

# Business Perspective



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

May 2017

## Economic Development Council conducting retail analysis

The Overland Park Chamber Economic Development Council (EDC) and the City of Overland Park are working with The Retail Coach, a leading retail recruitment firm, to analyze and develop strategies to help Overland Park capitalize on the evolving retail market.

“Overland Park has done a tremendous job developing as a premier city, which is illustrated by the city consistently being near the top as one of the best places to live,” explained Scott Emison, Vice President of Operations for The Retail Coach. “Overland Park is extremely well-positioned in the market to attract those quality retail experiences that retailers and shoppers alike are looking for what would compete with other areas in the Metro area.”

“Our goal will be to help bolster or enhance ongoing economic development efforts in several key districts,” said Beth Johnson, Senior Vice President of Economic Development for the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. “As

part of a major metropolitan area, Overland Park is presented with a prime opportunity to continue attracting new families, retailers, and industry, but it also faces unique challenges.”

The Retail Coach will perform a full analysis of Overland Park using a mix of information sources. “We will use a combination of data sources to determine Overland Park’s Retail Trade Area, perform a retail gap analysis, and build demographic, socioeconomic, and psychographic profiles for the City’s retail districts.” Emison said.

The data gathered will assist in developing a greater understanding of the local market and determining the needs of residents and visitors.

“We feel the research will help us find ways to not only assist retail businesses already in Overland Park,” Johnson explained, “but also will help us find ways to capitalize on additional retail experiences that further add to quality of life in our community.”



Fifty years ago this month, an election was held in which Johnson County voters were asked to vote on approval of a plan to establish a junior college. In the *Johnson County Herald*, it was noted that the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors was concerned about the apparent lack of enthusiasm by county residents in support of the college. The Chamber strongly urged a “yes” vote and the proposal was approved. For more about this, read our President’s Message on page 2. This image shows the college under construction.

## Our Mission:

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



## Chamber Calendar

### Ribbon cutting

**Wednesday, May 3, 2017 - 4:30 p.m.**

The Siscos Group Realtors, 7030 West 107th Street

### Groundbreaking

**Thursday, May 4, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.**

Primrose School of Blue Valley, 8300 West 165th

### Ribbon cutting

**Thursday, May 4, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.**

Shawnee Mission Medical Office Building,  
7840 West 165th Street

### Wednesday Wake-up

**Wednesday, May 10, 2017 - 8:00-9:00 a.m.**

Sunflower Bank, 7400 West 135th Street

Free and open to Chamber members only

### Ribbon cutting

**Thursday, May 11, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.**

Pita Blu, 7335 West 119th Street

### Ribbon cutting

**Thursday, May 18, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.**

QPS Employment Group,  
8005 West 110th Street, Suite 218

### Executive Leadership Series

Featuring Kathy Nelson, President & CEO  
of the Kansas City Sports Commission

**Friday, May 19, 2017 - 7:30-9:00 a.m.**

DoubleTree by Hilton, 10100 College Boulevard

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

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

### Working Lunch

**Thursday, May 25, 2017 - 12:00-1:30 p.m.**

Redrock Canyon Grill, 13505 Metcalf Avenue

\$25 per person for Chamber members only

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

## 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*

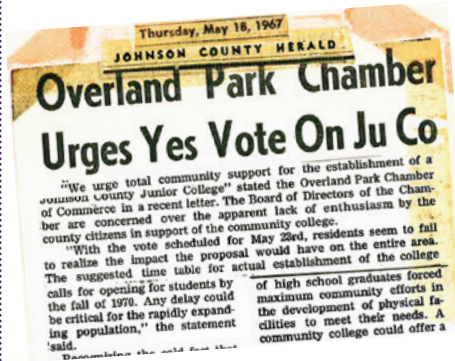
## It's still all about talent

In October we conducted our membership survey that precedes our Board's strategic planning session. One of the questions our Board is most interested in is which local factors are most critical to the success of your business. Based on political rhetoric, you might assume it's "taxes", but that rates the lowest on our surveys. Most important? An overwhelming 41% of respondents said Quality and Availability of Workforce, just as they said in previous surveys. The next three responses were closely ranked – transportation infrastructure, quality of K-12 education (also a workforce issue) and government regulation.

