

Business Perspective



March 2017

Recognizing his more than 40 years of contributions to advancing our community, Larry Winn III, **BHC RHODES**, received the 2017 Ben Craig Vision Award from the Overland Park Chamber Economic Development Council. During Winn's law career, his efforts helped secure more than \$4 billion in projects. Civically, he has provided leadership in initiatives to improve schools, airports, libraries, parks and correctional facilities.



Michael Tracy, **OMNI Human Resource Management**; and Stan Meyer, **Rau Construction**; attended the Overland Park Chamber Economic Development Council's annual Honors Lunch last month. Tracy, 2017 Chamber Chairman; and Meyer, 1967 Chamber Chairman; represent the 50-year span of Chamber Chairman leadership.

Photos of the Honors Lunch award recipients are on page 10.

Coalition of Kansas chambers releases series of position statements

The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, as part of a coalition of chambers of commerce from across Kansas representing more than 13,000 businesses, recently presented state government leaders with a series of position statements. The statements advocate for policies the coalition members believe create a strong economy, a qualified and nimble workforce, a sustainable infra-

structure and ultimately a quality of life that retains the best and brightest and attracts businesses and talent to Kansas. The individual statements focus on economic development, higher education, KanCare/Medicaid, K-12 school funding, taxation, and transportation and infrastructure.

To read the statements, [click here](#).

State of the County Address & Luncheon presented by Chairman Ed Eilert

Tuesday, March 28

12:00-1:15 p.m. (check-in at 11:30 a.m.)

Ritz Charles Overland Park, 9000 West 137th Street

\$30 per person / \$300 for a corporate table of 8

RSVP by noon on March 21

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



Our Mission:

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



Connect with us at [opchamber](#):



Chamber Calendar

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 - 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Saint Luke's Multispecialty Clinic,

4061 Indian Creek Parkway

Free and open to Chamber members only

Executive Leadership Series

Featuring Bob Regnier

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 - 7:30-9:00 a.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas City-Overland Park, 10100 College Boulevard

Chamber members: \$30 per person; \$330 per table

Non-members: \$40 per person; \$440 for table of 10

Working Lunch

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 - 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Newport Grill, 5501 West 135th Street

\$25 per person, open to Chamber members only

Legislative Breakfast #3

Saturday, March 25, 2017 - 7:30-9:00 a.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas City-Overland Park, 10100 College Boulevard

Scheduled speakers: Senator Barbara Bollier and Representatives Stephanie Clayton, Erin Davis, Nancy Lusk, Julia Lynn and Brett Parker

State of the County Luncheon

Presented by the Johnson County Public Policy Council and Chairman Ed Eilert

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 - 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Ritz Charles, 9000 West 137th Street

\$30 per person; \$300 for corporate table of 8

Ribbon cutting

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 - 3:00 p.m.

Saint Luke's Multispecialty Clinic,

4061 Indian Creek Parkway

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**
Kartsten 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*

A vision for the future

In this issue we salute our charter members, companies with us since the beginning. Company representatives like Stan Meyer, **Rau Construction**, were drivers behind the formation of our organization, changing us from a downtown retail-oriented, all-volunteer effort to a city-wide professionally staffed business organization. Many of these businesses were formed in the 1960s when Overland Park's population was just 28,000. You'll see in their profiles that they've evolved and grown through the decades, many with name changes via mergers, acquisitions and branding updates, but one thing has remained constant – their commitment to our mission and their support of the Chamber. We're so thankful for their belief in the need for a city-wide vision in 1967 and for their unwavering commitment these past 50 years.

The coming years promise to bring even more rapid change than the past and we, along with our partners at the City of Overland Park and **Visit Overland Park**, are working together to identify a vision to ensure we as a community are prepared. Our strength and growth as a community have been influenced by our quality education system, business climate, safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, access to health care, transportation and recreation and cultural amenities. It's estimated Johnson County will add another 500,000 people in the next 50 years, but our growth is not the only difference between the past and future.

