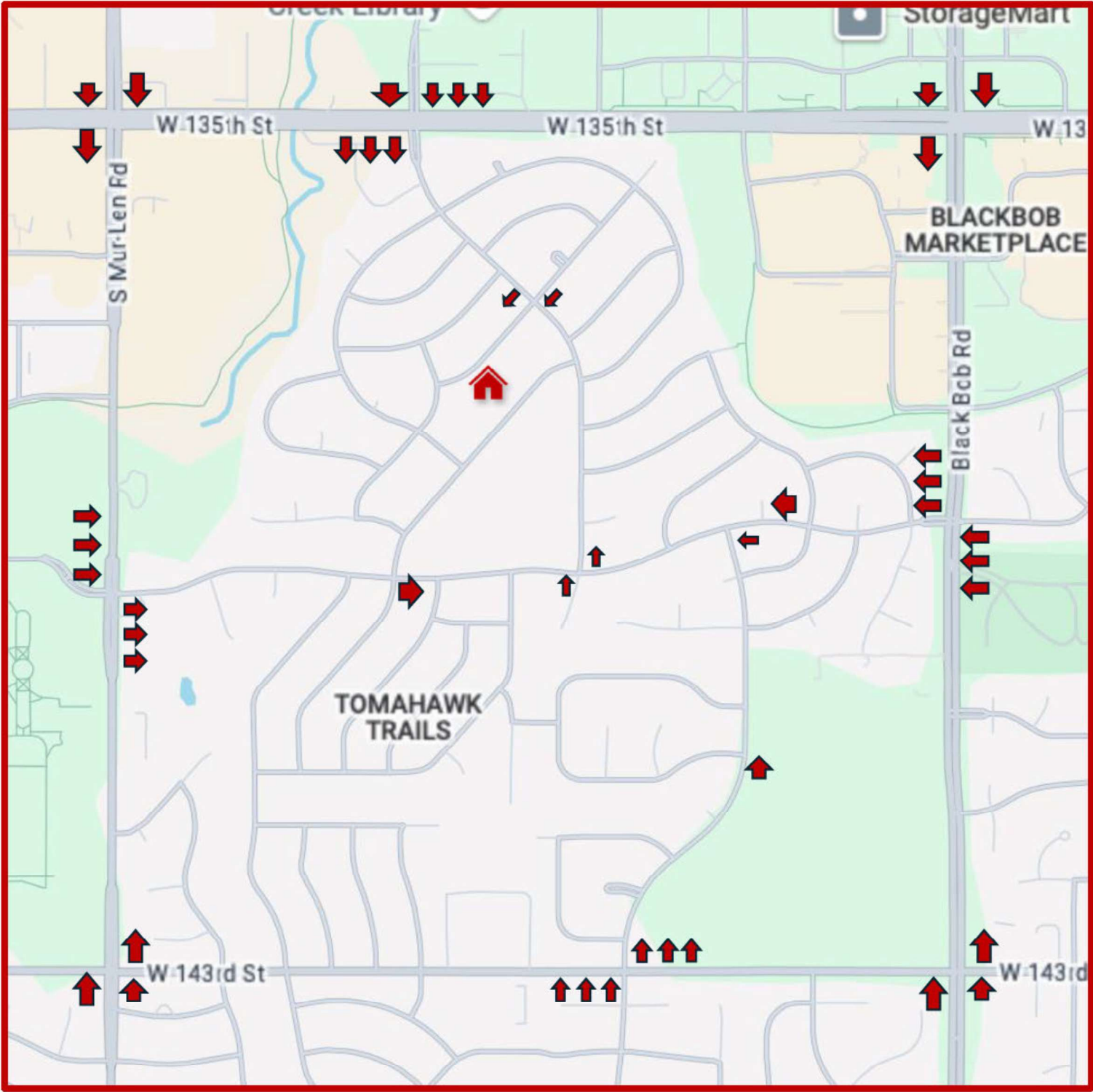
C: [REDACTED]
O: [REDACTED]

Website: MistyWelter.KW.com

App: <https://app.kw.com/KW2DC8P2>

[I am thinking about buying a home!](#)

[I am thinking of selling my home!](#)



Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: Molly Stulce <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 09:53:08

To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]> Matthew Schoonover <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Creighton and Mr. Schoonover,

I'm reaching out about the Starfish Project's proposed new location. For more than 12 years, Starfish has served the community with dignity, compassion, and integrity. I've have personally worked with clients in the Olathe area who have volunteered and/or received much needed resources from them. I have observed The Starfish Project support the community through resources and supplies being provided but also providing nonjudgmental volunteer opportunities to people seeking meaningful contributions to the community. I respectfully ask you to support this project so they can continue helping families in Olathe.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Molly Stulce, OTR/L
Occupational Therapist

[REDACTED]



Work Hours:

Monday/Wednesday: 9am-4:30pm

Tuesday/Thursday/Friday: 8am-4:30pm

This message, including any attachments, contains information that is confidential and may be protected health information for the purposes of HIPAA. This information is intended solely for the use of the identified addressee(s). If you are not the addressee, your disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents is prohibited. If this message has been sent to you in error, please don't read and notify the sender by phone at [REDACTED] and then destroy the entire message.

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Please support Starfish Project

From: Nathan Daugherty <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 2:32 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> Dean Vakas
<[REDACTED]> Robyn Essex <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter <[REDACTED]> Kevin
Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]> Matthew Schoonover
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Please support Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Members of the Olathe City Council,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you carefully and very seriously consider the Starfish Project's proposed relocation. I lived in Olathe for 5 years and I saw first-hand the impact that their organization has on our community. I volunteered with them multiple times and I never saw their facility empty. There are people in this city that need their help. I may not live in Olathe anymore, but I do work here. I am a Garmin employee and it is a great privilege to have an organization in our city that my company can gladly support and employees can volunteer with, knowing that our efforts will not be wasted. The way Starfish treats people with dignity is one of my favorite parts of how they run. There are no requirements or judgments to receive their assistance; it is freely given to all who need it. Their compassion is so rare these days, and to see it leave our city would truly be a tragedy. I also know that the leadership has worked diligently to take all factors into consideration for their new location. I ask that you please respect that, and value their efforts to effectively help our community. I kindly request that you will weigh the organization's history of service, its volunteers, and the many residents who value its work. I respectfully ask that you support a path that allows Starfish to continue serving our community. I want to thank you for your time, your service to this city and your careful consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Nathan Daugherty

Anna Will

From: Owen & Sandra Evans <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 6:55 PM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: Starfish special use

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My wife and I are opposed to Starfish being granted special use permit at the entrance to Briarwood subdivision. Please uphold the current zoning regulations. It is located at the only Northern access to our community and has already been a bottleneck for the past 24 years we have lived here. Thank you.

Owen and Sandra Evans
13646 S Sycamore St
Olathe, KS

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish location

From: Pam Wagner <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 12:55:53

To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Starfish location

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have lived in Olathe for 35 years. Starfish is such a great resource in our community and. Sure hope you will support their move to the new location. They have been such a help to families and individuals in need! Thank you,
Pam Wagner
Sent from my iPad

Anna Will

Subject: FW: The Starfish Project and the Integrity of Olathe

From: Reid Kapple <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 11:02:06
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: The Starfish Project and the Integrity of Olathe

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmember Creighton,

My name is Reid Kapple and I serve as the pastor of Trinity Fellowship here in Olathe. I recently had the joy of meeting you at the monthly Coffee Club back in April if I am not mistaken. I appreciate you and your service to our city.

With great respect and admiration, I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of the Starfish Project's Special Use Permit when it comes before the City Council on August 18th. I write not only as someone who has lived in Olathe for the vast majority of my life, but also as a pastor who has served this community for more than a decade. I have the privilege of walking alongside families from every corner of our city, including those who are thriving, those who are struggling, and those who simply need a helping hand. I love Olathe, and I want it to remain a city where people want to raise their children, invest in their neighborhoods, and build businesses. I also want it to be a city that makes room for our most vulnerable neighbors.

On a personal note, I was raised by a single mom in Olathe and our family of 6 benefited greatly from organizations like The Starfish Project. Although The Starfish Project was not around when I was growing up, our family remained in this community because of the generosity and institutional presence of similar non-profits.