Our survey results track what we hear from members every day - that the battle for talent is constant. Your success is contingent upon attraction and retention of a workforce that has both the technical skills to produce and the soft skills to communicate.

Interestingly, a dive back in the Chamber's archives finds that this need for talent is neither new nor unique. In May 1967, the Chamber Board urged "total community support for the establishment of Johnson County Community College" for a vote scheduled later that month which was the first of three decisions necessary to create what has become JCCC. Fifty years ago the Chamber told the *Johnson County Herald* a high school diploma is no longer enough in a highly skilled economy and that the market indicated an acute shortage of skilled people. Sound familiar?

"Changing methods in business and industry must be recognized. Provisions must be made for re-training and refresher type courses for the now employed. Population centers failing to recognize these needs are going to lose their competitive position to those more forward looking areas now building training facilities," warned the Chamber.



JCCC's growth in the future to be innovative, flexible and functional. Over half of the campus was built prior to year 2000; one quarter is approaching fifty years old.

The fundamental concept of the Master Plan translates nine guiding principles into an inspiring vision that reinforces JCCC's goals and values. The guiding principles address the needs of our future workforce with a vision for quality through 21st century spaces to teach, learn, study, work and collaborate. Just as you're working differently than you did 20 (or even five) years ago, our students are learning differently and our educational environments must be flexible. The guiding principles address this flexibility with thoughts toward the physical spaces, programming, wayfinding, sustainability, and community engagement. As with any plan, a key to success will be feasibility and our ability to be nimble as the needs of our community change.

(continued on page 5)



**Tracey Osborne, CCE**  
Chamber President  
@traceylosborne

The proposal passed and the college began in 1972 with six buildings sited around a central campus courtyard. Over the years, much new construction has been added to facilitate the needs of our employers and students, including the Carlsen Center, Regnier Center, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art and the Hospitality and Culinary Academy. This past fall the College's Board of Trustees approved a Facilities Master Plan to shape

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at this networking event!

### Wednesday Wake-up

A Business Before Hours

**Wednesday, May 10**

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Hosted by



7400 West 135th Street



Join us for networking over coffee and breakfast and learn more about [Sunflower Bank](#), which offers a full range of financial products that help create possibility in the communities it serves. Sunflower is celebrating its 125th anniversary with a drawing for \$1,892 and up to \$125 when you open an account. Join us to find out how to register for your chance to win.

Free and open to members only

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 series featuring executive insight on business leadership.

Proudly sponsored by:



**Friday, May 19**

7:30-9:00 a.m.

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

featuring

**Kathy Nelson, President/CEO**

Kansas City Sports Commission



One of only four female sports commission presidents in the country, Kathy Nelson works to promote Kansas City sports locally and nationally with the goal of attracting, retaining and facilitating sports events and organizations. She helps the bi-state region realize the economic, social and community-building benefits of sports. Nelson has received numerous Telly, Emmy and cable television awards and she was the first woman to win a regional Emmy for the production of an NFL game.

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

Non-members: \$40 per person; \$440 for 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!



**Thursday, May 25**

12:00-1:30 p.m.

Hosted by

**RED ROCK  
Canyon**

G R I L L

13505 Metcalf Avenue

Expand your network while enjoying lunch at one of Overland Park's popular new restaurants where you'll choose from three entrees: rotisserie chicken, meatloaf or enchilada platter.

Sponsored by



\$25 per person for Chamber members only. Space is limited.

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.

**Be a golfer . . .**

Play with a team of co-workers, host special clients and make new business contacts while spending a beautiful fall day on the golf course!  
Register by July 28 for the early-bird discount rate.

**Promote your company . . .**

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

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Celia at (913) 766-7603 or [cfritzwatson@opchamber.org](mailto:cfritzwatson@opchamber.org).



# LEADERSHIP OVERLAND PARK UPDATE

## Leadership class learns about local government operations

Last month, the Leadership Overland Park class participated in sessions on local government and public safety and county government.

Local Government and Public Safety Day included an overview of the Emergency Operations Center and displays of command vehicles and equipment. Class members learned about city government operations from Mayor Carl Gerlach, Deputy City Manager Kristy Stallings, City Manager Bill Ebel and department heads. Class members participated in a mock scenario of an emergency and had the opportunity to have dinner with City Councilmembers and attend a City Council meeting.

