

# Business Perspective



**OVERLAND PARK**  
K A N S A S  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

December 2017

*Please join us!*

2017  
**Annual Meeting**  
Wednesday, December 6

Overland Park Convention Center  
6000 College Boulevard

Presenting Sponsor



## Our Mission:

To enhance the business environment  
and quality of life in our community.



## What Should Be In Overland Park's Future?

**Forward** 

Imagine Tomorrow ▶ Inspire Action

The Overland Park Chamber is partnering with the City of Overland Park and Visit OP on **ForwardOP**, a 14-month, community-directed visioning process to seek input from residents to outline a path of continued success in planning Overland Park's future. The project is expected to be completed in late summer 2018.

ForwardOP is a process designed to be inclusive and transparent. It is guided by a Steering Committee appointed by the City Council, and is supported by an Outreach

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## IMAGINE TOMORROW WORKSHOP

TUESDAY  
JANUARY 30

7:00-9:00pm  
Overland Park Convention Center  
6000 College Boulevard

## Chamber leaders visit Washington, D.C.

Last month current Board Chair, Mike Tracy; Chair-Elect, Brett Bogan; Past Chair, Brad Stratton; and Board member and Public Policy and Advocacy Committee Chair, Mike Hess; accompanied Chamber President, Tracey Osborne, and Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy, Tom Robinett, on the annual DC Fly-In. The group met with the American Council of Engineering Companies and the U.S. Chamber for informative briefings on federal issues such as transportation and infrastructure, tax policy, workforce development, health care, and international trade. The

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## Chamber Calendar

### 2017 Annual Meeting

*Celebrating the Chamber's 50th Anniversary*

**Wednesday, December 6, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

**Overland Park Convention Center,**  
6000 College Boulevard

\$695 for a standard table of 10 for members and \$850 for a standard table of 10 for non-members

\$65 per person for members and \$80 for non-members

### Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

*Annual joint meeting with Kansas State Affairs Committee of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce*

**Thursday, December 7, 2017 - 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

**Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street**

### Young Professionals Holiday Party

*Wear your ugliest holiday sweater for the chance to win! Bring donations for The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City*

**Tuesday, December 13, 2016-5:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Rock & Brews, 5701 West 135th Street**

Free for members; \$10 for non-members

### Wednesday Wake-up

**Wednesday, 13, 2017 - 8:00-9:00 a.m.**

**Fidelity Bank, 14435 Metcalf Avenue**

Free and open to Chamber members only

To register for these events, [click here](#)  
or call (913) 491-3600.

## Chamber Board and Staff

### BOARD OFFICERS:

Michael Tracy, *Chairman*  
**OMNI Human Resource Management**  
Brett Bogan, *Chair-Elect*  
**Spencer Fane LLP**  
Mike Hess, *1st Vice Chairman*  
**HNTB Corporation**  
Stacie Gram, *2nd Vice Chairman*  
**Swiss Re America Holding Corporation**  
Chris Wally, *Secretary*  
**CBRE Kansas City**  
Charles Laird, *Treasurer*  
**Menorah Medical Center**  
Brad Stratton, *Past Chairman*  
**Overland Park Wealth Management**

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Marshaun Butler, **Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas**  
Lance Collins, **YRC Worldwide**  
Greg Crowley, **Crowley Furniture**  
Jim Edwards, **Nothing Bundt Cakes**  
Jarad Falk, **Charter Communications**  
Craig Jeffries, **Empower Retirement**  
Tim Kelley, **Security Bank of Kansas City**  
Jodde Lanning, **Payne & Jones, Chartered**  
Doug Lynn, **Sprint**  
Don Pearce, **Pearce Construction Company**  
Karsten Randolph, **Shawnee Mission Health**  
Ryan Reeves, **UnitedLex Corporation**  
Bob Regnier, **Bank of Blue Valley**  
Clint Robinson, **Black & Veatch**  
Stephen Rhorer, **SPX Cooling Technologies**  
Tony Rupp, **Foulston Siefkin LLP**  
Mark Thomas, **Copaken Brooks**  
Steve Troester, **PGAV Architects, Inc.**  
Dr. Todd White, **Blue Valley School District**  
Lori Wright, **Kansas City Power & Light**

### EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS:

Joe Andrick, **True North Hotel Group** [Convention & Visitors Bureau board representative]  
Bill Ebel, **City of Overland Park**  
Mayor Carl Gerlach, **City of Overland Park**  
Dana Markel, **Visit Overland Park**  
Greg Musil, **Rouse Frets Gentile Rhodes, LLC**  
[2017 Chair of Overland Park Chamber Economic Development Council]  
Tracey Osborne, CCE, Overland Park Chamber  
Dr. Joe Sopcich, **Johnson County Community College**  
Greg Wolf, **Dentons**

