

Business Perspective



OVERLAND PARK
K A N S A S
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

June 2017

Teva Pharmaceuticals opens new facility



Mayor Carl Gerlach and Chamber President Tracey Osborne helped Larry Downey, President of Teva North America, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Teva Pharmaceuticals's** new specialty pharmacy facility at 4500 West 107th Street. The 50,000-square-foot building has been customized for state-of-the-art pharmacy operations in support of products for conditions including multiple sclerosis, Huntington's disease, oncology and respiratory. The Specialty Pharmacy unit will house 50 employees with the opportunity to grow to 100 by year 2020. This is the company's second Overland Park facility. In 2013, the company completed an office building at College Boulevard and Nall Avenue. For more information: www.tevapharm.com.

Arts & Heritage Center to open June 10



Overland Park's iconic King Louie building at 8788 Metcalf Avenue reopens June 10 as the new home of the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center. The grand opening will include a free day of activities from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Under management of Johnson County Park & Recreation District, the center will be home to The Johnson County Museum, fall, winter and spring productions of The Theatre in the Park, fine and performing arts programs and more. The space also will be available for rental by the public and community groups for a variety of functions and activities. For more information: www.jocoahc.com.

Our Mission:

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



Chamber Calendar

Young Professionals Learning@Lunch

"Things Get Solved, If You Get Involved," presented by Greg Wolf, **Dentons**

Wednesday, June 7, 2017 - 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Growing Futures Early Education Center,
8155 Santa Fe Drive

\$15 per person for members; \$20 for non-members

Ribbon cutting

Thursday, June 8, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.

The Sheridan, 10300 Indian Creek Parkway

Ribbon cutting

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.

Mainstream Boutique, 9540 Nall Avenue

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 - 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Hitch Fit Gym, 7431 West 91st Street

Free and open to Chamber members only

Ribbon cutting

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.

Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center,
8788 Metcalf Avenue

Ribbon cutting

Thursday, June 15, 2017 - 9:00 a.m.

Metcalf Self Storage, 15415 Metcalf Avenue

Ribbon cutting

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 - 4:30 p.m.

InterUrban Lofts, 7900 Conser Street

Leadership Overland Park Graduation

Keynote speaker: David Westbrook,

Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas City

Thursday, June 22, 2017 - 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Ritz Charles, 9000 West 137th Street

Members: \$35 per person or \$315 for table of 8

Non-members: \$45 per person or \$415 for table of 8

Ribbon cutting

Thursday, June 22, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.

Dopps Chiropractic, 7811 West 151st Street

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

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Chamber Board and Staff

BOARD OFFICERS:

Michael Tracy, *Chairman*
OMNI Human Resource Management
Brett Bogan, *Chair-Elect*
Lathrop & Gage 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, **Douthitt Frets Rouse Gentile & Rhodes** [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, CEcD, *Senior Vice President of Economic Development*
Michael Kelley, *EDC Policy & Communications Coordinator*
Stan Lawson, *Communications Director*
Erin Murray, *Assistant to the President*
Tom Robinett, *Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy*
Amy Stock, *Member Services Coordinator*

Mission Accomplished

I love history, particularly history that connects people and places I love. I've always enjoyed the stories our Chamber's founders have shared with me about Overland Park's early days. One particularly resonates with me, perhaps because Stan Meyer (then Winn Rau Corporation, now Rau Construction) tells it with such passion. Stan was our founding President (now they're called Chairmen of the Board) and he, along with Ben Craig, Leonard McKinzie, and many others, were working hard in 1966-67 to recruit members and raise the funds to re-organize the Chamber as a professional, business organization.

It was Stan's job to energize the troops and set the course for the members and the business community. As he's told me on several occasions, one of the things that really made him crazy was that Overland Park wasn't on the map. He meant not just figuratively, but also in the most literal sense. A local newspaper reported in June 1967 that while Overland Park was the fourth largest city in Kansas at a population of 62,000, we didn't merit mention on most maps, including the World Book Atlas of 1965 which showed Lenexa, DeSoto, Olathe, Stanley and Leawood. Rand McNally of Kansas denoted Wichita, Kansas City and Topeka as the three largest metro areas but lumped Overland Park in as "one of the suburban satellites" of Kansas City, Kansas.

This really rankled Stan, who told *The Overland Squire*, "Overland Park never had much identity. It needs to start acting like a first class city. We should have an effective Chamber of Commerce. We are no longer just a small town."