I recognize that this decision is not simple. The Planning Commission raised legitimate questions about traffic, neighborhood compatibility, and operational impacts. Those concerns deserve thoughtful consideration. At the same time, it is significant that Olathe's professional planning staff recommended approval with conditions after reviewing the proposal and concluded that those impacts could be appropriately addressed. This suggests that the question before you is not whether Starfish violates the zoning code, but whether Olathe is willing to welcome this organization at this location with appropriate safeguards in place.

The Starfish Project has served thousands of Johnson County families with dignity, compassion, and practical support. Organizations like Starfish strengthen communities by helping families weather crises before those crises become much larger problems. Their work reflects the kind of community investment that benefits our entire city.

Every land use decision communicates something about a city's identity. I hope Olathe will be known as a community that values both strong neighborhoods and compassionate service. We need not see these

as competing values, but as mutually reinforcing.

If, after careful consideration, this particular site ultimately proves unworkable, I hope the City will not allow that to become the end of the conversation. Our church, Trinity Fellowship, would gladly be part of a broader community effort to help identify and secure a permanent home for Starfish in Olathe. We believe this organization belongs in our city, and we stand ready to work alongside civic leaders, neighborhood representatives, businesses, and other community partners to find a long-term solution.

Thank you for your service to our city and for the thoughtful consideration you give to difficult decisions like this one. I know you carry the responsibility of balancing many competing interests, and I appreciate your commitment to seeking the common good. My hope is that, on August 18, you will vote to approve the Special Use Permit and affirm that Olathe remains a community that is both wise in its planning and generous in its care for all who call this city home.

Respectfully,

Reid Kapple

--



REID KAPPLE

Pastor | Trinity Fellowship



Anna Will

From: Eric Strimple
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 3:51 PM
To: Planning Contact; Jeff Creighton; Matthew Schoonover; LeEtta Felter; John Bacon; Dean Vakas; Robyn Essex; Kevin Deneault
Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: Rick Spruill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 3:48 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom it Concerns,

Please vote to support this foundation's location next to AutoZone. This organization is a great asset to our community, not only helping families in dire need, but also those that fall upon temporary hardship. We, as a community, need to reach out and uplift one another, and that's exactly what this foundation is doing, and more.

Respectfully,

--

Rick Spruill

Anna Will

From: Sarah Graybeal <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 12:02 AM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: Fwd: Inquiry

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

Ms. Hollingsworth, thank you for your presentation and information at the planning commission meeting this evening in regards to the special use permit for Starfish Project in the Briarwood neighborhood.

I just wanted to reach out to you as you stated on several occasions this evening people would need to address any concerns or complaints to you so you could document and investigate concerns.

I noticed in your presentation this evening you listed a few criteria as staff recommendations. Number 3 is why I am reaching out this evening.

3. No donations, merchandise, or equipment will be stored or displayed outside the building.

I just wanted to submit this photo for the record. This was the outside of the building on our way home this evening.



In addition a few questions I would love to have answered at the Council meeting in regards to all that was discussed this evening.

1. Do we have direct contact to send pictures/videos to when the SUP is not in compliance?
2. The landscaping notes (planting new trees at the fence line and building a fenced enclosure for the dumpster with greenery) do they have a timeline to when they need to be in compliance?
3. The haircuts every second Saturday I did not find them listed in the packet as one of the services offered. It often has long lines at their current and previous location. Does that need to be amended and included in the application?
4. It was mentioned in your presentation that they do not take furniture. They do. In fact cribs were advertised on their facebook page yesterday and mattresses are welcome unless they are king size and then you need to call and check if they have a spot for them. Does an amendment need to be made to note furniture is accepted?
5. It was also not noted that Ms. Moreland plans to accept large truck deliveries. she stated so at the neighborhood meeting. The question presented this evening was does she have scheduled deliveries. They are not scheduled.

I appreciate all the hard work that has happened so far and that will still go into this process. I just want to make sure that if this were to go forward that everything is covered, truthfully, and that we have the correct information and contacts.

Thank you,
Sarah Graybeal

--

Have a Blessed Day!

Sarah

--

Have a Blessed Day!