On County Day, the class heard presentations by Johnson County Commission Chairman Ed Eilert, County Manager Hannes Zacharias and District Attorney Steve Howe. An overview of Johnson County Developmental Supports services was provided by Tracy Smith and JCDS clients. Sean Casserly led the class in a non-traditional presentation on leadership and Aaron Otto discussed the operations of the Johnson County Airport Commission.

Thank you to our Healthy Eating / Lifestyle Sponsor:



County Chairman Ed Eilert talked to the class about the accomplishments and challenges of operating the second largest county in the state.



Class members participated in a mock scenario of how the city's command center team responds to emergency situations.



At the city's Emergency Operations Center, class members learned about equipment used by public safety officials.



Johnson County Librarian Sean Casserly facilitated a non-traditional leadership exercise for class members.

## 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](#)

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. . . .

Though a large document, essentially you'll find the plan envisions three distinct neighborhoods that connect to the Campus Core: Career & Technical, the Arts, and Community & Wellness. I'm excited about the opportunities this plan presents for our region, our workforce and our employers over the short and long terms. You can find the plan on JCCC's website. The history of the college is intrinsically tied to our Chamber, just as our future success as a community is tied to its ability to flex and grow to meet your needs. Stay engaged, provide feedback to Dr. Sopcich and the Trustees as they embark on the next fifty years. It's an exciting time to be in Johnson County.

## Eilert delivers 2017 State of the County Address

More than 700 people attended the 2017 State of the County address presented last month by Board of County Commissioners Chairman Ed Eilert. The annual luncheon is sponsored by the Johnson County Public Policy Council.

"Our county has long been, and continues to be, the bread-and-butter economy for the state of Kansas and for those seeking careers and job opportunities," Eilert said. "Our economy is far outpacing the state and nation."

Chairman Eilert shared updates on several new projects including Johnson County Wastewater's Tomahawk Creek treatment facility, upcoming library and park projects, and the status of the new courthouse and coroner's facility for which funding was approved by voters in November.

He highlighted the county's commitment to education and workplace development as keys to future economic success and recognized the role community leaders play in making Johnson County's economy strong. Eilert honored the county's many volunteers, noting that 14,200 residents gave nearly 370,000 hours of their time and talents in 2016 – a contribution valued at more than \$8.5 million.

Eilert finished his remarks with an eye to the future, noting technology as a source of constant change in business and government.

"Thriving in the age of accelerations, that is our challenge," he said. "We can meet those challenges by continuing to support and maintain community assets that provide our opportunities for success."



*Click the advertisement below for event details.*

# Stems

## A GARDEN SOIRÉE

Join us in a 10th year celebration in full bloom from 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm.

JUNE 24 2017

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](http://stemssoiree.org) or call 913.322.6467 for all ticket and event information.

**Benefiting:**

**Presenting Sponsors:**

### Key facts shared by Chairman Eilert in his 2017 address:

- Johnson County's unemployment rate declined for the seventh consecutive year in 2016. At the end of the year, the county's jobless rate stood at 3.1 percent. Kansas was at 3.8 percent; the metro, 3.9 percent and the national rate, 4.5 percent.
- For the first nine months of 2016, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 3,181 new jobs were created in Kansas, and 2,680 of those jobs were in Johnson County. That means 84 percent of the jobs created in Kansas from January to September were created in Johnson County.
- In the 2016 community survey, 96 percent of county residents reported feeling safe in their neighborhoods. The national rate is 89 percent. Ninety-six percent reported they were satisfied with Johnson County as a place to live. The national rate is 83 percent. Ninety-five percent were satisfied with the county as a place to raise children. The national rate is 79 percent.
- More than 11,300 single-family homes were sold, 400 short of the record in 2005. Normal average inventory of homes for sale is six months in Johnson County; today, that inventory is about 2.5 months.
- Nearly 1,700 new single-family home permits were recorded in 2016 and nearly 1,800 permits were issued for multi-family units.
- New construction permits for office, retail and industrial buildings also grew, totaling more than 9.9 million square feet with a value of nearly \$730 million.