Indeed. Ben Craig, our Chamber's co-founder and then President of Metcalf State Bank and VP of the Chamber, told *The Kansas City Times* in May 1967, "There are some cities in Johnson County that are satisfied with being considered bedroom



Tracey Osborne, CCE
Chamber President
@traceylosborne

communities. However, we in Overland Park feel we are more than that. We are on our way to being a well-balanced community of residential, commercial, and hopefully, industrial development." The Chamber at that time was on a roll, energizing the business community to dream big of the day when we would be not just ON all the maps of Kansas, but on the lists of the top places to live and locate thriving businesses.



At the Chamber's June 1967 membership meeting, representatives of local industries were recognized for their contributions to the development of Overland Park. Chamber President Stan Meyer reported that Overland Park had 20 industries occupying a total of 534,000 square feet with an average employment of 1,229 and an annual payroll in excess of \$6,600,000.

Stan and the charter Board of Directors set forth a plan of action that included hiring Dick Molamphy, our first professional executive as well as four goals that would encourage orderly growth in the city. They were:

(continued on page 5)

Business Perspective is published monthly by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce.
9001 West 110th Street, Suite 150, Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone: (913) 491-3600 • Fax: (913) 491-0393 • opcc@opchamber.org • www.opchamber.org



LEARNING @ LUNCH

Wednesday, June 7

12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Growing Futures Early Education Center
8155 Santa Fe Drive

Things Get Solved If You Get Involved

Presented by
Greg Wolf, **Dentons**



Greg Wolf, 2007 Chairman of the Overland Park Chamber and a 2000 Leadership Overland Park graduate, will share his personal experiences as someone who became a community and civic leader early in his career. He will discuss how young professionals can get involved and make an impact. \$15 for Chamber members; \$20 for non-members.

Registrations are due by noon on June 2
To register, [click here](#) or call (913) 491-3600



Happy Hour

Wednesday, June 28

5:00-7:00 p.m.

e café

10650 Roe Avenue

Join other young professionals at **e café** for networking, complimentary appetizers and happy hour specials. e café combines a vibrant coffee house with a state-of-the-art coworking center to create the ultimate workspace.



Free for Chamber members;
\$10 for non-members
Registrations due by noon on June 23
To register, [click here](#) or call (913) 491-3600

Join us at this networking event!

Wednesday Wake-up

A Business Before Hours

Wednesday, June 14

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Hosted by



7431 West 91st Street

Join us for networking over coffee and breakfast and learn how owners Micah LaCerte and Diana Chaloux-LaCerte are transforming bodies and lives at **Hitch Fit Gym**. Micah and Diana are part of the 2017 class of *Thinking Bigger Business Media's* Top 25 Under 25 Small Businesses. Diana also was featured recently in *Huffington Post's* Real Talk Real Women interview series.



Free and open to members only.

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



GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, September 15, 2017

12:30 p.m. shotgun start
St. Andrew's Golf Club

Sponsored by



MENORAH MEDICAL CENTER
OVERLAND PARK REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER

The Chamber's annual golf tournament is a fun way to expand your business connections as a golfer or as an event sponsor.

Register as a golfer by July 28 for the early-bird discount.
To register as a golfer, **[click here](#)**.

Sponsor a hole or a specific tournament activity, donate a door prize or provide registration bag items (150 like items).

For more information, visit www.opchamber.org or contact Celia at (913) 766-7603 or critzwatson@opchamber.org.

Beverage Carts Sponsor Lunch Sponsor Reception Sponsor



Soft Drinks Sponsor



Signage Sponsor



Overland Park

LEADERSHIP OVERLAND PARK UPDATE

Leadership class focuses on regionalism and economic development

Last month the Leadership Overland Park (LOP) class focused on regionalism and economic development.

During Regionalism Day, which was a shared session with other Johnson County leadership classes, members heard from Joe Reardon, President and CEO of the Greater Kansas City Chamber, about important regionalism issues including the Kansas City Airport. A panel of area mayors discussed issues of the region and class members heard presentations by leaders from Kansas City Area Development Council, Downtown Council of Kansas City, Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, Kauffman Foundation and Kansas City Sports Commission.

During the Economic Development session, class members learned about the economic development process from Beth Johnson, the Chamber's Senior Vice President of Economic Development. They also heard from a variety of speakers involved in economic development who offered different perspectives on areas such as talent attraction, tourism, small business resources, city planning and the importance of economic development to existing companies in Overland Park.

