



Senior care referral service creating 600+ jobs here

CHAMBER NEWS

A Place for Mom (APFM), the largest assisted living referral service in North America, announced plans to open an office in Overland Park where it expects to add 600 or more jobs in coming years.

“Overland Park regularly ranks among the top places for families in the nation, includ-

ing caring for members of our extended family,” said Overland Park Mayor Carl Gerlach. “It’s truly an honor for Overland Park to be home to A Place for Mom, a company that provides insight and information to make it a little easier to give the compassionate and necessary attention our parents and elders deserve. We look forward to supporting the company’s growth and its 600 employees in the coming years.”

(continued on page 8)



Last month, Kevin Walker presented the business case for Medicaid expansion during legislative hearings in Topeka.

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U.S. Chamber of Commerce CEO Tom Donohue recently presented “The State of American Business.”

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Upcoming Events

EDC Honors Lunch

Annual awards program recognizing outstanding businesses.

Thursday, February 6

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Johnson County Community College

Legislative Update Series

#2 in a series of four legislative update events.

Saturday, February 8

7:30-9:00 a.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton

Wednesday Wake-up

Monthly networking event.

Wednesday, February 12

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Genesis Health Clubs

6700 West 110th Street

Mayor’s State of the City

Annual State of the City Address featuring Mayor Carl Gerlach.

Thursday, February 13

12:00-1:30 p.m.

Overland Park Convention Center

6000 College Boulevard

Public Policy Committee

Featuring Larry Campbell, State Budget Director

Friday, February 14

12:00-1:30 p.m.

Overland Park Chamber

Ribbon Cuttings & Groundbreakings

Rx Savings Solutions

Monday, February 10

9:00 a.m.

5440 West 110th Street, Suite 200

Partners in Primary Care

Tuesday, February 11

10:00 a.m.

7500 Metcalf Avenue

Overland Park Regional Medical Center electrophysiology labs

Thursday, February 13

4:00 p.m.

10500 Quivira Road

Panera Bread

Friday, February 14

10:30 a.m.

7871 West 159th Street

Board & Staff

Board Officers:

Bobby Olm-Shipman, Chairman
Saint Luke's South Hospital
Bill Ferguson, Chair-Elect
Central Bank of the Midwest
Tony Rupp, 1st Vice Chairman
Foulston Siefkin LLP
Joan Wells, 2nd Vice Chairman
Wellington
Doug Lynn, Secretary
Sprint
Chris Wally, Treasurer
Wally & Co.
Mike Hess, Past Chairman
HNTB Corporation

Board Members:

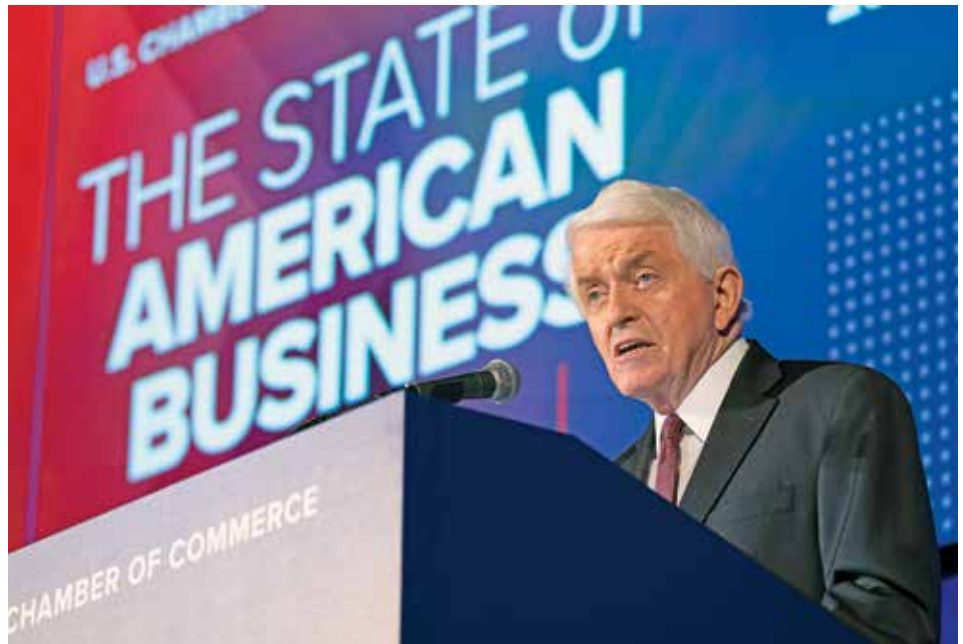
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Cindy Rock, Thryv
Stacy Rose, AdamsGabbert
Matt Sheets, FNBO-First National Bank of Omaha
Matt Sogard, Overland Park Regional Medical Center
Dr. Joe Sopcich, Johnson County Community College
Steve Troester, PGAV Architects, Inc.
Mark Williams, Garver