### CHAMBER STAFF:

Tracey Osborne, CCE, *President*  
Stacey Cowan, *Membership Director*  
Frank Ebling, *Controller*  
Celia Fritz-Watson, *Director of Events & Member Services*  
Tim Holverson, *IOM, Recruitment & Retention Director, Economic Development*  
Beth Johnson, *CEd, Senior Vice President of Economic Development*  
Stan Lawson, *Communications Director*  
Erin Murray, *Assistant to the President*  
Tom Robinett, *Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy*  
Amy Stock, *Member Services Coordinator*

## Ever onward. The more things change...

Our 50th year is coming to a close. I've enjoyed the memories many of you shared about your Chamber experience. Some of you, like Stan Meyer, were here at the beginning. Others are new members but you all tell me a similar story, that you joined the Chamber to make strong business connections, or to build the kind of community in which your children will want to raise their own families. From our Charter members in the 1960s to the members who joined this week, you all are part of the success that has been characteristic of our organization for 50 years.

Your Board of Directors and professional staff team met a few weeks ago to strategize about the beginning of our 51st year and beyond. It was an energizing session where we stayed out of the weeds of "how do we" and concentrated on "what do we" need to address in terms of the critical issues surrounding People, Place and Prosperity for Overland Park. After a quick scan of the social, political and economic environments at play, your Board focused on our strategic goal areas as they relate to our mission. You'll hear more about the results of their brainstorming in the coming months.

It seems, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Jim Hix, former Overland Park City Councilmember and Chamber Chairman in 1987, shared with me some of his photos and articles from the time he served on the Board. I was particularly drawn to a column he wrote for *The Johnson County Star* on April 22, 1988. It seems that even then, Johnson Countians felt barbs from our friends in western Kansas regarding our responsibility for the rest of the state. It seems the term "Gold Coast" was a popular insult about us. Jim's response was, "I remind them that while we represent only about 13 percent of the state's population, we pay 17 percent of the sales tax and about 21 percent of the income tax. Remember, I tell them, half of all the jobs created in Kansas in the last five years were created in Johnson County. And I remind them that our largest school district, Shawnee Mission, doesn't get state funding under the present Kansas school finance equalization formula. I tell these people that we don't mind sending



**Tracey Osborne, CCE**  
Chamber President  
[@traceylosborne](mailto:@traceylosborne)



our money to Topeka to help the rest of the state (although there are limits, and we are rapidly reaching them), but what we don't like is being told we should feel guilty about our success."

Jim addressed criticisms lobbed from across the state line as well; things you've heard before like how we don't pay taxes for the sports complexes, and that our suburbs are sterile and lack a sense of community.

Jim said, "I remind them that it was our community-minded citizens who asked to have their taxes increased to assure excellence in education. We don't have the history of older areas like Strawberry Hill and Hyde Park, but when we have a need, we have plenty of community spirit." He noted the pride he felt to live in a county where the American Cancer Society could raise \$380,000 in a single night.

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*Business Perspective* is published monthly by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce.

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President's message continued . . .

When I read Jim's words for the first time, it was as if I was listening to some of you at one of our events, or at one of our Forward OP Steering Committee meetings where we have begun brainstorming ideas for Overland Park's future, or even to some of the conversations I've had with my friends. The desire to ensure that our community is welcoming to all isn't trendy. It isn't new. It's been a value of Overland Park for decades. I leave you with Jim's concluding comments as I close this year and invite you to join me in an exciting 2018, working on the Chamber's mission and Forward OP's visioning efforts.

Keep in mind, this is Jim in 1988: "Sure, we need to change some things in Johnson County. We need more minority business and political leaders. We need to be sure our children learn the difference between needs and wants. We need to remember that a neighbor with crab grass in his yard isn't necessarily a despicable person. We need to remember that someday all our shiny new glitter will fade into middle age and some other community may take our place as the shining star.

What we don't need is to feel guilty because we have created such a wonderful place to live. I'm proud to live in Johnson County...I hope you are too."

## Did You Know?

You can use meeting rooms at the Chamber building for free or a minimal charge.

For details: Amy Stock at [astock@opchamber.org](mailto:astock@opchamber.org) or (913) 491-3600.

## 2017: The Year in Review

Friends,

First things first... Happy 50th Chamber Birthday!

What a wonderful year of both reflection on the past and excitement for the future. Throughout the year, and at most Chamber events, we've had the opportunity to reminisce with a wonderful photo collage depicting the growth of this great city and the visionary leaders who made it happen. It has been humbling for me in my role as both business owner and Chamber Board Chair to realize not only were many of these people investing years of their time and energy to build a city, somehow they found time to build and grow their own businesses as well.