Thank you to our Healthy Eating / Lifestyle Sponsor:



For more information, click advertisement below

Stems
A GARDEN SOIRÉE
Join us in a 10th year celebration in full bloom from 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm.
Come frolic with friends while enjoying delicious food, drink, and music throughout the gardens.
Purchase your tickets or sponsorship package today and enjoy early purchase benefits.
Visit stemssoiree.org or call 913.322.6467 for all ticket and event information.
Benefiting: Presenting Sponsors: in partnership with the



John Holt, Fox4 News, moderated a panel discussion of mayors featuring Michael Copeland, Olathe; Peggy Dunn, Leawood; Mark Holland, Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas; Carson Ross, Blue Springs; and Eileen Weir, Independence.



LOP class members participating in an exercise on the economic development process as it relates to city planning.

LEADERSHIP OVERLAND PARK
General Membership Luncheon & Leadership Overland Park Graduation
Thursday, June 22
12:00-1:30 p.m. (check-in begins at 11:30 a.m.)
Ritz Charles Overland Park, 9000 West 137th Street
Join us as we celebrate the graduation of our 2017 Leadership Overland Park Class!
Featured Speaker: David Westbrook,
[Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas City](http://www.childrensmc.org)
Having lost his sight at 17, David Westbrook believes being blind helped him discover innate talents and gifts that enabled him to achieve greater success in life. That includes 35 years leading Corporate Communications Group, Inc., one of Kansas City's leading public relations firms. His agency became the place public figures or institutions turned to for PR help or crisis management. He sold his agency and became Senior Vice President, Strategy & Innovation, for Children's Mercy Hospital.

Sponsored by
EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY
KANSAS CITY
RSVP by June 15.
To register, [click here.](#)

President's Message cont. . . .

1. Broaden the tax base by actively assisting in the promotion of available industrial sites and seeking the establishment of one or more industrial park areas
2. Encourage and assist authorities in the improvement of transportation facilities – this included thoroughfares, the Johnson County airport expansion, the expressway to MCI and better public transportation
3. Help make Overland Park a better place in which to live by working for development of a public recreation program and additional facilities
4. Enhance the image and identification of the city as a distinguished place to live and work and buy goods and services. Develop a dynamic voice of business; support our superior

schools and establish a comprehensive Community Junior College and technical school; expand medical facilities and encourage meetings and conventions.

Sound familiar? These type of goals have been the bedrock of quality of life and economic development since our founding. Just as they successfully led Stan to recruit legions of new members through “Days of Decision” meetings in 1967, these same principles have guided subsequent board leaders and professional staff teams to advocate for infrastructure and public policy that provides for the quality of life that has created the environment of prosperity we enjoy today, 50 years after our founding.

We're on all the maps now. Mission Accomplished. Thanks, Stan.

For more information, click advertisement below

MOON SHINE
ON THE FARM
It's a Barn Raiser!
AUGUST 26, 7-11 P.M.
Good food, beer, wine and Signature Cocktail,
Live Band featuring The Suburbans – All under the stars.
\$50 per person / \$60 at the door
Sponsorship Packages Available
Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead
13800 Switzer Road • Overland Park, KS 66221
drfarmstead.org

Presenting Sponsor: **First State Bank MORTGAGE**
Benefiting: **FRIENDS OF THE FARMSTEAD**
PART OF THE ARTS & RECREATION FOUNDATION OF OVERLAND PARK

An evening at the Farmstead for guests 21 and older—Fundraiser for a Draft Horse & Discovery Barn.

Partner Spotlight:



**MENORAH MEDICAL CENTER
OVERLAND PARK REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER**

Menorah Medical Center and Overland Park Regional Medical Center are part of HCA Midwest Health Kansas City's largest network and recognized leader in healthcare, consisting of hospitals, outpatient centers, clinics, physician practices and surgery centers. Every day the employees at these premier hospitals live out the mission of the organization, "Above all else, we are committed to the care and improvement of human life."

Through community engagement, servant leadership and a commitment to the highest medical standards, Menorah Medical Center and Overland Park Regional Medical Center have helped make Overland Park one of the healthiest communities in the nation.