Sarah

Anna Will

Subject: FW: STARFISH PROJECT

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 12:41:24

To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>

Subject: STARFISH PROJECT

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon – I support Starfish Project’s proposed new location. For more than 12 years, Starfish has served the community with dignity and integrity, I respectfully ask you to support this project so that the Starfish can continue to help and feed families in Olathe.

Thank you for your service to our City. Sincerely, Sharon Ward, 1449 N. Hunter Drive, Olathe, KS 66061

Anna Will

From: Eric Strimple
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 1:23 PM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: For your consideration on behalf of the Starfish Project

From: Shelli Jaye <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 12:55 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> Dean Vakas
<[REDACTED]> Robyn Essex <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter <[REDACTED]> Kevin
Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]> Matthew Schoonover
<[REDACTED]>
Cc: Print Shop <[REDACTED]>
Subject: For your consideration on behalf of the Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Members of the Olathe City Council,

I am writing as a donor to respectfully ask that you give thoughtful consideration to the Starfish Project's proposed relocation.

What has always stood out to me about Starfish is its unwavering commitment to serving people with compassion, dignity, and respect. Having previously been employed in the nonprofit world, I can attest that organizations like Starfish strengthen our community by bringing neighbors together, supporting families, and inspiring volunteerism. Those are the qualities that make Olathe such a special place to live, work, and play.

When I was beginning my career as a Realtor, I discovered that the Starfish Project offered affordable printing services that allowed me to professionally market my business while managing the financial challenges that often come with starting a new business. This resource provided me with access to quality marketing materials that I may not have otherwise been able to afford.

My experience with the Starfish Project has shown me that its mission extends far beyond serving only individuals who are experiencing homelessness or extenuating financial hardship. The organization creates opportunities, resources, and support that positively impact people from many different backgrounds and circumstances.

As my real estate business has grown, I have been grateful for the opportunity to give back to the Starfish Project. I now make regular donations with each real estate transaction I complete as a way to support the important work they do in our community. In addition to those contributions, I also make donations outside of my business transactions because I believe so strongly in their mission and the positive impact, they have on individuals and families in many different circumstances.

Having seen the Starfish Project's previous locations firsthand, I can confidently say that concerns about loitering or disorder do not reflect the reality of how this organization operates. At every location, there has been a clear sense of organization and respect for the surrounding community—there has never been an issue with people gathering inappropriately or too many vehicles coming through. Joni does an incredible job of managing the organization, maintaining high standards, and ensuring that order, safety, and respect are always prioritized.

As a donor, local Realtor, and Johnson County Meals on Wheels (in Olathe!) volunteer, I have seen firsthand the positive impact this organization has on the lives of so many. I hope you will consider Starfish's long history of service, the dedication of its volunteers, and the countless residents who rely on and value its work. I respectfully ask that you support this relocation that allows Starfish to continue serving our community and making a meaningful difference for those who need it most.

Thank you for your time, your thoughtful consideration, and your continued service to the City of Olathe.

Sincerely,
Shelli Jaye



Shelli Jaye, ABR, SRES
Realtor, RE/MAX Realty Suburban

📞 [REDACTED] 🌐 JayeHomes.com ✉️ [REDACTED]

📍 [8735 Rosehill, Suite 100 Lenexa, KS 66215](#)



Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: Shelly McNaughton-Lawrence <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 03 August 2026 16:32:46
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilperson Creighton,

I am writing to express my support for relocating the Starfish Project to its proposed new location.

As the Senior Pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church and an Olathe resident, I have the privilege of serving our community every day and seeing firsthand the challenges many of our neighbors face. Organizations like the Starfish Project provide hope, practical support, and a pathway toward stability for people who are working to rebuild their lives.

I believe this new location will allow the Starfish Project to continue and strengthen its important mission while remaining a positive partner in our community. I respectfully ask you to support this request and help ensure this valuable ministry can continue serving those who need it most.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your service to our city.

Sincerely,

Shelly McNaughton-Lawrence
Senior Pastor
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
www.aumcolathe.org
[REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish project Foundation

-----Original Message-----

From: Shera McClelland <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 7:40 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish project Foundation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please vote to support this foundation's location next to Auto Zone. This organization is a great asset to our community, not only helping families in dire need, but also those that fall upon temporary hardship. We, as a community, need to reach out and uplift one another, and that's exactly what this foundation is doing, and more.