We started this year with an updated, three-year strategic plan, and I thought I would offer some review on our progress through year one:

### Long Term Strategy #1 – Community Vision

The City and the Chamber are collectively off and running with a formal visioning process, setting a course for Overland Park over the next 50 years. Appropriately coined ForwardOP, this initiative involves hundreds of citizens, business owners, and passionate people sharing their thoughts and views for the future of this amazing place. Be sure to attend any of the ForwardOP meetings.

### Long Term Strategy #2 – Sustained Growth in the Business Community

This summer, our entire Chamber Board signed and submitted a letter to our city leaders in support of their continued, judicious use of various incentives associated with public/private partnerships. While recognizing this issue has been rather contentious among some, the facts and realities of today's economic development climate require an assertive, not passive, approach to attracting and retaining companies, jobs, and investment growth in our community. It has worked, it does work, and it will continue to work as a critical component to job creation and economic growth.

### Long Term Strategy #3 – Community Development - Quality of Place

The Chamber continues to support and protect the exceptional quality of life we enjoy in Overland Park and the entire region. We have actively demonstrated our support for the single KCI terminal project, and collaborated with other chambers on local, state, and federal legislation regarding equity in taxation, quality education, infrastructure, and local control. Your Chamber will continue to do what it can to effect financial, legislative, and economic stability at all levels of government to retain our national ranking as one of the finest places to live, work, learn, prosper, and visit.

### Long Term Strategy #4 – Workforce Development

Your Chamber continues to support and encourage quality educational opportunities throughout the region. We will continue to convene local legislators, educational leaders, and business leaders to help advocate for 'win-win' solutions to school financing based upon fair and more realistic metrics.

### Long Term Strategy #5 – Leadership Development

Our Leadership Overland Park produced 33 graduates, many of whom will continue in roles of community and non-profit leadership. Our Executive Leadership Series completed its fifth year of providing insight from some amazing leaders and entrepreneurs right here in our own backyard.

I feel blessed and fortunate to have served as chairman of this terrific Chamber organization. I have met extraordinary city and civic leaders, business leaders, and scores of business owners and entrepreneurs committed to making this remain such a wonderful city. Chamber members really are part of something big! Get more involved, stay invested, and become part of the vision for our future. Best wishes and Godspeed into the next fifty years.



**Michael Tracy**  
2017 Chairman  
[OMNI Human Resource Management](#)

# CHAMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us at this networking event!

## Wednesday Wake-up

A Business Before Hours

**Wednesday, December 13**

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Hosted by

**Fidelity  
BANK**

14435 Metcalf Avenue

Join us for networking over coffee and breakfast at one of Overland Park's newer banking institutions. **Fidelity Bank** is

a fourth generation family-owned bank tracing its beginning back to the formation of the Fidelity Investment Company in 1905. Today, the \$2.0 billion bank employs more than 450 people across a network of offices in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Free and open to Chamber members only.

To register, [click here](#) or call (913) 491-3600



**Forward OP** continued . . .

Team of "community connectors" who are inviting people to participate.

An Imagine Tomorrow workshop will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, **January 30** at the Overland Park Convention Center.

Organizers are seeking input from a diverse range of residents from business professionals to neighborhood and homes association

leaders, millennials to baby boomers.

The workshop will feature futurist Peter Kageyama as the keynote speaker.

Small group discussions and individual activities will give participants the opportunity to work alongside neighbors to think about what Overland Park should be in the next 20 years.

For more information and to RSVP for the workshop, visit [www.ForwardOP.org](http://www.ForwardOP.org).



The **ForwardOP** steering committee held a brainstorming session to begin the 14-month community vision process for Overland Park's future.



## Young Professionals Holiday Party

**Tuesday, December 12**

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Young professionals are invited to our annual holiday party for appetizers, happy hour specials and prizes!

**Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant**

11652 Ash Street in Park Place



Attendees are asked to bring items to donate to The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City. Earn door prize tickets by bringing items from the list on the Chamber calendar for this event



### Win a Prize for Ugliest Sweater!

Free to Chamber members; \$10 for non-members  
Registrations are due by December 8

To register, [click here](#) or call (913) 491-3600

## Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary! 2017 Annual Meeting Wednesday, December 6



Overland Park Convention Center  
6000 College Boulevard

Registration and networking at 11:00 a.m. | Lunch and program at 11:30 a.m.

To register, [click here](#) or call (913) 491-3600

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Baron Contracting Corporation | Block Real Estate Services, LLC  
Equity Bank | First National Bank | HNTB Corporation  
MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital | PNC Bank | Spencer Fane LLP  
UMB Bank n.a. | Village Shalom, Inc.



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CAFE

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or get-together with our **SAME DAY** catering!