Both hospitals are part of the Sarah Cannon Cancer Institute, a leader in cancer care. Menorah's Breast Center is designated as a Breast Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology. It is the only hospital in Johnson County to offer both 3D mammography and 3D ultrasound. The hospital is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers and is certified by the Mammography Quality Standards Act. Additionally, the hospital is home to the region's only Genitourinary Cancer clinic, specializing in Genitourinary Oncology, Genitourinary Malignancies, Urinary Tract Malignancies, Male Genital Malignancies and many other urinary tract conditions.

Overland Park Regional Medical Center is home to Johnson County's only Level II Trauma Center; the hospital is also an Accredited Stoke and Chest Pain Center. Overland Park Regional Medical Center is a premier area destination for Women and Children's healthcare services; it includes the region's only Maternal Fetal Health Center, to care for critically ill mothers and their baby under one roof. The hospital includes an antepartum unit, a labor and delivery unit, a Level III NICU and Johnson County's only Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Overland Park Regional Medical Center has four emergency rooms, including a dedicated Pediatric emergency room and freestanding ERs in Olathe and Shawnee.

For more information, visit www.hcamidwest.com.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome new members!

We are pleased to introduce these new Chamber members:

Arb Tech Kansas City

Dallas Stephens, Owner
8220 West 132nd Place
Overland Park, KS 66213
(785) 691-6009
arborist.dallas@gmail.com
www.treekc.com
Landscaping & Lawn Services

Avenue 80

Nicole Yates, Market Specialist
8045 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66204
(913) 341-1100
leasing@avenue80.com
www.ave80.com
Apartments

BluHawk Dental Group

Becca Pasley, Operations
Manager
8033 West 159th Street
Overland Park, KS 66085
(913) 215-9664
pasleyr@pacden.com
www.bluhawkdentalgroup.com
Dentists, Health Care

Crossland Construction Company

David Anderson, Director of
Pre-construction
3252 Roanoke Road
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 960-4553
www.crosslandconstruction.com
Contractors - General, Construction
Management

Dopps Chiropractic

Danielle Dopps, Office Manager
7811 West 151st Street
Overland Park, KS 66223-2217
(913) 608-5441
doppschiropracticop@gmail.com
www.doppschiropracticop.com
Chiropractic Physicians - D.C., Health
Care

Farmers Insurance - The Compton Agency, LLC

Brian Compton, Owner/Agent
8665 West 96th Street, Suite 201
Overland Park, KS 66212
(913) 562-2955
bcompton@farmersagent.com
www.farmers.com
Insurance

First Federal Bank of Kansas City

Mike Skinner, Customer Service
Manager
8629 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66212
(816) 233-6170
firstfed@ffbkc.com
www.ffbkc.com
Banks, Mortgage

Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City

Lindsay Hicks, Development
Director
1423 East Linwood Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64109
(816) 924-1096
info@habitatkc.org
www.habitatkc.org
Social Service & Welfare Organizations,
Charitable Organizations

JNA Advertising

Suzie Gilbert, Public Relations
7101 College Boulevard, Suite 120
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 327-0055
sgilbert@jnaadv.com
www.jnaadvertising.com
Advertising, Marketing Consultants

Lenny's Subs - 135th

Patrick Grazier, Owner-Operator
8327 West 135th Street
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 851-5221
lennysop@gmail.com
www.lennys.com
Restaurants, Caterers

Lenny's Subs - 87th

Patrick Grazier, Owner-Operator
9343 West 87th Street
Overland Park, KS 66212
(913) 341-2677
lennysop@gmail.com
www.lennys.com
Restaurants, Caterers

Mainstream Boutique

Carol Culklin, Owner
9540 Nall Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66207
(913) 257-5180
overlandpark@
mainstreamboutique.com
www.mainstreamboutique.com
Retail

Metcalf Self Storage

Stacey Ruona, Manager
15415 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 225-0715
metcalfstorage@outlook.com
www.attic-storage.com
Storage - Household & Commercial

Primrose School of Blue Valley

Sudha Amaran, Owner
8300 West 165th Street
Overland Park, KS 66085
(913) 897-8900
owner@primroseleawood.com
[www.primroseschools.com/
schools/blue-valley](http://www.primroseschools.com/schools/blue-valley)
Schools - Preschool & Kindergarten,
Child Care

QPS Employment Group

Molly Johnson, Account
Executive
8005 West 110th Street, Suite 218
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 703-5800
overlandpark@qpsemployment.
com
www.qpsemployment.com
Employment Agencies & Services

Seeds of Hope, Inc.