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Mayor Carl Gerlach, City of Overland Park
Dana Markel, Visit Overland Park
Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Blue Valley School District
Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, Overland Park Chamber
Greg Wolf, Dentons
Roger Summers, Fogel Anderson
[2020 Chairman of OP Chamber Economic Development Council]

Staff:

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, President & CEO
Stacey Cowan, Membership Director
Frank Ebling, CFO
Celia Fritz-Watson, IOM, Director of Events & Member Services
Tim Holverson, IOM, Director, Workforce & Business Growth
Chris Jackson, Research Analyst
Beth Johnson, CEcD, Senior Vice President of Economic Development
Stan Lawson, Communications Director
Erin Murray, Executive Assistant
Kevin Walker, IOM, Senior Vice President of Advocacy



U.S. Chamber of Commerce CEO Tom Donohue.

The State of American Business

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the comfort of the Chamber's Sprint Board Room we recently joined the U.S. Chamber's State of American Business teleconference. The Chamber's CEO Tom Donohue set the stage with the positive metrics like unemployment, wages and the stock market which telegraph the strongest economy in years, noting the dreaded recession of 2019 didn't happen.

But he was direct about the challenges we face as business leaders. For the 32.6 million businesses who power our national economy he declared that the State of Business is uncertain, but positive, growing and hopeful.

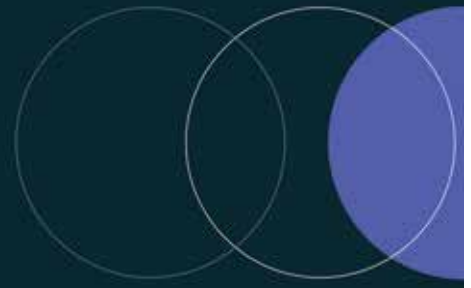
Uncertainty. The outlook that keeps businesses from growing. Keeps them from choosing our city, our region or our state for their next location or expansion. Putting it bluntly, uncertainty has a chilling effect on our future.

(continued on page 5)

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE
Chamber President



Upcoming Events



Wednesday Wake-up

Join us for networking at our monthly morning coffee at [Genesis Health Clubs](#). With renovations, the club features indoor tennis courts, expanded cardio and strength training, indoor lap pool with a steam room, hot tub, and dry sauna, and an indoor running track. The club is being upgraded with new locker rooms, flooring, state-of-the-art equipment, cycle studio, upgraded finishes and an expanded footprint with additional square footage. Come see the improvements!

Wednesday, February 12

8:00-9:00 a.m.

2020 Series Sponsor:



Hosted by



6700 West 110th Street

Free and open to Chamber members only.

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

Mayor's Annual State of the City

Mayor Carl Gerlach will present his annual State of the City Address at a Chamber luncheon for business professionals. Join us to hear about the many exciting developments occurring across our highly ranked community.

Thursday, February 13

12:00-1:30 p.m.