COOKIE BITE TRAY



### CAMELOT COURT

11705 Roe Ave. (117th & Roe) | Leawood, KS 66211  
913.766.0486

### CORBIN PARK

6721 W. 135th St. (135th & Metcalf) | Overland Park, KS 66223  
913.955.2370

[WWW.CORNERBAKERYCAFE.COM](http://WWW.CORNERBAKERYCAFE.COM)



# NEW MEMBERS / REINVESTED MEMBERS

## Welcome new members!

We are pleased to introduce these new Chamber members:

### Adams Brown Beran & Ball – EDC Investor!

Zach Schamaun, CPA Mftg.  
Service Line Manager  
10990 Quivira Road, Suite 160  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
(913) 491-5080  
[www.abbb.com](http://www.abbb.com)  
Accountants, Financial Services

### Canteen

Shaun Reid, Regional Sales  
Director  
17501 West 98th Street  
Lenexa, KS 66219  
(402) 718-0991  
[shaun.reid@compass-usa.com](mailto:shaun.reid@compass-usa.com)  
[www.canteen.com](http://www.canteen.com)  
Coffee Break Service - Supplies,  
Vending Machines

### CARSTAR Metcalf

Steve Hahn, Owner  
7235 West 162nd Street  
Stilwell, KS 66085  
(913) 685-2886  
[steve.hahn@carstarusa.com](mailto:steve.hahn@carstarusa.com)  
[www.carstar.com](http://www.carstar.com)  
Auto Repair & Service

### Floor and Decor

John Woodward, Pro Services  
Manager  
7601 Frontage Road  
Overland Park, KS 66204  
(913) 333-9930  
[john.woodward@flooranddecor.com](mailto:john.woodward@flooranddecor.com)  
[www.flooranddecor.com](http://www.flooranddecor.com)  
Retail, Floor Covering

### The Lash Lounge

Megan Becker, Salon Manager  
6435 West 135th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66223  
(913) 270-0710  
[OverlandPark@TheLashLounge.com](mailto:OverlandPark@TheLashLounge.com)  
[www.thelashlounge.com/salons/overland-park](http://www.thelashlounge.com/salons/overland-park)  
Beauty Services

### Nicole Buhrman Agency

Nicole Buhrman, Agent  
6800 West 107th Street, Suite 210  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
(913) 901-9800  
[nbuhrman@shelterinsurance.com](mailto:nbuhrman@shelterinsurance.com)  
[www.shelterinsurance.com](http://www.shelterinsurance.com)  
Insurance



Some of our newest Chamber members received new member plaques at last month's Wednesday Wake-up event. Receiving plaques from Stacey Cowan, Chamber Membership Director, were Shaun Reid, **Canteen**; Jerrad Tausz and Sean Durkee, **Profile by Sanford**; Jason Bohn, **Cornerstones of Care**; Michele Frumkin, **KC Wine & Spirits**; Steve Hahn, **CARSTAR Metcalf**; Jason Moxness and Trisha Luedke, **Core Bank**; Rebecca Banks, **Brain Balance of Overland Park**; Carol Wei, **Mid America Asian Cultural Association**; John Woodward, **Floor and Decor**; and Nicole Buhrman, **Nichole Buhrman Agency**.

## Member Renewals

We thank these companies for reinvesting in October 2017:

### 40-50 Years

INTRUST Bank  
JE Dunn Construction Company  
Shafer, Kline & Warren

### 20-39 Years

Bank of Blue Valley  
Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Kansas City Homes  
Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate - Phil Summerson  
Candlewood Suites Kansas City-Overland Park  
Hyatt Place Metcalf  
RubinBrown LLP  
Southcreek Office Park  
SpringHill Suites by Marriott  
State Farm Insurance - Penny Hardesty  
Wells Fargo Advisors

### 10-19 Years

Crowley Furniture  
Delmar Gardens of Overland Park  
Georgetown Apartments L.L.C.  
H & R Block  
PC Partners, Inc.  
Mitchelson, Lynn  
OMNI Human Resource Management  
Renewal by Andersen  
SAM'S CLUB of Overland Park  
Signs by Tomorrow  
Sporting Kansas City

### 5-9 Years

Black Feather Farm LLC  
Digital Lagoon  
Foulston Siefkin LLP  
Fred's Train Shop  
KeyBank Real Estate Capital  
Mia Bella Donna Med Spa  
Rodrock Homes, LLC  
Tri-Land Properties, Inc  
Vancrum Law Firm, LLC

### 1-4 Years

Avid Communications  
Burnt End BBQ  
Candlewood Suites - Overland Park  
Clear Creek Apartments  
DES Employment Group  
Drill Law Firm, LLC  
Forerunner Signs & Graphics  
Freepoint Commodities LLC  
Highland Ridge Apartments  
iFLY Indoor Skydiving  
Kutak Rock  
Little Sunshine's Playhouse & Preschool  
Moneytalk Financial Foundations  
Pinnacle Therapy Services  
Polestar Plumbing, Heating and Air  
Rehabilitation Hospital of Overland Park  
Showcase Publishing Inc.- KC Relo Magazine  
The Sheridan at Overland Park  
Tick Tock Adventures, LLC  
Westlake Ace Hardware  
YaYa's Euro Bistro