Farah Saada Marvil, Chief
Executive Officer
PO Box 7701
Overland Park, KS 66207
(573) 355-1854
farah@seedsofhopeinc.com
www.seedsofhope.org
Non-Profit Organizations

Tommy's Express Car Wash-Overland Park

Scott Besch, Owner
10600 Roe Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66207
(913) 895-9300
overlandpark@tommys-express.
com
[https://tommys-express.com/
overland-park](https://tommys-express.com/overland-park)
Car Washing & Polishing

.....
Refer potential new Chamber
members and earn credits toward
event registrations or advertising
when they become a member.
Send referrals to Stacey Cowan at
scowan@opchamber.org.



Receiving new member plaques last month from Chamber President Tracey Osborne were Brian Compton, **Farmers Insurance-The Compton Agency**; Danielle Dopps, **Dopps Chiropractic**; Molly Johnson, **QPS Employment Group**; Rebecca Pasley, **BluHawk Dental Group**; Phil Bressler, **Latch**; Nicole Yates, **Avenue 80**; Yiannis Klathis, **Pita Blu**; Carol Culklin, **Mainstream Boutique**; Pete O'Malley, **Overland Park Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #21**; Lauryn Baron, **Mainstream Boutique**; Arjun Amaran, **Primrose School of Blue Valley**; Stacey Ruona, **Metcalf Self Storage**; Dallas Stephens, **Arb Tech of Kansas City**.

REINVESTED MEMBERS / RECENT EVENTS



Chamber Diplomats last month participated in a volunteer opportunity, helping package 1,080 meals for **Rise Against Hunger**, the international hunger relief organization formerly known as Stop Hunger Now. Participating were (left to right): Stacey Cowan, Overland Park Chamber; David Freisner, **Fortune Financial Advisors**; Toni Anderson, **Security Bank of Kansas City**; Shakia Webb, **First Citizens Bank**; Cindy Shelton, **Nifty Promotions**; Trish Reedy, **Central Bank of the Midwest**; Ann Jorden-Spencer, **Jack Jorden Real Estate**; Deanna Herman, **Don Ernst Agency - Farmers Insurance Group**; Conner Caldwell, **Sunflower Bank**; Jim Edwards, **Nothing Bundt Cakes**.

Member Renewals

We thank these companies for their membership reinvestments in April 2017:

20-39 Years

APAC-Kansas, Inc.-Kansas City Division
Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Kansas City Homes
Jalapenos Mexican Restaurant
Marge Roche and Associates
McDonald's - 77th & Metcalf
Santee Floral Designs, Inc.
Shawnee Mission School District
Spencer Fane LLP
TranSystems

10-19 Years

Delta Dental of Kansas
Enterprise Center of Johnson County
Great Western Bank
Hilton Garden Inn Overland Park
Landworks, Inc.
MD Management
On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina
Pittsburg State University-Kansas City Metro
Show-Me Presentation Resources
U.S. Engineering Company

5-9 Years

Dex Media
First Student
The Forum at Overland Park
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Overland Park-West
K2 Landscapes
Nolan Real Estate
Object Technology Solutions Inc.
QC Holdings, Inc.
Rees Masilionis Turley Architecture
Sunlight Day Spa
Talk of the Town Grill & Bar-Overland Park
UnitedHealthcare
Villa Medici

1-4 Years

Crown Realty Overland Park
Fat Brain Toys
Fry's Car Care
Fry's Tire & Service
Google Fiber
LANE4 Property Group
Mazuma Credit Union
Museum at Prairiefire
Pinstripes, Inc.
RiverPoint
Topgolf
Vinson Mortgage Group



City Councilmember Rick Collins and Chamber President Tracey Osborne helped Arjun & Sudha Amaran celebrate a groundbreaking for **Primrose School of Blue Valley**, 8300 West 165th Street. Primrose Schools is a national system of accredited private preschools that provides a premier early education and child care experience for children and families. For more information: (913) 897-8900 or www.primroseschools.com/schools/blue-valley.



Chamber President Tracey Osborne helped owners Yiannis Klathis and Timmetha Harrington celebrate **Pita Blu Fresh Greek To Go's** second anniversary at 7335 West 119th Street. Pita Blu brings Mediterranean street food to your neighborhood serving authentic, traditional and tasty flavors of Greece with drive-through and catering options. For more information: (913) 258-8355 or www.pitablu.com.