Hardly a day goes by without hearing a reference to the "graying of America." With 10,000 baby boomers retiring every day through 2030, communities face changes in all sectors from workforce to demands on services like health care, transportation, and housing. In Overland Park's relatively brief history as a city of less than 60 years, we've experienced our own aging. In 1970 our median age was 26.1; in 2013 our median age was 37.7. Another significant change over the last two decades is household size. In 1970 the average household size in the city was 3.45 persons; in 2013, it was 2.46. Three-person households are our greatest percentage (37.2%), while we differ from our county and state counterparts in that we have a higher rate of single-person households at 29.1%. Nationally, we know that in addition to becoming grayer, our society will become more urban and more diverse. *Kiplinger* estimates the country will move from 62% white and 18% Hispanic in 2015 to 53% white and 23% Hispanic in 2035, with the percentage of blacks (13%), Asians (7%) and those identifying as mixed race/other (4%) increasing a point or so each.

I was struck by an article on demographics in a recent edition of *The Rotarian* magazine. Author Paul Taylor said, "The United States is at a moment it its history when young and old don't look alike, think alike, vote alike or use technology alike. These gaps have the potential to put stress on everything from workplaces to pocketbooks to politics to our nation's sense of social cohesion."

Most strategic discussions, whether in businesses or nonprofits at some point focus upon these changes taking place in society and the implications. Whether it's how we communicate, or how and where we choose to work or live or shop – the options are rapidly changing. It's incumbent upon us to identify these and other changes and, most importantly, what they mean for us. We're excited to work with our partners at the City and **Visit Overland Park** on a visioning project to examine all facets of our community for continued growth and success through 2040. Look for an announcement soon about how you can be involved.



Tracey Osborne, CCE
Chamber President
@traceylosborne

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

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Join us at this networking event!

Wednesday Wake-up

A Business Before Hours

Wednesday, March 8

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Hosted by



Mission Farms West
4061 Indian Creek Parkway



Join us for networking over coffee and breakfast and be among the first to see the new [Saint Luke's Health Multispecialty Clinic](#) in Mission Farms. Officially open April 3, the new clinic provides a wide range of health care services all in one location. The clinic houses a lab, imaging services, a pharmacy, and Saint Luke's Convenient Care for same-day, no-appointment care. Specialties include primary care, cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, general surgery, plastic surgery, ear, nose and throat, and orthopedics.

Free and open to members only

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

Mark your calendar for these upcoming Wednesday Wake-up networking events . . .

April 12 - [Blue Valley Schools-CAPS](#), 7501 West 149th Terrace

May 10 - [Sunflower Bank](#), 7400 West 135th Street

June 14 - [Hitch Fit Gym](#), 7431 West 91st Street

August 9 - [Shawnee Mission Health-Overland Park](#), 7840 West 165th Street in BluHawk



Legislative Breakfast Series

The Johnson County Public Policy Council presents this session's final breakfast in which Johnson County legislators provide updates on legislative action at the Statehouse:

Saturday, March 25

Scheduled Speakers:

- Sen. Barbara Bollier
- Rep. Erin Davis
- Sen. Julia Lynn
- Rep. Nancy Lusk
- Rep. Stephanie Clayton
- Rep. Brett Parker

This event is 7:30-9:00 a.m. at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas City-Overland Park**, 10100 College Boulevard.

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

Executive Leadership Series

INSIGHTS FROM THE TOP

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

Join us for this program featuring executive insight on business leadership.

Proudly sponsored by:



Tuesday, March 21

7:30-9:00 a.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas City-Overland Park

10100 College Boulevard

featuring

Bob Regnier, President

[Bank of Blue Valley](#)



In 1989, Robert "Bob" Regnier started **Bank of Blue Valley**, a locally-owned and operated community bank that now has five locations throughout Johnson County. Regnier is a native Kansas Citian with degrees from Kansas State University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He has been active in dozens of community organizations and foundations and has received numerous recognitions.

Members: \$30 per person or \$330 for a reserved table of 10

Non-members: \$40 per person or \$440 for a reserved table of 10

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

Maximize the time in your busy work day by combining lunch with the opportunity to cultivate new business relationships!



Wednesday, March 22

12:00-1:30 p.m.

Hosted by



NEWPORT GRILL

STEAKS, SEAFOOD & COCKTAILS

5501 West 135th Street



This networking lunch is for Chamber members only and is \$25 per person. Space is limited.