## 2018 Chamber Board Officers

The Chamber Board of Directors announces the following board officers for 2018:

**Chairman:** Brett Bogan, **Spencer Fane LLP**

**Chair-Elect:** Mike Hess, **HNTB Corporation**

**1st Vice-Chairman:** Stacie Gram, **Swiss Re America Holding Corporation**

**2nd Vice-Chairman:** Charles Laird, **Menorah Medical Center**

**Secretary:** Doug Lynn, **Sprint**

**Treasurer:** Chris Wally, **CBRE Group Inc.**

**Past Chair:** Michael Tracy, **OMNI Human Resource Management**

We welcome these new Chamber Board of Directors in 2018:

- Bruce Boettcher, **Sheraton Overland Park Hotel**
- Faruk Capan, **Intouch Solutions**
- Diana Chaloux-LaCerte, **Hitch Fit Gym**
- Dr. David Cook, **The University of Kansas Edwards Campus**
- Bill Ferguson, **Central Bank of the Midwest**
- Brenner Holland, **Hunt Midwest**
- Earl Major, **Teva Pharmaceuticals**
- Bobby Olm-Shipman, **Saint Luke's South Hospital**
- Dr. Kenny Southwick, **Shawnee Mission School District**
- Mark Williams, **Garver**



## GOOD MORNING GMOP OVERLAND PARK!

Carnac the Magnificent made his annual appearance at Good Morning, Overland Park! as emcee Greg Musil, **Rouse Frets Gentile Rhodes LLC**, amazed attendees with his ability to divine the answers to mystic questions and to unflinchingly deliver really bad jokes.



Jim Clark, **Oxford Realty LLC**, shared details about the Met 108 office and hotel development planned for the intersection of I-435 and Metcalf Avenue.



Dr. Todd White, **Blue Valley School District**, introduced student Juliana Vaz who shared her reading skills learned in the district's Chinese immersion program.



Chamber Chairman Michael Tracy, **OMNI Human Resource Management**, presented an update from the Chamber.

### Thank you to these GMOP door prize donors:

- Arts and Recreation Foundation of Overland Park
- Bambou Salons LLC
- BluHawk Dental Group
- Colonial Village
- Corner Bakery Café-Corbin Park
- Cosentino's Market-Blue Valley
- Downtown Overland Park Partnership, Inc.
- Drury Inn & Suites Overland Park
- Everyday Home Care Kansas City
- Fat Brain Toys
- Fortune Financial Advisors, LLC
- iFLY Indoor Skydiving
- Jason's Deli
- Johnson County Community College
- KC Wine & Spirits
- Lenny's Subs
- Nature's Touch Cleaners
- Nifty Promotions
- Oak Park Mall
- Pinstripes, Inc.
- Porto Do Sul Brazilian Steakhouse
- PrimeLending
- Scheels
- Spectrum Eyecare
- Ted's Cafe Escondido - Corbin Park
- Villa Medici



City Council Member Fred Spears and Chamber Vice President Beth Johnson helped J.T. Norville, owner of Midas Hospitality, LLC; and other representatives celebrate a groundbreaking for a **Home2 Suites by Hilton** being built at 7121 West 135th Street. The four-story hotel is scheduled to open in early 2019 featuring stylish suites with fully equipped kitchens, indoor pool, business center, fitness center, lobby oasis and outdoor gathering area. For more information: [www.midashospitality.com](http://www.midashospitality.com).



City Council Member Rick Collins and Chamber Diplomats helped Richard Blackham, owner, celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Costa Vida Fresh Mexican Grill**, 8093 West 159th Street in **BluHawk**. Costa Vida is a laid-back counter-serve Mexican restaurant with Baja-style tacos and burritos plus gluten-free options. For more information: (913) 685-8432 or [www.costavida.com](http://www.costavida.com).



Rick Worrel, president of **Affinis Corp**, cut the ribbon as the Affinis Corp team and Overland Park Chamber employees celebrated the engineering company's sponsorship of the Affinis Collaboration Room in the Chamber Foundation building in Corporate Woods. The Affinis Room is one of several meeting spaces available for rental. For more information, contact Amy at (913) 491-3600.



## RECENT EVENTS



City Council Member Fred Spears and Chamber EDC Director of Recruitment & Retention Tim Holverson helped **Oak Park Mall** celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Boutique in a Box**. At this pop-up store, high-end local boutiques are offering unique clothing, makeup, home decor, cupcakes and more along a whimsical "street" of hand-drawn storefronts.