City Councilmember Fred Spears, Chamber President Tracey Osborne and Chamber Diplomats helped Dimitri Siscos, owner, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **The Siscos Group Realtors**, 7030 W. 107th Street. The agency's merger with Angel Berry Realtors, Inc., makes it the longest continuously running family-owned real estate firm in Johnson County. For more information: (913) 766-2195 or www.siscosgroup.com.

RECENT EVENTS

Wednesday Wake-up

A Business Before Hours

hosted on May 10 by



Rebecca Pasley, **BluHawk Dental Group**; Shakia Webb, **First Citizens Bank**.



Amy Jalbert; Rachael Ausmus, **Fidelity Bank**; Karen McGrath, **Sunflower Bank**.

Kelli Ibarra tells attendees about **Sleep Number-Corbin Park**.



Roth Rous, **Allied Staffing**; Michael Tracy, **OMNI Human Resource Management**; David Austin, **CoreFirst Bank & Trust**; Teresa Reh, **AdvoCare**.

OP After Hours

hosted on April 27 by



Taylor Pruitt and Robinn Scholfield, **Bravadas Wigs and Extensions**; Dolores Burke-King, **AAA Missouri**.

Cindy Sims, **SIMSDirect**; Dana Mathews; Leonard Sawicki, **UMB Bank**; Kathy Denis, **Restaurant Guide of Kansas City**.



Member News & Events

The 10th annual Stems fundraiser, an evening of celebration in full bloom featuring food, drink, entertainment, beautiful gardens and a premier guest list, is 7-11 p.m. on **June 24** at the Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens.

Pivot International has acquired Avatar Engineering.

NBKC Bank recently made a significant investment in its Kansas City, Mo., headquarters with a new facility that includes a state-of-the-art workout facility, yoga room, game rooms, putting green and café with indoor and outdoor areas.

With the opening of the Zamierowski Simulation Center and Rodgers Conference Center, **Shawnee Mission Health** is now better equipped to support the ongoing educational needs of its physicians, nurses and associates, resulting in a higher standard of patient care. It is one of the final components of the hospital's \$22 million renovation of the first floor of the original hospital tower.

Blue Valley, Shawnee Mission and **Olathe** school districts have schools in the top 10 in the 2017 Best High Schools rankings by *U.S. News & World Report* and also in "America's Most Challenging High Schools" rankings by *The Washington Post*.

First National Bank has awarded \$834,000 in community development grants to 47 organizations in Kansas and four other states. The grants support programs focused on stable housing,

vibrant neighborhoods and strong local economies.

Sunflower Bank raised \$102,363 this year for schools and students in Kansas, Colorado, and Missouri, bringing its 16-year total to over \$1,139,000.

Johnson County Manager Hannes Zacharias has proposed a 2018 budget with the opportunity to roll back the mill levy by a quarter mill.

For the seventh time in eight years, **Black & Veatch** earned the number one ranking worldwide in telecommunications for U.S.-based engineering companies in *Engineering News-Record*.

Menorah Medical Center's bariatric program has been recertified as a Comprehensive Bariatric Surgery Program under the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program.

Grantham University will award two community grants of up to \$3,000 each, twice per year as part of Grantham Gives Back initiative. The university also awards quarterly grants to 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations focused on serving veterans and the military, first responders, education, career development and the environment.

AT&T announced investments of nearly \$675 million in its Kansas City wireless and wired networks to enhance reliability, coverage, speed and overall performance for residents and businesses during 2014-2016. Last year, AT&T made nearly 330 wireless network upgrades in

(continued on page 12)



City Councilmember Rick Collins, Chamber Chairman Michael Tracy and Chamber President Tracey Osborne helped Ken Bacon, CEO; and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Shawnee Mission Health-Overland Park Medical Office Building**, 7840 West 165th Street. For more information: (913) 373-1100 or www.shawneemission.org/locations/overland-park.



City Councilmember Paul Lyons and Chamber Diplomats helped owners Jake & Amanda Chappelow celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Stagecoach Tavern**, 9617 West 87th Street. The Chappelows also own Burg & Barrel as part of their Local Pub Company. For more information: (913) 444-0494 or www.stagecoachop.com.



City Council President John Thompson, Chamber Chairman Michael Tracy, Chamber President Tracey Osborne and Chamber Diplomats helped Molly Johnson and her team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **QPS Employment Group**, 8005 West 110th Street, Suite 218. The Overland Park office specializes in office/clerical placements and works with employers across the metro. For more information: (913) 703-5800 or www.qpsemployment.com.