# NEW MEMBERS / REINVESTED MEMBERS

## Welcome new members!

We are pleased to introduce these new Chamber members:

### The Burg & Barrel

Amanda Chappelow, Owner  
7042 West 76th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66204  
(913) 444-0494  
amanda@localpubcompany.com  
[www.burgandbarrel.com](http://www.burgandbarrel.com)  
Restaurants, Event Space

### Haas & Wilkerson Insurance

Steven Hill, Sales & Marketing  
4300 Shawnee Mission Parkway  
Fairway, KS 66205  
(913) 432-4400  
steven.hill@hwins.com  
[www.hwins.com](http://www.hwins.com)  
Insurance

### Latch

Phil Bressler, President  
Overland Park, KS  
(913) 302-7577  
philb@thinklatch.com  
[www.thinklatch.com](http://www.thinklatch.com)  
Advertising, Social Media  
Referred by Rick Worrel, **Affinis Corp**

### Overland Park Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #21

Pete O'Malley, Police Officer  
P.O. Box 25811  
Overland Park, KS 66215  
(913) 230-3481  
secretary.fop21@gmail.com  
[www.overlandparkfop.org](http://www.overlandparkfop.org)  
Charitable Organizations

### Pita Blu

Yiannis Klathis, Owner  
7335 West 119th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66213  
(913) 258-8355  
info@pitablu.com  
[www.pitablu.com](http://www.pitablu.com)  
Restaurants, Caterers

### Stagecoach Tavern

Amanda Chappelow, Owner  
9617 West 87th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
(913) 444-0494  
jake@localpubcompany.com  
[www.stagecoachop.com](http://www.stagecoachop.com)  
Restaurants, Event Space

### State Farm Insurance - Anthony Williams

Anthony Williams, Owner  
11568 West 95th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66214  
(816) 914-2098  
anthony.williams.mvq2@statefarm.com  
Insurance

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



City Council President John Thompson and the Chamber helped celebrate a groundbreaking for **Colonial Village**, 12500 West 137th Street. Scheduled to open in Fall 2018, Colonial Village will offer residential independent living, assisted living apartments, rehabilitation and health care. During construction, Colonial Village is accepting fully refundable deposits to reserve preferred apartment choices. Participating in the groundbreaking were Gib Wood, CEO of Scenic Development; and Scott Gulledge, CEO of Pivotal Health Care. For more information: (913) 730-3700.

## Member Renewals

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

### 40-50 Years

Bank Midwest  
New York Life Insurance Company  
NSPJ Architects, PA  
St. Joseph Medical Center

### 20-39 Years

API Broadcast Advertising  
Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas  
Copaken Brooks  
Fingerprint Marketing & Advertising  
HMN Architects, Inc.  
Humana, Inc.  
Johnson County Community College  
Pace Products, Inc.  
Pearce Construction Company  
Stinson Leonard Street  
Swiss Re America Holding Corporation

### 10-19 Years

Associates Solutions, Inc.  
Chick-fil-A Overland Park  
COBLE MCCUNE Wealth Management  
Costco Wholesale #369  
Dana F. Cole & Company, LLP  
Discover Vision Centers  
Drury Inn & Suites  
Fisher Phillips LLP  
Fry-Wagner Moving & Storage  
Home Association Solutions LLC  
MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital  
nXio

### 5-9 Years

Conference Technologies, Inc.  
Emery Sapp & Sons  
MetroMedia, Inc.  
Overland Park Wealth Management  
SCS Engineers  
Searles Valley Minerals  
TownePlace Suites by Marriott  
Truss

### 1-4 Years

68's Inside Sports  
Adelman Travel  
Advice & Aid Pregnancy Centers  
Autumn Leaves of Overland Park  
Barsto Construction Inc.  
Capstone Insurance Agency  
Choice Physicians Group  
Corbin Park  
Golden Oak Lending  
Intellectual Property Center, LLC  
Keller Williams - Diana Dodge  
Kyle Zeller Agency - American Family Insurance  
Mutual of Omaha Bank  
Oliver Insurance Agency Inc.  
POSIM, LLC  
Price Commercial Realty  
REAL Property Group  
Restaurant Guide of Kansas City  
Vince & Associates Clinical Research, Inc.  
Westlake Ace Hardware  
White | Goss, a Professional Corporation



Receiving new member plaques last month from Chamber President Tracey Osborne were Laurie Ralston and Linda Townsend, **Colonial Village**; Khara Cosentino and Kyli Maddox, **Cosentino's Price Chopper**; Vince Basso, **Greater Kansas City Public Safety Credit Union**; Travis Soden, **Haas & Wilkerson Insurance**; Kevin Ezerski, **RE/Max Infinity-Kevin Ezerski**; Peggy Shultz, **ResettleMe**.