City Council Member Dave White and Chamber President Tracey Osborne helped celebrate the 10th anniversary of HCA Midwest Health's Midwest Neonatal Transport team and transport services. Based at **Overland Park Regional Medical Center**, Midwest Neonatal Transport transfers critically ill infants from 13 counties across the region to a higher level of care under the direction of board certified neonatologists, experienced pediatricians with advanced training in the care of critically ill babies. On average, the team provides round-the-clock life-saving care to 46 preemies each day.



**Wednesday  
Wake-up**  
A Business Before Hours  
hosted on November 8 by  
**BLUE VALLEY RECREATION**

Annamarie Womack, **iLoveKickboxing**;  
Christina Carson and Rebecca Banks,  
**Brain Balance of Overland Park**.

Mercedes Givens, **Bank of Blue Valley**;  
Bryan Meyer, **Topline Business Management**;  
Michael Funaro, **Kansas City Crusaders/Digital Ally Open**;  
Frank Flores, **Lifestyle Publications**.



Yiannis Klathis, **Pita Blu**; Michele Antonopoulos, **Villa Medici**;  
Mike Womack, **iLoveKickboxing**.

Madelyn Motsinger, **Floor & Decor**;  
Joe Shelton, **Nifty Promotions**;  
Darren Davidson, **Security Equipment, Inc.**;  
Ken Mickey, **Pete's Pest Control**.





## Sign up now for 2018 sponsorship opportunities

Two new sponsorships are among the opportunities to gain visibility by partnering with the Overland Park Chamber to sponsor events and programs in 2018.

The new opportunities are:

- Mobile Charging Station Sponsor
- Wi-Fi Sponsor

These new sponsorships offer exclusive branding and visibility at Chamber events throughout the year.

Other sponsorships include Corporate Sponsor and Leadership Circle levels, two of the Chamber's top sponsorship opportunities.

Target select groups of Chamber reps by sponsoring programs such as Leadership Overland Park, Overland Park Young Professionals, Economic Development Council Luncheons and Public Policy & Advocacy Committee Meetings.

You'll receive year-long visibility as the presenting sponsor of one of our popular event series or welcome members into your business when you host a event.

**For complete information, contact Celia Fritz-Watson at (913) 766-7603 or [cfritz-watson@opchamber.org](mailto:cfritz-watson@opchamber.org).**

## Member News & Events

**Shawnee Mission Health** is now a certified member of MD Anderson Cancer Network®, a program supported by MD Anderson Cancer Center, the top ranked cancer center in the United States.

The **Johnson County Community College** Foundation has received a \$10 million lead gift from the Sunderland Foundation as a matching gift to encourage additional funding to support a new Career and Technical Education Center.

**Olathe Public Schools** Superintendent John Allison was selected 2018 Kansas Superintendent of the Year.

**Terracon** has acquired GeoConcepts Engineering, Inc. and GeoCapitol Engineering, LLC, in the Washington, D.C. metro.

**Blue Valley Schools'** Center for Advanced Professional Studies was one of three recipients of the STEM School of Excellence Award presented recently at the international STEM Expo.

The City of Overland Park's Legacy of Greenery Committee presented excellence in landscaping awards to Chamber members **Corbin Crossing Apartments** and **Block Real Estate Services** for **Teva Pharmaceuticals**.

*(continued on page 12)*

## Partner Spotlight:



**BLACK & VEATCH**  
Building a world of difference.®

**Black & Veatch**, a provider of critical human infrastructure, continues its commitment to a strong presence in Overland Park, the company's global headquarters where roughly 2,800 of its 3,200 professionals in the Kansas City area work.

With about 11,000 professionals worldwide, 102-year-old Black & Veatch meets client demands for infrastructure in energy, water, telecommunications and government services. All the while locally, Black & Veatch remains a significant contributor of economic and community program support.

This year, Black & Veatch won the prestigious Silver Edison Award for the company's engineering, procurement and construction support in developing True Zero's network of hydrogen charging stations for fuel cell vehicles across California.

Last year, the company's microgrid system at its Overland Park headquarters received a Gold Edison Award in recognition of excellence and creativity globally in new products and services. This microgrid was the first to provide electricity for a Kansas commercial building.

On the philanthropy side, the company's foundation continues its 10-year commitment to the Museum at Prairiefire, with Black & Veatch serving as that site's global science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education partner. In 2015, Black & Veatch pledged \$2.1 million over five years in support of Children's Mercy Hospital's Center for Pediatric Genomic Medicine. The company's annual golf event proceeds and its donation to Children's Mercy have provided more than \$3.4 million.