Thank you.
Shera McClelland

Sent from my iPhone

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Three Thoughts

From: shirley brogna <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 13:27:42
To: Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Three Thoughts

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jeff,

I have written before but thought I would add a couple of comments after watching the planning commission meeting on Monday regarding Starfish. I live in Briarwood and have these 3 thoughts/concerns.

1. I believe that Joni, from Starfish, lied about not knowing the name/sponsor of the LLC, her friend who owns the building.
2. She did not know about her "Action Plan." She was very vague in her answers. She said, "We "need" to do it quarterly."
3. Checking for trash was "vague". They just do it whenever. Not a real plan in place.

I love the mission of Starfish, but I do not trust Joni. She started putting items in the building, cleaning up the property, etc. before she even had the permit to operate there. Why? Did the owner "promise" her she would be able to move in. Joni is not organized, doesn't plan well, and doesn't speak in front of a group in a professional way. I just don't trust her.

Shirley Brogna
16016 W. Beckett Lane
Olathe, KS 66062
[REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish Project Foundation Vote

From: Stephen Lanyi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 12:32 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter
<[REDACTED]> Kevin Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project Foundation Vote

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm writing to you all after reading about the Olathe Planning Commission vote yesterday on 7/27 against the Starfish Project Foundation (SPF). As a resident of the Wexford community (adjacent to Briarwood) I fully support SPF's new location at 16175 W 135th St.

The SPF does so much for the community it supports. Yes, they help the homeless, but they also help ..

- The struggling single parent
- The neighbor who just needs a little support
- The kids who need a lunch
- The high schooler who needs community service for college
- The family who is stretching their money and can't afford the emergency unknown
- The family who needs essentials to lift their spirit and bring some normalcy to their lives

In the economy we are living in with property taxes, food costs, gas, clothes, bills all raising higher and higher, it's essential that we support trusted places who help fill the gap between paychecks for those in need.

I implore you to choose to support The Starfish Project Foundation's new location, and allow them to help the Olathe residents who need it.

Stephen Lanyi
15224 139th St, Olathe, KS 66062

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish Project Foundation

From: Susie Rains <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 3:23 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter
<[REDACTED]> Kevin Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project Foundation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

What in the world? This may be one of the craziest things I've heard. Do you all even know what SPF is and does?

I sincerely hope none of the people involved in this decision ever find themselves in a position where they need the help of the Starfish Project Foundation. Moments like this say a lot about the character of a community. Compassion shouldn't be conditional, and supporting those in need should never be controversial.

Please rethink your decision. Our community needs this.

Sincerely,
Susie Gabel-Rains

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish

-----Original Message-----

From: Terry Cushman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 7:00 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter
<[REDACTED]> Kevin Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Bacon and Councilmembers Felter, Deneault, and Creighton,

I am writing to urgently request that you override the planning commission's recommendation and approve the Special Use Permit for the Starfish Project Foundation's new permanent location.

Starfish was forced out of its original Clairborne Road home due to the city's I-35 and Santa Fe interchange project. While I understand the neighborhood's concerns regarding crowds and traffic near the Briarwood subdivision, this standalone building at 135th and Brougham offers 130 dedicated parking spaces. Furthermore, city planning staff recommended approval, noting that the estimated peak traffic of 40 vehicles per hour is significantly less disruptive than the Aldi grocery store that previously occupied the space.

Opposing this project under the banner of "not in my backyard" does a disservice to our community. Only about 5% of Starfish's clients experience homelessness; the vast majority are local families in need, including hundreds of students in our own school district. Please show that the City of Olathe recognizes and supports its less fortunate citizens.

I moved to Olathe in 1989 because of the stellar reputation of the school systems and the excellent environment for raising a family. Now that I am retired here, I want to remain proud to call Olathe my home. Please vote to approve this permit on August 18.

Sincerely,

Terry Cushman
21923 W 120th St, Olathe, KS 66061
[REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: theresa skaggs <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 11:52 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton
<[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter <[REDACTED]> Kevin Deneault <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear All,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment regarding the outcome of tonight's vote against the Starfish Project.