Overland Park Convention Center
6000 College Boulevard

Event Sponsor:



Chamber members: \$40 per person; \$440 for a table of 10
Non-members: \$50 per person; \$550 for a table of 10

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

Legislative Update Series

Your Johnson County legislators provide updates from the Statehouse during the Legislative Update Series presented by the Johnson County Public Policy Council. All events are at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas City-Overland Park**, 10100 College Boulevard.

Upcoming events in the series:

Saturday, February 8 - 7:30-9:00 a.m. breakfast
\$27 for Chamber members and \$32 for non-members.

Tuesday, April 7 - 12:00-1:30 p.m. lunch

Thursday, May 14 - 12:00-1:30 p.m. lunch

Per lunch: \$33 for Chamber members and \$38 for non-members

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

EDC Honors Lunch

The Chamber Economic Development Council will recognize business contributions to our economy with these annual awards:

NOVA Award – Play-it Health, Safely Delicious, Veracity Consulting

Commercial Development – AdventHealth, BluHawk Phase 1, The Vue, WellSky Corporation

Business Hall of Honor – Block Real Estate Services

Thursday, February 6

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Johnson County Community College
12345 College Boulevard

Event Sponsor:



Chamber members (non-EDC investors): \$45 per person or \$360 for a table of 8

Non-Chamber member: \$55 per person

Registrations due by January 31.

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

Why Medicaid Expansion?

PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY

The Overland Park Chamber has been a leading voice for Medicaid expansion for many years. When asked why, the answer is simple – the health care costs of low-income uninsured individuals are currently being passed on to businesses and others in the health care system. This is often referred to as a “hidden health care tax.” Expansion will address the issue of uncompensated care, removing this hidden tax and directly impacting the bottom line of employers of all sizes.

Beyond the rapidly increasing costs in uncompensated care are other issues impacting employers. While estimates are that more than half of all Kansans get their insurance coverage through their employer,

this is less likely with small businesses who are the backbone of our economy. Business owners and employees who lack coverage options are often faced with very costly coverage alternatives, or worse yet, opting for no coverage at all. With very few choices at hand, hard-working Kansans are at financial risk financial struggle, and the subsequent stress and lack of quality health care options negatively impact their productivity at work. This also impacts the bottom lines of our businesses.

Further, expansion is a form of economic development when Kansans have more money to spend on other important goods and services as they experience more affordable health care options. Our businesses and communities benefit from this shift in spending and, as a bonus, often see a reduction in the “health tax” as previously uncovered individuals now have adequate and affordable care to help control costs that drive uncompensated care.

It is unfortunate that expansion has been such a long time coming to Kansas. But,

Kevin Walker
Senior Vice President of Advocacy



that delay has given us the opportunity to learn from other states and ultimately craft a Kansas solution to Medicaid expansion that makes sense for taxpayers, provides relief to employers and most importantly, gives hard-working Kansans more options that bring them peace-of-mind and affordable care for themselves and their loved ones.

Chamber announces new business and strategic plans

CHAMBER NEWS

Operating with our core purpose to make Overland Park prosper, the Chamber Board has approved the organization's 2020 Business Plan and the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan.

The four key goals of this year's business plan are:

Drive Prosperity – to boldly advocate for an agenda that drives prosperity at the local, state and federal levels.

Lead – to provide bold leadership for the future.

Connect – make connections that create business success.

Excel – to achieve our bold mission through essential programming and financial strength.

Each of the four goals has detailed initiatives for achieving success.

Looking to more long-range objectives, the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan outlines our vision for the Chamber to be the essential business organization that serves as the resource, convener, advocate and change maker that drives economic success forward in our city, county and state.

- Key objectives of the strategic plan are:
- Drive Economic Success
- Engage the Next Generation of Leadership
- Meet the Needs of Business

To read our 2020 Business Plan and 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, [click here](#).



President's Message continued . . .