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

CHAMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leadership class studies health and social issues

During its second session, the 2017 class of Leadership Overland Park focused on health and social issues.

Class members heard from various health care professionals including representatives of **United Community Services of Johnson County, KidsTLC, Hillcrest Transitional Housing of Kansas, Marillac and SAFEHOME, Inc.** Monty Miller, **Saint Luke's Health System**, provided a program on achieving a healthy balance in one's life. Dan Lorenz, **Specialists in Sports and Orthopedic Rehabilitation**, moderated a panel discussion featuring representatives of

several health-related organizations reviewing key health care issues in 2017. Afterward, the class toured the pediatric emergency department at **Overland Park Regional Medical Center.**

During sessions this month, class members will learn about state government while meeting with leaders in Topeka and also spend a day touring and learning more about education in Johnson County.

Thank you to our Healthy Eating / Lifestyle Sponsor:

 **Saint Luke's**
HEALTH SYSTEM



Wednesday Wake-up

A Business Before Hours

hosted on February 8 by



Shakia Webb, **First Citizens Bank**; provided a 30-second commercial about her bank.



Cathy Weaver, **Miracles With Water**; was a lucky doorprize winner.



NEW MEMBERS / REINVESTED MEMBERS

Welcome new members!

We are pleased to introduce these new Chamber members:

Hunt Midwest

Jon Birkel, Director of
Development
8300 NE Underground Drive,
Suite 100
Kansas City, MO 64161
(816) 455-2500
connect@huntmidwest.com
www.huntmidwest.com
Real Estate - Developers

Kansas City Eye Clinic

Andrew Wang, Practice
Administrator
7504 Antioch Road
Overland Park, KS 66204
(913) 341-3100
awang@kceyeclinic.com
www.kceyeclinic.com
Physicians & Surgeons M.D.,
Optometrists, O.D.



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

Some of our newest Chamber members received new member plaques at last month's Wednesday Wake-up hosted by iFLY Indoor Skydiving.

Member Renewals

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

40-50 Years

Bodker Realty, Inc.
Capitol Federal Savings Bank
Central Bank of the Midwest
Overland Park Jeep Dodge Ram
Chrysler
Security Bank of Kansas City
UMB Bank n.a.
WaterOne

20-39 Years

A.C. Printing Company, Inc.
American Heart Association
Blue Valley Recreation
Commission
Commerce Bank
Courtyard by Marriott Overland
Park
Firebaugh Construction, Inc.

Gary C. Richter, C.P.A., P.A.
Home Builders Association of
Greater Kansas City
Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc.
Lathrop & Gage LLP
MarksNelson LLC
Meyer Music Company
Peoples Bank
Saint Luke's South Hospital
Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.
United Community Services of
Johnson County

5-9 Years

AlphaGraphics
Blue Valley Insurance Agency, Inc.
Creative Planning Benefits, LLC
Empower Retirement
First Citizens Bank
The Goddard School
Harmon Construction, Inc.
HighPointe Financial Group, LLC
Level Five Solutions
Newmark Grubb Zimmer
PGAV Architects, Inc.
Savage & Browning LLC
Volvo of Overland Park
Woody Financial Group, Inc.



The Chamber facilitated a meeting between Kansas City Area Transportation Authority representatives and local employers to discuss the expansion of transit in Overland Park to increase workforce access.

10-19 Years

CommunityAmerica Credit Union
Consolidated Communications
Continental Title Company
Costco Wholesale #369
Dentons
Equity Bank
Heartstrings Community
Foundation
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites-
Convention Center
Leawood Family Dental, LLC
Merrill Companies
Principal Financial Group
Ritz Charles Overland Park, Inc.
Roger the Plumber, Inc.
Rosana Square / Mark One
Electric
Spanos Corporation
The UPS Store-Oak Park
Commons

1-4 Years

AdvoCare
All Copy Products
Berkley Medical Management
Solutions
Choice Solutions LLC
Coffelt Land Title, Inc.
EDZ Systems
Fogel-Anderson Construction
iFLY Indoor Skydiving
Oades Brothers Tire & Auto
Phoenix Home Care, Inc.
Pivot International, Inc.
Proshred Security
Rise Against Hunger
Stratford Commons
Rehabilitation & Health Care
Center
Ted's Cafe Escondido - Corbin
Park
Village at Mission Farms
Village Shalom, Inc.
Westlake Ace Hardware

Member News & Events

The City of Overland Park has numerous volunteer opportunities that are perfect for retiring baby boomers.

www.opkansas.org/things-to-see-and-do/volunteer-opportunities-in-op

Following a merger, Benchmark Construction is now **RF**

Benchmark Construction with offices in Eudora and Manhattan.