While I have not personally required the assistance of charitable organizations for basic needs, members of my family living in Olathe rely on the services provided by this organization. For instance, my grandson is a single parent working diligently to support his family, and while our family assists whenever possible, the Starfish Project remains vital in filling critical resource gaps.

There are numerous residents within our community facing similar financial challenges, and the decision to vote against this project impacts many who depend on its support.

Deciding where best to locate the facility is always going to cause political waves and people who object to having it near their neighborhood. We just need to suck it up and approve them moving into the old Aldi building.

Sincerely,

Theresa Skaggs
[REDACTED]

Theresa Skaggs
[REDACTED]

Anna Will

From: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Please Approve Starfish new location

From: Tiffany Verstraete <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 1:20 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter
<[REDACTED]> Kevin Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Please Approve Starfish new location

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Starfish would be great at 135th and Brougham. The location is one of the best for walking and biking. A bus stop is within a block, and the library is right across the street. I live less than 3 blocks from the location and have no problem as a homeowner with a non-profit helping underserved individuals in our community. In my mind, someone treated kindly, able to get clothing, access to resources, and a full belly is much better off than leaving someone on the street hungry, unloved, and cold. Starfish serves many. I am excited it will be so close, so that I can volunteer more.

Starfish would be great at 135th and Brougham. The location is one of the best for walking and biking. A bus stop is within a block, and the library is right across the street. I live less than 3 blocks from the location and have no problem as a homeowner with a non-profit helping underserved individuals in our community. In my mind, someone treated kindly, able to get clothing, access to resources, and a full belly is much better off than leaving someone on the street hungry, unloved, and cold. Starfish serves many. I am excited it will be so close, so that I can volunteer more. Please support this location. I feel like it is out by itself enough, yet close enough to travel to on foot, by bike, or in a car. The library is already a draw for unhoused (as it should be a public haven), so is Savers. Aldi is the cheapest grocery store and it was allowed. The argument is only no from neighbors (like it was originally for aldi because they only want to be around rich white people like them, which isn't the a very Christian or American value. Starfish offers a hand up to a better life for individuals and families who are struggling. It isn't a great location for any other business and vacant lots are worse than thriving community services. Thanks, Tiffany Verstraete

Please support this location. I feel like it is out by itself enough, yet close enough to travel to on foot, by bike, or in a car. The library is already a draw for unhoused (as it should be a public haven), so is Savers. Aldi is the cheapest grocery store and it was allowed. The argument is only no from neighbors (like it was originally for aldi because they only want to be around rich white people like them, which isn't the a very Christian or American value. Starfish offers a hand up to a better life for individuals and families who are struggling. It isn't a great location for any other business and vacant lots are worse than thriving community services.

Thanks,
Tiffany Verstraete

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Anna Will

From: Eric Strimple
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 9:54 AM
To: Planning Contact; Jeff Creighton; Matthew Schoonover; LeEtta Felter; John Bacon; Dean Vakas; Robyn Essex; Kevin Deneault
Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: Tracy Brink <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 9:51 AM

To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing this email in support of Starfish Project. I am asking that the City Council allow Starfish Project to operate out of the former Quilters HQ building. As a volunteer for Starfish Project, I have seen the need that Starfish Project fills to help the people of Olathe. By servicing over 800 people per day, there is obviously a need for their services. The City of Olathe needs to approve this location so that the Starfish Project can continue to serve the people of Olathe.

Please vote YES to allow Starfish Project to move into their new building.

Thank you,
Tracy Brink

Anna Will

Subject: FW: Starfish Project

From: Val Uria <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 15:05:52
Subject: Starfish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello!

Our family moved to the Olathe area 12 years ago and we have never looked back. It's been a great place to raise our children and everyday I'm grateful for it's safety, parks, trails, and the care the community has for one another.

I tuned into Starfish project when they were located by Big Lots and my girls were taking Tae Kwon Do lessons a few doors down. We frequented the area a few evenings a week and always felt safe, never once seeing the "loitering" that others have made mention of in their current concerns about this organization. I started donating to them once I realized what they do and how much help they offer the community - without ever asking for anything in return.