CELEBRATING THE CHAMBER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Overland Park's major developments in the past 50 years

When the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1967, its leaders determined that priorities to shape a successful community must include well-funded public schools, well-designed infrastructure for transportation and public safety, building an environment attractive to corporate and retail development, access to quality health care, and advocacy efforts to keep elected officials aware of policy supportive of economic growth. Pursuing these priorities over the past 50 years has helped Overland Park grow into a city that is consistently ranked among the best in the nation.

This month we present historical timelines that highlight significant accomplishments in education, transportation and advocacy that helped transform Overland Park into the community we know today:

Education

From the very beginning, our leaders believed a commitment to quality education was the foundation on which a prosperous community was built.



1969 - Academic excellence in Johnson County was firmly established with the formation of Shawnee Mission School District, which quickly grew to be one of the largest and highest performing districts in the state.

1972 - One of the first initiatives supported by the Chamber was the establishment of Johnson County Community College, which happened after a successful county-wide election in March 1967. Two years later, Johnson County voters approved \$12.9 million in bonds to purchase land in Overland Park and the campus opened in the fall of 1972.

1975 - As the population in southern Johnson County swelled, Blue Valley School District was established. Enrollment nearly quadrupled in the district's first 10 years.



Shawnee Mission School District music classroom in the 1960s.



Early construction on Overland Parkway at 87th Street in about 1974.

During the 1987-88 school year, the district added 1,000 new students in just one year.

1993 - The University of Kansas expanded its presence in Johnson County by opening its Edwards Campus in Overland Park on land donated by real estate developer Clay Blair III, who requested the campus be named for KU alumni Roy and Joan Edwards.

2008 - After Johnson County voters approved a one-eighth cent sales tax to create the Johnson County Education Research Triangle, the KU Edwards Campus gained the 75,000-square-foot, \$25 million Business, Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST) Building. This initiative also boosted the International Animal Health and Food Safety Institute at K-State's Innovation Campus in Olathe and The University of Kansas Clinic Research Center in Fairway. The Research Triangle was estimated to generate a local economic impact of well over \$1.4 billion and attract millions of dollars in private and public donations and research grants.

Transportation

Overland Park residents enjoy a relatively short work commute thanks to the planning and foresight of early leaders who began in the mid-1960s development of Interstate 435. The first segment of I-435 opened in 1965 between I-35 and Metcalf Avenue and it was fully built through Overland Park by 1969. Chamber leaders pushed for interchanges in Overland Park that facilitated access to Johnson County Community College and Overland Park Regional Medical Center at Quivira Road and Corporate Woods at Antioch Road.

1975 - The opening of the Overland Parkway (also known as the Switzer Bypass) helped facilitate I-69 traffic through Overland Park and helped reroute industrial and through traffic away from Metcalf Avenue.

1977 - 111th Street was widened to four lanes and renamed College Boulevard because it was a major artery to Johnson County Community College.

(continued on the next page)

Major developments cont. . . .

1987 – I-435 Interchange at Quivira Road opened.

2008 – I-435 Interchange at Antioch Road opened.

Advocacy & Issues

Through solid, long-standing relationships with policy-makers at the local, state and federal levels, the Overland Park Chamber has always been a respected voice representing its business members.

1967 – The Chamber endorsed a \$1.6 million recreation bond referendum for two municipal swimming pools and a municipal golf course as well as to purchase and develop parks and additional land for the Indian Creek parkway system.

1968 – Kansas Highway Department representatives met with Chamber leaders to discuss future projects and the Chamber’s committee members suggested the division should place more emphasis on areas of heaviest gas tax contributions and expanding population.

1976 – The Chamber endorsed the proposed Johnson County Charter and called for defeat of the Kansas constitutional amendment on land use appraisal that would shift the tax burden from rural areas to urban areas.

1983 – The Chamber Foundation established the Leadership Overland Park program as a way to educate future leaders about the needs, issues and priorities of our community. Since then, the program has graduated more than 800 participants who moved into leadership roles with entities including the state legislature, City Council

and school board.

1987 – After a nearly ten-year legislative effort by the Chamber, a bill allowing liquor by the drink in restaurants is passed.

1993 – After years of relying on the Chamber president and volunteers to travel back and forth to Topeka, the Chamber hired its first full-time government affairs staff to lobby in Topeka.