Tickets for Less has purchased Brickhouse Tickets, its second recent acquisition.

Through significant support from **Claridge Court**, the

(continued on page 12)

These businesses have invested in our community to keep it vibrant. We encourage you to use them first when purchasing goods and services.

RECENT EVENTS / PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Members of the Johnson County Legislative Delegation have been participating in a Legislative Breakfast Series presented by the Johnson County Public Policy Council.



Partner Spotlight: Sprint

Sprint is globally and nationally recognized for leadership in innovation, sustainable business practices and the good works it does locally through education, employee volunteerism and giving.

Sprint has changed the way people communicate, how they work and how they stay connected on the go. It strives to connect employees with what matters and it has a fundamental commitment to people, product, and planet. Guided by these commitments, Sprint brings people and resources together for a better world.

With more than 6,000 employees living here, working here and supporting local businesses, Sprint works diligently to strengthen its hometown community. In 2016, Sprint and Sprint employees contributed more than \$2.5 million to the Kansas City metro area through donations, sponsorships and volunteer hours. Sprint and its employees pledged more than \$500,000 to **United Way of Greater Kansas City** during the 2016 United Way campaign, and the 2016 Sprint Feed the Need campaign provided over 290,292 meals for hungry residents in Kansas City through donations to Harvesters.

It also earns national recognition for the Kansas City metro area as a center of innovation and technology. As part of this commitment, Sprint opened the Sprint Accelerator in Kansas City – a three-month, immersive, mentor-driven program for ten selected startups. The accelerator space also is used to deliver year-round programming, including mentor engagement, STEM programs, entrepreneurial community collaboration and co-working space for startup organizations.

Sprint is also an environmental leader. Its 200-acre Overland Park headquarters campus is one of the most environmentally responsible campuses in the country with 100 percent of campus power attributed to wind power and the green space is watered with recaptured rainwater.

For more information, visit www.sprint.com.

OP After Hours

hosted on January 24 by
**Overland Park
Racquet Club**



John Yates, **Mutual of Omaha**; Brad Stratton, **Overland Park Wealth Management**; Susan Mong, **Johnson County Library**.

Scott Fenton, general manager, provided tours of the renovations completed at **Overland Park Racquet Club**.





Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary

Recognizing our Charter Members:

Companies that have supported the Overland Park Chamber for 50 years

Many companies and their leaders were involved in the founding of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce in 1967. Fifty years later, a number of those companies are still involved in the Chamber and have continued to support us for five decades.

AT&T – AT&T has been investing in Kansas City-area communications networks, people and communities for 138 years. SBC Communications Inc. merged with AT&T in 2005, and the combined company became AT&T Inc. In Overland Park, the company invested more than \$69.7 million in wired and wireless networks during the 2013-15 period. Among other area facilities, AT&T currently operates four central offices and three retail stores in Overland Park.

Bear & Bear Associates – In the early 1960s, Jack Bear developed some of Johnson County's first multistory office buildings – Cloverleaf Office Park, which is comprised of ten buildings and more than 400,000 square feet of office park.