Local uncertainty bubbles up to national, even global implications and set the stage for Donohue's remarks. He described our landscape as a crossroads – economically, politically and globally. He said, "The debates and decisions confronting the American business community this year have far-reaching consequences."

His questions for his national audience of business leaders aren't altogether different than what we asked during our ForwardOP process:

- What kind of economy do we want to drive this nation forward?
- What challenges across the country beg for our attention?
- What is our place in the global economy – are we going to step up, stand still or pull back?
- What kind of future do we want for our children, and theirs?
- What is the role of business – and government – in securing that future . . . and are we up to the task?
- And what can actually get done in a year like 2020? (You know . . . an ELECTION year.)

He contends the answer is a lot. And I agree. Because it must. Your priorities don't take a backseat because we're electing a President, or because all the legislative seats are up again in Topeka. You still need talent – skills matched with your jobs. You want progress on expansion of U.S. 69. You need policies at the local, state and federal levels that help your business grow and keep our quality of life competitive.

As our beloved Chiefs head to the Super Bowl, we're on the field for you every day. Listening to your needs. Advocating for you with elected officials. Defending the role of job creators. Tom Donohue said the state of American business is uncertain, but he also said it's undaunted and resolute. I couldn't agree more.

#WhyWeOPChamber

2020 Leadership class holds opening session

LEADERSHIP OVERLAND PARK

2020 LOP class members attended their first session last month.

During their opening retreat, the class learned about Overland Park's history and development and shared their visions for Overland Park's future.

This month the class will learn about local health and social issues.

Thanks to these recent sponsors:

**Kansas State University Olathe
Parisi Coffee
Kincaid Coach Lines, Inc.**



Greg Musil, Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C., shared Overland Park history with Leadership Overland Park class members.



2020 Leadership Overland Park class members learned about each other at their opening retreat session last month.

New Members

Ad Astra Financial Group

Elizabeth Parks, Executive Administrator
13220 Metcalf Avenue, Suite 210
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 214-9000
elizabeth@adastrafg.com
www.adastrafinancialgroup.com
*Financial Planning Consultants & Services,
Investments*

Another Broken Egg Cafe

Britney Valas, Franchisee Owner
13386 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 730-8597
1091-overlandpark@anotherbrokeneegg.com
www.anotherbrokeneegg.com
Restaurants, Caterers

Convergent

Holly Grohmann, Account Executive
8345 Melrose Drive
Lenexa, KS 66214
(913) 406-7572
holly.grohmann@convergent.com
www.Convergent.com
Security Consultants

DexaFit KC

Jayne Gray, Owner
14008 West 135th Street
Olathe, KS 66062
(913) 444-3141
kc@dexafit.com
www.dexafit.com/locations/kansas/kansas-city
Health & Wellness

Game Show Battle Rooms

– Opening Soon!
David Sauer, Owner
10520 Metcalf Lane
Overland Park, KS 66212
(320) 828-6545
kc@gameshowbattlerooms.com
www.gameshowbattlerooms.com
*Entertainment, Amusement Places
Referred by Michael Ryan, Forerunner Signs &
Graphics*

Huntington Learning Center

Reena Sharma Vats, Center Director
11508 West 135th Street
Overland Park, KS 66221
(913) 346-4001
vatsR@hlcmail.com
www.huntingtonhelps.com
Tutors, Educational Services

Johnson Co. Bar Association

Tracey DeMarea, Executive Director
7400 West 129th Street, Suite 201
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 544-1130
tdemarea@jocobar.org
www.jocobar.org
Non-Profit Organizations, Associations

KuSHH, LLC

Joy Broils, Co-founder and President
(913) 708-1476
jbroils@kushhlife.com
www.kushhlife.com
Retail

Lewer Financial Advisors

Nick Jenkins, J.D., Vice President of LFA
9900 West 109th Street, Suite 200
Overland Park, KS 66210
(816) 360-7900
njenkins@lewer.com
www.LewerFinancialAdvisors.com
Financial Planning Consultants, Insurance

Panera Bread

8803 West 75th Street
Overland Park, KS 66204
(913) 381-8111
www.panerabread.com
Restaurants, Caterers

Panera Bread - Opening Soon!