As a member of numerous local mom facebook groups, I have been very aware of the rise in financial hardship over the past few years right here in our own community. Single moms working multiple jobs to make ends meet, families with more medical debt than ever before, the rising cost of food and gas - it has taken it's toll.

And as people learn about Starfish Project and the help they offer in terms of resources, they are ever grateful.

They aren't just helping "homeless" as it keeps being brought up - they are helping the mom who just left an abusive relationship and is scraping things together to make it on her own with her kids; the young adult who moved here for a job only to be laid off and now living on minimum wage and tips, barely making ends meet; the family that must choose between groceries or paying the utility bill.

These are YOUR neighbors. Living amongst us. Driving cars and living in homes that are nowhere near being paid off. Neighbors who smile pleasantries and hide their struggles for fear of being judged. Neighbors who keep bringing their kids to activities and camps to maintain normalcy. Neighbors that you would never know are struggling.

Starfish doesn't discriminate. They'll help the family in the 400k home that fell on hard times or the one living in a tent off the beaten path. It doesn't matter. They are there for all and our community needs their presence now more than ever.

Joni has a heart of gold. She's not in this for fame or fortune. She's in it because she cares and all these moves....it's been HARD. How can we come behind this organization and actually HELP them? Allow

them into this space, that's how. No more traffic than Aldi. No more foot traffic than any other business. Can we just finally let them settle and show them our support?

A concerned citizen
Val Uria

Anna Will

From: Eric Strimple
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 1:55 PM
To: Planning Contact
Subject: FW: Starfish

From: Valerie Duncan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 1:53 PM
To: City Clerk's Office <[REDACTED]> Dean Vakas <[REDACTED]> LeEtta Felter
<[REDACTED]> Kevin Deneault <[REDACTED]> Jeff Creighton <[REDACTED]>
Matthew Schoonover <[REDACTED]> John Bacon <[REDACTED]> Robyn Essex
<[REDACTED]>
Cc: Valerie Duncan <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Starfish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Olathe City Council,

I am writing as a resident of Briarwood to respectfully ask that you carefully consider the Starfish Project's proposed relocation.

What stands out to me is its commitment to serving people with compassion and dignity. I believe organizations that bring neighbors together, support families, and encourage volunteerism contribute positively to the character of Olathe.

I have also volunteered for Starfish and it is amazing to see the people that they help. They help people to not be homeless by giving them food and supplies that they themselves don't have the money for because they paid their rent. I don't believe that homeless people camping around Starfish will be adding to the problem as that situation is already there. They don't have that problem at other sites that they have been at.

I hope you will weigh the organization's history of service, its volunteers, and the many residents who value its work. I

respectfully ask that you support a path that allows Starfish to continue serving our community.

Thank you for your time, your thoughtful consideration, and your service to Olathe.

Sincerely,

Valerie Duncan

15690 W 138th St (Brairwood Subdivision)

Olathe KS

Anna Will

From: Lori Thrasher <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2026 3:31 PM
To: Planning Contact; City Clerk's Office
Subject: Star Fish Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing in support of the Starfish Project securing their new home at 16175 W. 135th St. in Olathe.

I have been a volunteer at SF for a little more than a year and 1/2. Seeing what they are capable of providing to underserved people in our community. It doesn't matter your income or position in life, they help anyone in need. They provide food, clothing and household goods with no questions asked and no judgement of their clients.

An additional benefit is that most of these items would have ended up in our landfill instead of being repurposed by people in need,

Joni Moreland has been completely open in telling her story. She's answered all questions while also dispelling some misconceptions raised by people who have never visited Starfish.

We have all been raised to get the details before casting judgement. This is all we ask our neighbors to do this time.

I've met many wonderful people both in our clients, the Moreland family and the many volunteers. I believe working for SF has made me a better person and I know they are making Olathe better!

Please consider voting to allow Starfish to operate from the 16175 W. 135th St. address. If you still have reservations please consider this an open invitation to visit Starfish and judge from the reality of what they do rather than rumors or worries about problems that simply do not exist.

Thank you for listening,

Lori Thrasher