Central Bank of the Midwest – Since the Chamber's establishment, it has received strong leadership and support from Metcalf Bank, the predecessor of today's Central Bank of the Midwest. The community bank was founded by Joseph Cohen in 1962. Just two years

Our thanks to the 50-year support of these charter Chamber members:

- **AT&T**
- **Bear & Bear Associates**
- **Central Bank of the Midwest**
- **Family Tree Nursery**
- **HNTB Corporation**
- **Kansas City Power & Light**
- **Kansas Gas Service**
- **McGilley & Hoge Johnson County Memorial Chapel**
- **Memorial Events of Johnson County**
- **MetroMedia, Inc.**
- **Mize Houser & Company**
- **O'Neill Honda**
- **Payne & Jones Chartered**
- **Rau Construction Company**
- **Security Bank of Kansas City**
- **Shafer, Kline & Warren**
- **Suburban Lawn & Garden**
- **UMB Bank n.a.**
- **Wallace Saunders**

later, Ben Craig joined the bank and spent 46 years as president, CEO and chairman. Craig was the Chamber's second chairman, serving in 1968 and 1969, and he continued to contribute his leadership to the Chamber the rest of his life. Two other bank presidents have served as Chamber chairmen: Bart Cohen in 1973 and Jon Stewart in 2001. Central Bank company ownership and its current CEO, Tom Fitzsimmons, have continued the bank's long tradition of support and investment in the Chamber and our community.

Family Tree Nursery – More than 50 years ago, Ron Nelson followed his passion and transferred from dental studies to the horticulture program at Kansas State University. In 1964, he opened a wholesale growing facility near downtown Overland Park at 85th Street and Farley where he raised high quality

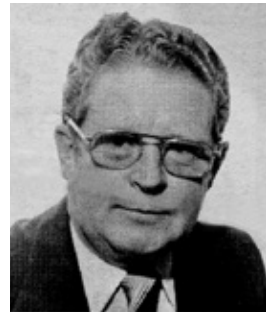
(continued on page 8)

Remembering Dick Molamphy

First Chamber executive started 50 years ago this month

Fifty years ago this month, Richard "Dick" Molamphy became the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce's first full-time executive. His hiring was made possible by a successful membership drive led by Stan Meyer, Rau Construction; and Leonard McKinzie, United Supers.

Molamphy came to our chamber after service in the U.S. Navy, many years in the funeral home business and 12 years managing chambers in South Dakota and Minnesota.



Dick Molamphy

When he was hired in January 1967, Molamphy stated, "From what I have been able to observe, there is more potential in this community than just about any city in the country."

In his 17 years at the Overland Park Chamber, Molamphy helped nearly triple the number of members and increased its budget seven-fold. Under his leadership, the Chamber forged a strong partnership with the City of Overland Park during its formative years when a vision was being established that helped set the course for the phenomenal growth of our community.

During Molamphy's tenure, the chamber actively participated in all areas of economic development including College Boulevard, Interstate 435 and the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

In addition to his many duties at the Chamber, Molamphy was engaged in numerous other organizations including serving as president of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce Executives.

After Molamphy's death in 1984, his work and memory was recognized with the creation of the Richard J. Molamphy Park near Lighton Plaza.

Courtesy of Central Bank of the Midwest



Metcalf Bank presidents Ben Craig, Bart Cohen and Jon Stewart all served as Chamber chairmen.

SALUTING OUR 50-YEAR MEMBERS

Charter members continued . . .

plants such as poinsettias and chrysanthemums. Family Tree Nursery evolved into retail locations in Overland Park, Shawnee and Liberty and a growing facility in Kansas City, Kan. Nelson served as Chamber Chairman in 1986. At the helm of the business since 2007, Ron's son Eric now shares a common bond with his sons, Jonah and Jesse, that he enjoyed with his dad: working side-by-side in the family business.

HNTB Corporation – HNTB Corporation opened an office in Overland Park in the early 1960s to continue work with the Kansas Highway Commission and the Kansas Turnpike Authority. Now, with over 125 employees based in Overland Park, HNTB provides infrastructure solutions to a wide range of municipal, state and federal clients. As an active Chamber member for 50 years, the firm continues to benefit from community visibility, connections made with business leaders, and the Chamber's public policy and advocacy efforts.

Kansas City Power & Light – In 1924, Kansas City Power & Light moved its Kansas division to downtown Overland Park where it opened a retail office in the middle of the 7900 block of Santa Fe Drive. It began building power lines emanating from the Strang Line right-of-way, which served as the easement for one of the company's main high lines. KCP&L expanded its buildings and offices



Beginning in the 1920s, Kansas City Power & Light had a large presence in downtown Overland Park.

and soon had 76 employees working there. In 1939, all the company's buildings were united under a new canopy on which was placed a large neon sign advertising the Kansas City Power & Light Company that could be seen as far away as 75th & State Line. The company moved its offices, garages and yards to a larger location at 87th & Nieman in 1961.