7871 West 159th Street
Overland Park, KS 66223
www.panerabread.com
Restaurants, Caterers

Saint Luke's Rehabilitation Institute

12300 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 296-5000
www.saintlukeskc.org/rehabinstitute
Health Care, Hospitals

Searcy Financial

John Fales, Financial Advisor, Principal
12980 Foster Street, Suite 160
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 814-3800
info@searcyfinancial.com
www.searcyfinancial.com
Wealth Management, Retirement Planning

Tidal Wave Auto Spa

Jennifer Rogers, Marketing Manager
8710 Nieman Road
Overland Park, KS 66214
(706) 646-7753
jennifer@tidalwaveautospa.com
www.tidalwaveautospa.com
Car Washing & Polishing

Laura likes making a difference in the world through her nonprofit organization

DIPLOMAT SPOTLIGHT



Laura Blatter

Walk Manager
Alzheimer's Association
3846 West 75th Street

I'm responsible for the implementation of Walk to End Alzheimer's in Southeast Kansas and Lawrence, RivALZ, a young professionals women's flag-football team and implementing a new young professionals group to meet or exceed financial goals through volunteer recruitment and engagement as well as through corporate development.

Q: Who do you find is a best connection / partner for you in business?

A: Companies and individuals looking to give back and help their community by partnering through creating a team, sponsorship, playing or coaching and/or partnering to bring awareness of Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Q: Why are you a Diplomat?

A: I find getting to know others working in Overland Park and what they do, expands my network and gives me the opportunity to get involved and support community events.

Q: What is the best advice you've ever received?

A: "Leaders become great, not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others."

Q: What do you consider your greatest achievement (so far)?

A: Personally, it is raising two very active 3-year old's! Professionally, the career path I have chosen to work in the not-for-profit world raising funds for a mission that will improve or even maybe find a cure in the lives of those suffering brings me a humbling awareness that in a small way, I am making a difference in this world.

Q: What is your motto?

A: Dream big, be grateful, give love, laugh lots.

Leads Groups provide opportunity to build relationships

MEMBER BENEFITS

The Chamber's Leads Groups give member representatives the opportunity to meet consistently in a non-competitive and mutually supportive environment to exchange leads and business referrals. These groups are a tool for members to cultivate professional relationships, establish trust, increase knowledge and build business.

Participation in a Leads Group offers:

- Focused opportunity to create and maintain an effective network;
- Build personal and professional relationships with chamber members;
- Develop strategies to grow and expand your business.

Currently, there are four groups, each with a capacity of 25 chamber members from different industries.

Leads Group 1 meets 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays

Leads Group 2 meets 8:00-9:00 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays

Leads Group 3 meets 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays

Leads Group 4 meets 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays

For more information, visit www.opchamber.org/chamber-info/leads-groups or contact Stacey Cowan at (913) 766-7604 or scowan@opchamber.org.

Toni enjoys learning why businesses choose Overland Park

DIPLOMAT SPOTLIGHT



Toni Anderson

Assistant Vice President

[Security Bank of Kansas City](http://www.securitybank.com)

7500 West 95th Street

Q: Who do you find is a best connection / partner for you in business?

A: Anyone looking for a community financial institution, from personal to business accounts.

Q: Why are you a Diplomat?

A: I love being a Diplomat because I learn so much more about companies and why they choose Overland Park. As Diplomats, we also learn more one-on-one about those in the group and their company.

Q: What has been your favorite benefit or moment as a member of the Chamber?

A: Mayor's Prayer Breakfast and Good Morning Overland Park.

Q: Where are you from and what brought you to Overland Park?