Black & Veatch's national United Way campaign last year raised \$2.1 million,

including \$1.7 million benefitting the charity's operations in the Kansas City area. The company is among only four companies in the region whose annual United Way campaign raised more than \$1 million in 2016.

At Johnson County's Central Resource Library in Overland Park, the company also has contributed to the 4-year-old "Black & Veatch MakerSpace," adopting a portion of the library and helping convert the space into a laboratory for innovation, complete with 3-D printers, a recording studio and a green-screen room.

For more information: [www.bv.com](http://www.bv.com).





## Chairmen in most recent decade help Chamber remain relevant

Our most current decade of Chamber chairmen have maintained high profiles in the community, helping keep our organization relevant in important areas such as advocacy, economic development and membership services. They have been present at many ribbon cutting ceremonies and engaged in activities such as the renovation of the Chamber building.

**2010** – After many years of Chamber involvement as a



**Ed O'Connor**  
2010

Diplomat, Public Policy and Advocacy Committee member and 1995 Leadership Overland Park class

members, Ed O'Connor became Chamber chairman. During his term, the groundbreaking was held for the BEST building at KU Edwards Campus. Ed continues to be one of the most frequent attendees at Chamber events and, as a co-owner of **PC Partners, Inc.**, he provides technology support for the Chamber.

**2011** – Midland Loan Services (now **PNC Real Estate**)

locating in Overland Park was an economic development success for the Chamber. The company's executive vice



**Steve Smith**  
2011

president, Steve Smith became Chamber chairman in 2011. During his term, the



Chamber's federal advocacy secured the repeal of legislation that would have placed an excessive burden on small businesses. Also that year, the City of Overland Park initiated a project to relieve congestion and increase safety along U.S. 69 and I-435. For the first time, based on census data, Johnson County was the largest county in the State of Kansas.

**2012** – Since graduating in the 1997 Leadership Overland Park class, Rick Worrel has been active as a leader in the Chamber especially focused on its advocacy efforts. During his term as chairman, the Chamber conducted a community scan that affirmed the community's priorities of infrastructure and education. The Chamber also was involved in a redistricting lawsuit that yielded greater representation for Johnson County in the Kansas Legislature. Rick currently serves on the Chamber Foundation Board. He is co-founder and president of **Affinis Corp.**, an engineering company that partnered with the Chamber through its support of the Affinis Collaboration Room in the Chamber building.



**Rick Worrel**  
2012

**2013** – Long a community leader, Larry Winn III also has been involved in the Chamber for many years leading the Public Policy & Advocacy Committee work and being closely attuned to legislative action in Topeka and Washington, D.C. He led the Chamber's efforts to renew the 1/8-cent sales tax for transportation infrastructure. Along with Ben Craig, he also intervened on behalf of the Chamber in a redistricting lawsuit for greater representation for Johnson County in the Kansas Legislature. Larry is now a customer service strategist for **BHC RHODES**.



**Larry Winn III**  
2013

**2014** – Jim Holland served as a Chamber Diplomat for several years before joining the Board. During his term as chairman, the Chamber advocated for changes to K-12 school funding law that



**Jim Holland**  
2014

resulted in additional funds being available to local school districts. The first phases of Prairiefire opened, bringing many first-to-market companies to Overland Park. Jim is managing partner at **Fisher Phillips LLP**.

**2015** – Marga Spangler became the third female chairman in the Chamber's history. During her term, planning began for updating the Chamber Foundation

building. The City had several major developments towards the south with the opening of the Highway 69/159th Street interchange as well as the groundbreaking for Shawnee Mission Health in BluHawk. Marga is a vice president with **First National Bank** and is now based in Colorado.



**Marga Spangler**  
2015

**2016** – Brad Stratton chaired the Chamber's Public Policy & Advocacy Committee before joining the Board. During his chairmanship, the Chamber supported the campaign to build a new county courthouse. The Chamber renovated the Chamber Foundation building adding conference rooms, enhancing technology and refreshing public and employee spaces. As a community leader, Brad serves on the **Shawnee Mission School Board**. He is president and CEO of **Overland Park Wealth Management**.



**Brad Stratton**  
2016

**2017** – Michael Tracy has had the distinction of serving as chairman during the Chamber's 50th anniversary year. Also during his term, the



**Michael Tracy**  
2017



**Chairmen** continued . . .

Chamber endorsed the plan for a new single terminal at Kansas City International Airport, which was overwhelmingly approved by voters. During his year, the Johnson County Arts and

Heritage Center opened in the former King Louie building. Michael has been involved in the Chamber's partnership in community visioning for the future. Michael is managing partner of **OMNI Human Resource Management**.