McGilley & Hoge Chapel – In 1932, brothers Royce and Wilbur Hoge established Hoge Funeral Home in Charles Pinkham's house in downtown Overland Park along Santa Fe Drive when it was a narrow, two-lane gravel road. The McGilley family joined the Hoge Funeral Home in June 1977.

What began as a small funeral home in rural Johnson County has grown to be a cornerstone business that is part of the Dignity Memorial network.

Memorial Events of Johnson County

– In 1951, D. W. Newcomer Funeral

Home – one of the largest and most established funeral homes in Kansas City – developed Johnson County Memorial Gardens on Metcalf Avenue just south of what is now College Boulevard. In 1963,

"We are privileged to be publishers of the Chamber's annual directory, as well as publishers for chamber directories throughout the U.S. Being familiar now with chambers everywhere, I can say the Overland Park Chamber is a true leader in its community and a major driver in the growth and quality of life in Overland Park and all of Johnson County."

– Steve Rose, **MetroMedia**

the company opened Overland Park Chapel at 82nd Street and Metcalf Avenue. As the community continued to expand to the south, D. W. Newcomer & Sons opened a state-of-the-art funeral chapel and indoor mausoleum in the memorial gardens in 1995. Today, Memorial Events of Johnson County manages two funeral chapels and the sprawling memorial gardens where they help families honor and celebrate the lives of their loved ones.

MetroMedia – Sun Publications joined the Chamber at the urging of Ben Craig. "It was one of the best decisions of our then 17-year-old company and continues to be under our new name, MetroMedia," said Steve Rose, chairman of the company. In 1997, MetroMedia was founded as part of Sun Publications and it became its own corporation in 2010.

Mize Houser & Company – Founded in 1956 in Topeka, Mize Houser & Company later added offices in Law-



Valley View Bank opened at 95th and Foster streets in 1966.

FIFTY YEARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

rence and Overland Park. Joining the Overland Park Chamber was a way to support and connect with businesses in the community, but the company also finds benefit from committee involvement, educational sessions and the chance for its younger employees to learn about other businesses as they begin to build personal networks.

Payne & Jones, Chartered

– Payne & Jones is a full-service law firm emphasizing entrepreneur law in Johnson County and Overland Park since 1926. With national and international clients, its primary client base is in the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. The firm's employees are involved in the community, volunteering, serving on boards, contributing to charities and engaging politically. Its longstanding membership in the Chamber includes service on the board and participation in Leadership Overland Park.

Rau Construction Company – Playing a significant role in the Chamber's founding was Stan Meyer, chairman of Rau Construction Company. Stan led a membership drive in 1966 that was so successful it allowed the Chamber to hire its first paid director. He also was the Chamber's first Chairman of the Board. Established by Gustav Rau in the 1870s, Rau Construction came to what is now Overland Park in the early 1950s. Building thousands of Johnson County homes, including the Nall Hills subdivision, Rau also has built shopping centers, churches and offices such as the Overland Park Chamber building. Today, Rau is managed by the fifth and sixth generations of

Meyers, which includes Gus Meyer, president.

Security Bank of Kansas City – Valley View Bank was formed by George Gagel in 1966. As the bank's first president,



Ben Craig and the Chamber helping with a business grand opening.

Gagel worked closely with the Reno family and brought G. Maurice Reno on board as one of the first directors. John Hofmann, previously a

correspondent banker with Commercial National Bank, also came on board as Executive Vice President and later became involved with the Chamber, serving as a

Chairman in 1974. The corner of 95th & Metcalf was also being developed with both the French Market and the Metcalf South Shopping Center. In 1967 the bank opened its first branch in the Metcalf South mall. Today it is part of the BancAbility network of community banks under the Security Bank of Kansas City brand, which has 44 branches throughout Greater Kansas City.