A: I grew up in Arizona, moved to and started working in Overland Park for the last 15 years. I love learning about the city, why businesses choose Overland Park, and the info I receive by being part of the Chamber.

Q: What do you consider your greatest achievement (so far)?

A: My children. I receive so many wonderful praises from their teachers and coaches.

Member Renewals

We thank these companies for reinvesting in the Chamber in December 2019:

50+ Years

Suburban Lawn & Garden
WaterOne

40-49 Years

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission
Alaskan Fur
Reed Jeep Chrysler Dodge Ram

20-39 Years

Children's Mercy Hospital
Kansas
CommunityAmerica Credit
Union
Hepler & Associates
Kathleen's Flowers
Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc.
Meyer Music Company
Rosana Square/Mark One
Electric
Saint Thomas Aquinas High
School
Sandler Training
TPP Certified Public
Accountants, LLC

10-19 Years

Bott Radio Network / KCCV FM AM
Cancer Action, Inc.
Chick-fil-A at Oak Park Plaza
Continental Title Company
Erickson Solutions Group
Foland, Wickens, Roper, Hofer
& Crawford P.C.
Grandma's Office Catering
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites-
Convention Center
Kansas City Chiefs Football
Club & Arrowhead Events
McAuley & Crandall, PA
Mutual of Omaha
Sheraton Overland Park Hotel
The UPS Store-Oak Park
Commons

5-9 Years

CBRE Group Inc.
Davidson Architecture &
Engineering
Empower Retirement
Highland Ridge Apartments
Pivot International, Inc.
Proshred Security
SCS Engineers
Talk of the Town Grill & Bar-
Leawood

1-4 Years

Boulders at Overland Park
BT Advisors
Citizens Bank & Trust
Dairy Queen
David Ayers - Weichert,
Realtors Graham-Welch, LLC
Jewish Community Center of
Greater Kansas City
Kansas City Audio Visual Inc.
Kansas Regenerative Medicine
Center
Market Lofts
Metcalf 108
Miracles With Water
MONARCH
Nifty Promotions
Patty Robb Consulting
Point Commercial
Reynolds Marketing
SERC Physical Therapy-
Stanley/South OP
Tropical Smoothie Cafe
BluHawk
Tropical Smoothie Cafe Rosana
Square
Verizon Authorized Retailer -
TCC

Chamber helps Affinis Corp serve the public sector

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Affinis moves communities forward through civil engineering and land surveying services. Its growing team provides constructible designs with outstanding client service. It has been named an employer of choice in *Civil Engineering* 11 times as well as being recognized as a When Work Works flexible workplace award winner and a HIRE Vets Medallion Platinum Award honoree – supporting great co-workers is key to supporting great clients.

The word Affinis comes from the Latin for relationship, or strong bond, and long-lasting relationships are how it has built its business. The best testament to its collaborative approach is its record of repeat business, which is 96 percent. It thrives on serving public sector clients and enjoys the interaction that comes with working in neighborhoods and communities. Affinis engineers love designing infrastructure improvements that positively impact a community. Through its services, it moves communities forward with improved quality of life.

The Overland Park Chamber has played a big part in the firm's growth and its ability to work in our region. Supporting the chamber, Affinis employees learn from fellow chamber members and benefit from the chamber's advocacy of the business community.

For more information, visit www.affinis.us.



Chamber Building offers affordable meeting space

MEMBER BENEFITS

Located in Corporate Woods, the Chamber Foundation Building offers a variety of meeting space.

Whether you're planning a large event, training session, small conference, one-on-one interview or staff planning session, the Foundation Building has space for you. Completely updated, our meeting spaces offer new technology including Flat LCD Smart TVs.

Space must be reserved in advance and is available on a first-come-first-served basis. Priority will be given to Chamber members. The Affinis Room can be used for free by Chamber members up to three times per year.

Facilities and equipment used during general office hours – 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday – will be discounted because of available on-site staff. Facilities are available after hours and on weekends at an additional charge.