## Longtime community leader reflects on Chamber's 50 years

by Mary Birch, **Lathrop & Gage**

What an amazing time for our chamber and our city. As the Overland Park Chamber celebrates fifty wonderful years, it is fitting to pause and reflect about this special place, celebrate all the leaders who made it happen and charge forward with a new vision and direction.

The core values that have made us who we are will not change – excellence in education, public safety, transportation and a bustling economy providing a tax base to support our quality of life and jobs for everyone. This is where for fifty years you have found our chamber and our city in partnership making it happen.

When I ponder the types of initiatives lead by the chamber over these many years, it is hard to believe all the work it has taken to bring us to today.

The first is infrastructure. The Chamber supported the widening of College Boulevard and a man with a dream of a place called Corporate Woods. That road changed the economy of a city, a county and a state. Obviously, infrastructure has been a



chamber priority over the last fifty years and included major projects such as Quivira, Nall, and Antioch interchanges and the widening of I-435 and U.S. 69 highways, which took about 20 years each to actually complete.

The second would be how our leaders stayed disciplined to the vision established by our founders in the 1960s. Many development projects tried to come to Overland Park. Many were turned away because they did not fit the vision. That took courage and belief. Another visioning process in the late 1980s and early 1990s with the chamber and city and residents resulted in two of our most important programs, our neighborhood streets and revitalization program as well as the formation of the Overland Park Economic Development Council. And now, today, our Chamber and city are partnering again to see where we go in the future.

Leadership development programs are one of the best achievements chambers of commerce undertook in the 1980s. That program continues today and its hundreds of graduates are serving in elected office, appointed office, civic organizations and leading their companies. Leadership Overland Park was the fifth program of its type developed in the country.

Mary Birch worked 24 years for the Overland Park Chamber where, as president from 1984 to 2002, she directed efforts to attract an unprecedented level of business to the city. She was named “Johnson Countian of the Year” by **Johnson County Community College** in 2002. She currently is government relations coordinator for **Lathrop & Gage LLP**.



There are over 3,000 chambers of commerce in the U.S. and less than 10% have earned Five Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber. The Overland Park Chamber was the first chamber in the Kansas City metro area and one of the first in Kansas to be accredited. Additionally, the first Certified Chamber of Commerce Executive (CCE) in Kansas was the president of the Overland Park Chamber. Community assets such as the Convention Center, Sprint Campus, and over 20 million square feet of office space do not just happen. Stormwater, education bond issues, Johnson County Community College, KU Edwards Campus, government relations staff, the founding of the

Convention & Visitors Bureau and on and on and on were so necessary for our success. Partnerships between the Chamber, the City of Overland Park, Johnson County and educational institutions made those things happen. It would be impossible to highlight all of the contributions the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce has made over the last fifty years. But probably the most important is the contribution and leadership of the fifty chairmen of the Board of Directors who cared about this community enough to help build it and the 60 or so dedicated staff who made it all happen. These are the heroes I admire most. What an honor to have worked with them all!



Mary Birch and U.S. Senator Bob Dole.



Mary Birch and other leaders participating in a groundbreaking ceremony at The University of Kansas Edwards Campus.



## RECENT EVENTS



City Council President John Thompson and Chamber representatives helped Elliot McDermed, co-owner; and Scott Fenton, general manager; celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new clay courts at **Overland Park Racquet Club**. With four, state-of-the-art clay courts, OPRC now offers the largest number of clay courts in the region. For more information: (913) 642-6880 or [www.opracquetclub.com](http://www.opracquetclub.com).