2003 – The Chamber helped promote the successful city election that extended a one-eighth cent sales tax to construct new neighborhood streets and make thoroughfare improvements.

2008 – The Chamber supported the City of Overland Park’s annexation of land in southern Johnson County.

2012 – The Chamber conducted a community scan of Johnson County voters and businesses that affirmed the community’s long-standing priorities of funding quality of life factors such as education and infrastructure through a balance of sales, income and property taxes.

2012 – The Chamber, through Ben Craig and Larry Winn, filed a Kansas Redistricting lawsuit seeking fair representation in the Kansas legislature that led to Johnson County gaining legislative seats.

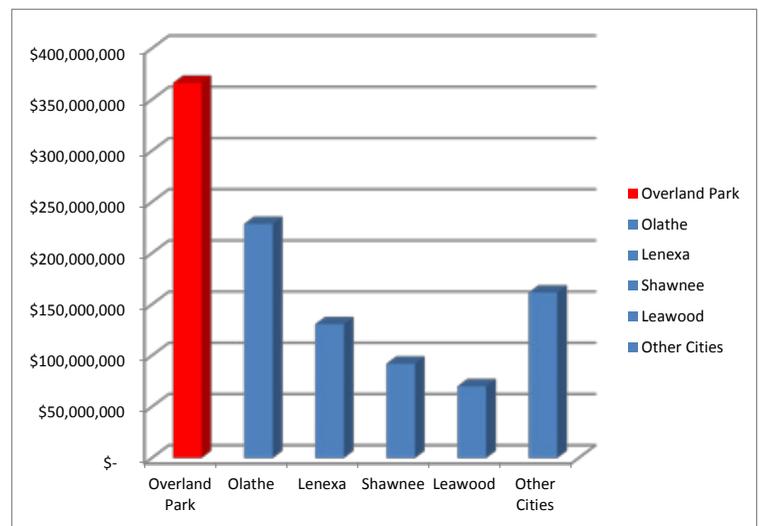
In next month’s newsletter, we’ll present timelines that highlight other community assets that have contributed to Overland Park’s phenomenal growth over the past 50 years. If you have historic photos related to the Overland Park business community, we’d like to borrow them to make copies. Please contact Stan at slawson@opchamber.org.



Kathy Nelson, President and CEO of the Kansas City Sports Commission, was the featured speaker at last month’s Executive Leadership Series program. In addition to providing insights on leadership during her presentation, “The Sport of Leadership,” Nelson also related her experience of planning and executing Kansas City’s monumental and highly successful parade and celebration when the Kansas City Royals won the World Series in 2015. With an estimated crowd of 800,000 people, the celebration resulted in only three reported arrests. The Executive Leadership Series is sponsored by **First National Bank**.

Overland Park Retail Sales

February 2017



Unemployment

	March 2017	March 2016
Overland Park	3.1%	3.4%
Johnson County	3.1%	3.4%
Kansas City Metro MSA	4.4%	4.5%
State of Kansas	4.2%	4.4%

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

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To add your name to this list each month,
contact Tracey Osborne
at (913) 491-3600 or
tosborne@opchamber.org.



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Member News & Events

the Kansas City area, primarily building new cell sites and adding capacity to existing cell sites.

Dr. Kenny Southwick has been named interim superintendent of **Shawnee Mission School District**, effective July 1. Dr. Jim Hinson remains acting superintendent until June 30.

Cindy Green is now assistant to the county manager and chief of staff for **Johnson County Government**.

ArtsKC has appointed Dana Knapp as its new President & CEO after serving in an interim position since January 1.

Affinis Corp has hired John McCanless as a senior project representative.

Joan Wiseman has joined **TPP Retirement Plan Specialists, LLC**, as a daily transactional processor.

Johnson County Manager Hannes Zacharias was named the 2017 Outstanding Public Administrator by the Kansas chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Dr. Rachel Henkhaus, **Garver, LLC**, has been named Member of the Year by the Greater Kansas City chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar.

OMNI Human Resource Management announces these new employees: Tiffany Fercho as Senior Search Consultant; Teresa Toal as Senior Consultant; and Olivia Skogerboe as Communications Coordinator. It also promoted Julie Anderson to Manager, Recruitment Solutions; and Brianna Steinke to Search Consultant.

Submit company news to Stan Lawson at
slawson@opchamber.org.