For more details: www.opchamber.org/chamberinfo/meeting-space or (913) 491-3600.



A Place for Mom cont. . . .

"We're thrilled A Place for Mom has chosen Kansas for its new location," Kansas Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. "The jobs created and the investment in Overland Park will have a significant impact on the Greater Kansas City region. We look forward to welcoming A Place for Mom to the Kansas community and working with them as they grow their presence in our state."

The company currently has offices in Seattle, New York, and Naples, Fla.

The Overland Park office will serve as a hub for A Place for Mom's business operations and will include jobs in a number of diverse fields including finance and human resources, information technology, engineering, design, customer service, and support staff. Hiring is in progress and roles range from senior management to entry-level. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply at www.aplaceformom.com/about/careers.

We Bring People Together

RECENT CHAMBER EVENTS



At left: Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen and Membership Director Stacey Cowan presented new member plaques to Marcela Aguirre and Kendall Haun, Radisson Hotel Lenexa Overland Park; Joy Broils, KuSHH, LLC; John Hales, Searcy Financial; Nick Jenkins, Lower Financial Advisors; and Dr. Joshua Whitmore, Whitmore Chiropractic.

New Chamber members were recognized at January's Wednesday Wake-up networking event.



Johnson County legislators recently discussed current issues at the first in a series of four Legislative Policy Update events.



At last month's Wednesday Wake-up event, Jeremy Gray had the opportunity to talk about his business, Noble Consulting, LLC.



Networking at last month's Wednesday Wake-up event at the Chamber offices in Corporate Woods.



January's Wednesday Wake-up event at the Chamber office featured breakfast provided by Chick-fil-A at Oak Park Plaza.

Ribbon Cutting Celebrations

GRAND OPENINGS & EXPANSIONS



BIBIBOP Asian Grill, 6455 West 135th Street
For more information: (913) 286-0295 or www.bibibop.com.



Back on Track Chiropractic + Acupuncture, 9904 College Boulevard
For more information: (913) 276-0508 or www.backontrackkc.com.



AdventHealth College Boulevard, 7025 College Boulevard
For more information: (913) 632-3500 or <https://www.adventhealthkc.com/collegeblvd>.

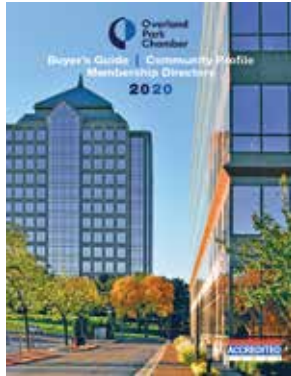


Another Broken Egg Cafe, 13386 Metcalf Avenue
For more information: (913) 730-8597 or www.anotherbrokeneegg.com.

2020 Membership Directory available

Our 2020 Membership Directory was recently mailed to all Chamber member companies. In addition to alphabetical and categorical listings of Chamber members, it features a community profile, a Who's Who of business leaders and information about our programs and services.

For additional copies: (913) 491-3600 or opcc@opchamber.org.



We thank these members for their advertising support in the directory:

- AdventHealth Shawnee Mission
- Ash Grove Cement Company, Inc.
- Azura Credit Union
- Baker University
- Bambou Salon & Spa
- Baron Contracting Corporation
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas City
- Blue Valley Goodyear
- Blue Valley School District
- Cavern Technologies
- Central Bank of the Midwest
- Chick-fil-A at Oak Park Plaza
- Cosentino's Market - Blue Valley
- Curtin Property Company
- Dana F. Cole & Company, LLP
- Delmar Gardens of Overland Park
- eXp Realty
- Fidelity Bank
- Fiorella's
- FNBO - First National Bank of Omaha
- Foulston Siefkin LLP
- The Freelance Exchange of Kansas City
- Gary C. Richter, C.P.A., P.A.
- Heartstrings Community Foundation
- Heavy Constructors Association
- INTRUST Bank
- IP Pathways
- JE Dunn Construction Company
- Johnson County Funeral Chapel & Memorial Gardens
- Johnson County Library
- Kansas Gas Service
- McCownGordon Construction
- McGilley & Hoge Johnson County Memorial Chapel
- My Place Hotel
- Nature's Touch Cleaners
- Netsmart Technologies
- Nifty Promotions
- Oak Park Mall
- Office Evolution
- Olathe Public Schools USD 233
- The Organizer Chicks
- Parisi Coffee
- Partners in Primary Care
- Pittsburg State University-Kansas City Metro
- Price Brothers
- Revolve at OneFifteen
- Riordan Clinic
- Rosana Square/Mark One Electric
- Saint Paul School of Theology
- Santa Fe Tow Service Inc.
- SG360
- Southcreek Office Park
- Staybridge Suites
- Tallgrass Creek-Erickson Living
- The Tasteful Olive Oil and Vinegar Shop
- Thryv
- Villa Medici
- The Vue
- Wallace Saunders

Digital Sandbox KC funding available to early-stage entrepreneurs

Digital Sandbox KC has partnered with the City of Overland Park to provide proof-of-concept funding for early-stage entrepreneurs in Overland Park.

Digital Sandbox KC promotes business and job growth throughout the region by funding small projects and connecting entrepreneurs to the right resources at the right time.

Since launching in February 2013, Digital Sandbox KC has :

- Worked with more than 700 entrepreneurs
- Funded 125 projects
- Provided \$2.4 million in project funding
- Helped launch 67 new companies, 158 new products, 73 patent applications and 28 awarded patents
- Sandbox companies have collectively:
 - Created more than 677 jobs with more than \$24 million in payroll
 - Had \$69 million in sales since inception

Eligible applicants include emerging, startup and established companies. Digital Sandbox KC is particularly interested in new innovation in information technology. As a frame of reference, past Sandbox client companies work within areas as diverse as mobile apps, big data, marketplaces, software platforms, tangible products, hardware, health care IT, and more.

Digital Sandbox KC accepts applications on a rolling basis. Once your idea is received and is deemed a good fit, the next step is to schedule your company/project review. Company reviews are 30 minutes long and designed to supplement your application with a pitch followed by Q&A from our team. Funding decisions are made each quarter. For instance, if you pitch in January or February, you will hear from us in March about the funding decision. From application submission to final decision, this process could take as little as 3 weeks – or up to 10 weeks – depending on when in the quarter you present.

To begin the process, visit www.digitalsandboxkc.com/programs/overland-park.

Eligible applicants must be a resident in the City of Overland Park.

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Member News

GOOD NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Money Inc., ranked Overland Park #2 on its list of "20 Best Places to Live in the Midwest."

Mize CPAs Inc., is the new name of the former Mize Houser & Company P.A., a 60+-year-old firm that has grown through mergers.

Element Medical Imaging is the new name of the former Johnson County Imaging. With an Overland Park location at 11717 West 112th Street, the company is expanding to Lee's Summit and Liberty.

Another Broken Egg Cafe, an upscale breakfast, brunch and lunch restaurant with a Southern-inspired menu, is now open at 13386 Metcalf Avenue.

Effective in October, **Rasmussen College** will become Rasmussen University. This transition addresses shifts made to help define a new generation of higher education that includes innovative programs and workforce-ready education to meet the rapidly changing market.

NBC News recently recognized the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art at **Johnson County Community College** alongside national and world-renowned art institutions.

First National Bank of Omaha has hired Barry Nelson as Lead Director, Wealth Management in Kansas.

Mark Benz has been named regional CEO of Prime Healthcare, which includes **St. Joseph Medical Center**.

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc., has hired Jeff Bennett as director of business development.

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered, has hired Shannon Tho as a staff accountant.

OMNI Human Resource Management has promoted Julie Anderson to Vice President of Operations.

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