**We thank all our Chamber Chairmen and the many men and women who have served on our Board of Directors these past 50 years!**

**D.C. Fly-in** continued . . .

briefings were followed by office visits with Senators Roberts and Moran and Congressman Yoder to present our 2018 Federal Public Policy Platform and discuss current activities in Congress and issues of

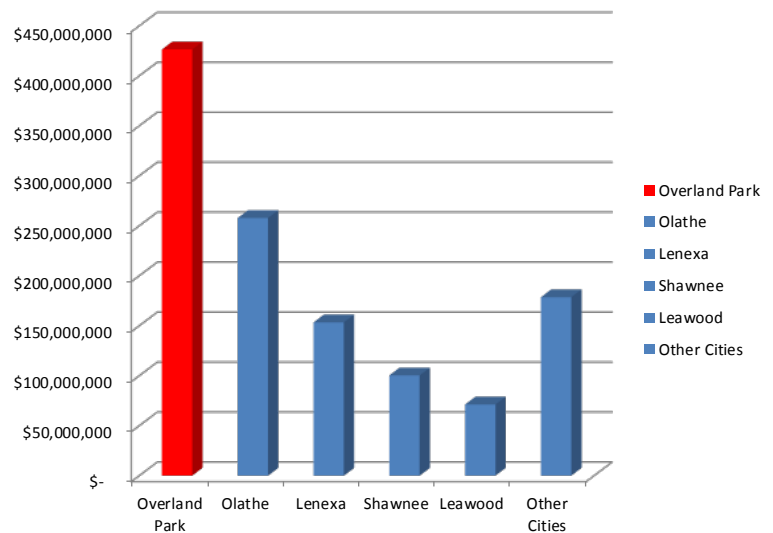
interest to the Chamber and our members. As always, we very much appreciate the fact that our elected representatives so generously share time with us on our trip and thank them for their work representing us in Congress.



The Chamber Board of Directors recently held its annual board retreat to work on the Chamber's Plan of Action for 2018.

## Overland Park Retail Sales

August 2017



Unemployment		
	Sept. 2017	Sept. 2016
Overland Park	3.4%	3.4%
Johnson County	2.9%	3.3%
Kansas City Metro MSA	3.9%	4.4%
State of Kansas	4.3%	4.0%

*(These percentages are not seasonally adjusted)  
– Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC)*

## Building Permits in Overland Park

	New Commercial	Institutional, Schools	Other Commercial	Totals
October 2017	4	0	43	47
Square Feet	172,513	N/A	N/A	172,513
Value	\$14,794,249	N/A	\$9,713,815	\$24,508,064

– City of Overland Park



## YP Cares

The Overland Park Young Professionals recently volunteered at the Humane Society of Greater Kansas City helping with socialization, walking, grooming, and other tasks.



**Young Professionals Sponsors:**

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To add your name to this list in 2018,  
contact Tracey Osborne  
at (913) 491-3600 or  
[tosborne@opchamber.org](mailto:tosborne@opchamber.org).

Member news continued . . .

**ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council**  
awarded \$138,330 in ArtsKC Catalyst  
grants to 74 small- and mid-sized  
nonprofit arts organizations.

**First National Bank** has awarded  
\$63,000 in community development  
grants to four organizations in Kansas  
including **Catholic Charities of North-**  
**east Kansas** and the **Olathe Public**  
**Schools** Foundation.

**Autumn Leaves of Overland Park**  
received a Deficiency Free Annual  
Survey from the Kansas Department on  
Aging and Disability Services.

**Spencer Fane LLP** added Partners  
Brett Bogan, Donn Herring, Andy  
Ramirez, Julie Roth, and Of Counsel  
Stacy Harper and Reed Williams to the  
firm's health care practice.

**Shawnee Mission Health** welcomed  
four new physicians: Suzanne Ozbun,  
MD, Family Medicine; Matthew Butler,  
MD, Cardiology; Sarah Mingucci, DO,  
General Surgery; and John Moon, MD,  
General Surgery.

**Better Homes and Gardens Realty**  
**Kansas City Homes** has hired Steve  
Servais as chief operating officer for the  
Kansas City region.

**MarksNelson, LLC**, has five new team  
members: Jenny Anwander, MAcc, staff  
accountant; Elaine Bloch supervisor in  
the State and Local Tax area; Carody  
Kean, MBA, business development  
specialist; Bryan Moore, CPA, senior  
consultant; Matthew Stuckey, MAcc,  
staff accountant.

Evie Kowalewski joined **Kansas State**  
**University Olathe** as program coordi-  
nator for the associate dean.

Shania Bretey joined **TPP Certified**  
**Public Accountants, LLC**, as a staff  
accountant.

Jessica Perryman, **Valbridge Property**  
**Advisors**, received her Certified  
General Appraisal License.

**Harmon Construction** has hired  
Michael Rahto as a chief estimator/  
preconstruction.

To submit company news, [click here](#).