Shafer, Kline & Warren – In 1950, engineers Bill Shafer, Philip Kline and John Warren founded an engineering firm that concentrated on infrastructure and land surveying. With steady growth, the firm gained industry prominence in mechanical, electrical and structural engineering and expanded its capabilities as power plant, substation, pipeline and distribution designers. Kline served

as Chamber Chairman in 1983. In recent years, SKW has gained national exposure as an industry-leading land surveying firm with the capability to serve interstate pipelines.

"The Overland Park Chamber has provided immeasurable business opportunity, networking, legislative representation and leadership development. The Chamber not only offers opportunities to get involved, but also to give back to the business community."

– Tim Goodger, **Mize Houser & Company**

Suburban Lawn & Garden

– As a grade school-aged entrepreneur, Bill Stueck started a lawn mowing business in the early 1950s that blossomed into Suburban Lawn & Garden, which he established in 1965. Starting with a 40' x 100' garden center at 105th & Roe, Suburban has grown into a multi-faceted green industry business spanning the greater Kansas City area with three retail/wholesale garden centers, two production nurseries, a full-service lawn maintenance division and a yard-waste recycling center. Today, Matt Stueck is the second-generation owner of

Suburban Lawn & Garden, which continues to be dedicated to the principles of growing superior products, providing excellent service and delivering great value.

UMB Bank n.a. – The history of UMB in Overland Park dates back more than 100 years. The original bank building was dedicated in 1911 as Overland Park State Bank with William Strang as an incorporator. The bank was merged into UMB Overland Park in 1993 and UMB's primary banking center in Overland Park is still in downtown Overland Park at 80th & Metcalf Avenue.

Wallace Saunders – Four years before the Chamber was established, K.B. Wallace entered law practice with Frank Saunders, Jr., occupying a small office above the John Francis Restaurant in downtown Overland Park. They represented six insurance companies in Johnson County and went into competition with 141 active Johnson County attorneys. Over the years, the firm evolved into Wallace, Saunders, Austin, Brown & Enochs, Chartered. Today, it is simply Wallace Saunders with offices in Overland Park, Kansas City, Wichita and Springfield, Mo. Saunders was Chamber Chairman in 1977. Managing Partner Mark McKinzie was Chamber Chairman in 1997 and he continues to lead the Chamber Foundation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OPEDC recognizes business leaders at annual Honors Lunch

Last month the Chamber Economic Development Council presented its annual EDC Honors awards to recognize companies and business professionals who have made contributions that have helped transform the economic landscape of Overland Park.

Receiving the Ben Craig Vision Award was Larry Winn III (see page 1 for photo).



John Holt, Fox 4 News, served as master of ceremonies for the lunch event.



Receiving Business Hall of Honor Awards were **Central Bank of the Midwest**, (top), accepted by Bryan Biggs; and **Rau Construction** (bottom), accepted by Stan Meyer and Dan Meyer. Awards were presented by Beth Johnson and Terry Goodman, City Councilmember.



Receiving NOVA Awards were **LockPath, Inc.**, (above), accepted by Chris Caldwell; NeuAnalytics (top right), accepted by Ryan Neuweg; and Technical Training Professionals (lower right), accepted by Kelsey Foster. Awards were presented by Beth Johnson and Terry Goodman, City Councilmember and chairman of the City's Finance, Economic Development and Administration Committee.



Andrew Fogt, **Commerce Bank**, was recognized for serving as the 2016 chair of the Overland Park Chamber Economic Development Council. He received his plaque from Tracey Osborne, Chamber President; and Beth Johnson, Economic Development Council Senior Vice President.



Receiving Commercial Development Awards were **Tower Properties**, (left top), accepted by Buzz Willard; **Capitol Federal Savings Bank** (above), accepted by Ben Durham; and **Occidental Management** (lower left), accepted by Chad Stafford and Gary Oborny. Awards were presented by Beth Johnson and Terry Goodman, City Councilmember.

Economic Development Council completes successful 2016

At the Chamber Economic Development Council's annual Honors Lunch last month, 2016 Chairman Andrew Fogt, **Commerce Bank**, reported on economic development successes of the past year.

The past year was another outstanding year for economic development due to the efforts and strong partnership between the City of Overland Park, the Chamber and Economic Development Council Investors. In 2016, Overland Park companies made commitments to create or retain close to 1,700 jobs and invest \$45 million in capital over the next five years.

We welcomed **iFly Indoor Skydiving** to its new location on Metcalf Avenue and celebrated the opening of **First National Bank's** 101st branch, the first business to locate in the Bluhawk development in South Overland Park. **The University of Kansas Hospital** broke ground on a 122,000-square-

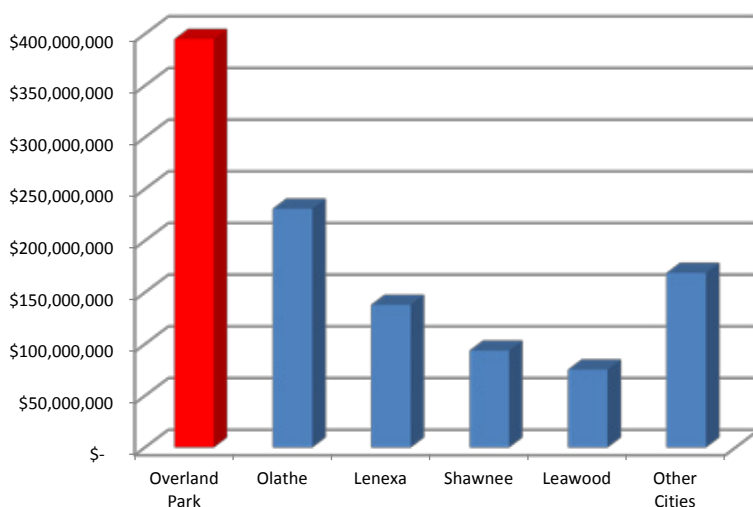
foot building in July that is scheduled to open in 2018 at the cost of \$100 million.

We also watched the continued development of mixed-use projects throughout the community as Avenue 80, Promontory and InterUrban Lofts went vertical and CityPlace began welcoming its first residential tenants in December.

Fogt announced the 2017 Economic Development Council Chairman, Greg Musil, **Douthitt Frets Rouse Gentile & Rhodes**. Musil is a longtime community leader and served as the 2008 Chairman of the Overland Park Chamber. He earned degrees at Kansas State University and the University of Virginia School of Law.



Overland Park Retail Sales
November 2016



Unemployment

	Dec. 2016	Dec. 2015
Overland Park	3.0%	2.9%
Johnson County	3.1%	2.9%
Kansas City Metro MSA	3.9%	3.7%
State of Kansas	3.8%	3.6%

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

Building Permits in Overland Park

	New Commercial	Institutional, Schools	Other Commercial	Totals
Jan. 2017	2	0	35	37
Square Feet	10,097	NA	NA	10,087
Value	\$667,418	\$0	\$4,353,994	\$5,021,412

— City of Overland Park

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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

Shawnee Mission School District completed one of the country's largest expansions of the Project Lead The Way program for science, technology, engineering and math.

2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars program candidates include 17 **Blue Valley School District** students, seven **Olathe School District** students and five **Shawnee Mission School District** students. Up to 141 students are chosen for the program, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

St. Joseph Medical Center has been named one of "America's Best Hospitals for Patient Safety" by the Women's Choice Award.

Overland Park VFW Post #846 seeks businesses to help some of the 10,000 veterans in Overland Park on its first Veteran Support Day, **May 6** at 8804 Grant Avenue. For details: Joe Arnold at event@vfwpost846ks.org or (913) 216-5011.

The **Downtown Overland Park Partnership** seeks volunteers for the Overland Park Farmers' Market and

events like the Overland Park Fall Festival, Movies in the Park, Trick-or-Treating and the Mayor's Tree Lighting. To learn more, contact Ellie Haire at elliehaire@downtownop.org.

Johnson County Airport Commission has approved Aaron Otto as executive director.

Alex Michaud is the new general manager at **Pinstripes**.

Kathy Ensign has retired after 26 years as executive director at **Villa Saint Joseph**.

Dirk Schafer, **JE Dunn Construction**, is 2017 Chairman of the Board of **The Builders' Association**.

Hechler Orthodontics recently celebrated the retirement of Judy Hook after 29 years and Michele Meginn after 20 years.

Johnson County Community College is now enrolling for its Summer Youth Enrichment Program.

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