City Council President John Thompson and Chamber Diplomats helped Anita Tilton, Publisher, celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Coffee News Door2Door**. Coffee News offers affordable, effective and targeted advertising to help small- and medium-sized businesses create a strong presence in the community. For more information: (816) 269-3409 or [www.coffeenewsdoor2door.com](http://www.coffeenewsdoor2door.com).



City Council President John Thompson and Chamber President Tracey Osborne helped celebrate the opening of **Oak Park Mall's** Artist in Residence, local artist Juniper Tangpuz. The studio is inside the mall entrance by American Girl where Tangpuz will display his art and customers can catch him working (hours vary). For details: [www.thenewoakparkmall.com/event/blta89b168549ccf8a9](http://www.thenewoakparkmall.com/event/blta89b168549ccf8a9).



### Charity Trivia Night

Last month, the Overland Park Young Professionals enjoyed an evening of trivia and networking at **Brookridge Golf & Fitness**. Proceeds from the event benefitted **SAFEHOME, Inc.**



### 1st place team: Keybank

Sam Tood, Myles McCormick, Jazmin King, Chris Mitchell, Jackson Taitt

### 2nd place team: Black & Veatch

Garren Bevilaqua, Hannah Bevilaqua, Emily Hansen, Sam Kaiser, Emily Maupin



### 3rd place team: BHC RHODES

Robert Vaccaro, Scott Tanner, Brody Johnson, Mike Makris (in front)

Thank you to these contributing members:

Event host: **Brookridge Golf & Fitness**

Prize donors: **Brookridge Golf & Fitness, Tick Tock Escape Games, Museum at Prairiefire**

### Overland Park Young Professionals Sponsors:

EMPORIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
■ KANSAS CITY

KeyBank

PARISI  
ARTISAN COFFEE



## Chamber Member Orientation



Thank you to:



Amy Kennedy tells about her company, **Crown Realty Overland Park**.



Chamber Chairman Michael Tracy, **OMNI Human Resource Management**; tells attendees about his Chamber experience.

Arch Combs, **Dave and Buster's**; Mary Galloway, **Kansas City Eye Clinic**; Britanie Lortie, **Dave and Buster's**.



The City of Overland Park and the Overland Park Chamber helped Ora Reynolds, President/CEO, and her team at **Hunt Midwest** celebrate a groundbreaking for The Vue luxury apartments in Downtown Overland Park. The \$49 million project will include 219 apartments above ground-floor retail, high-end amenities and secure access to an attached, multi-level parking garage. For more information: <https://discoverthevue.splashthat.com/>.



City Councilmember Rick Collins joined the Chamber in helping **Saint Luke's Health System** celebrate the opening of Saint Luke's Multispecialty Clinic, 4061 Indian Creek Parkway in Mission Farms. The clinic offers a wide range of primary care and specialty treatment options under one roof. For more information: (913) 323-4600 or [www.saintlukeshealthsystem.org](http://www.saintlukeshealthsystem.org).



City Councilmember Terry Goodman and Chamber representatives helped Brad & Nickie Gibbs celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Three Dog Bakery-BluHawk**, 7951 West 160th Street, Suite 520. Three Dog Bakery offers all-natural treats and food, gifts and toys, and hydraulic tubs for self-serve dog baths. For more information: (913) 897-8189 or [www.threedog.com/three-dog-bakery-overland-park](http://www.threedog.com/three-dog-bakery-overland-park).



City Council President John Thompson and Chamber Senior Vice President Beth Johnson helped Mitch Warren, CEO; Luanne Freund, Director; and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Autumn Leaves Memory Care**, 12701 Pflumm Road. Family-owned and operated, Autumn Leaves provides assisted living memory care in an environment that's safe, secure and calming for residents. For more information: (913) 490-5035 or [www.autumnleaves.com](http://www.autumnleaves.com).



## RECENT EVENTS / SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

### Wednesday Wake-up A Business Before Hours

hosted on April 12 by



CENTER FOR ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



Laurie Ralston and Linda Townsend, **Colonial Village**; Rosalind Hines, **Chick-fil-A** at Oak Park Plaza; Lori McKenna, **Adelman Travel**.



Corey Mohn tells attendees about **Blue Valley Schools' CAPS** program.

Michael Tracy, **OMNI Human Resource Management**; Travis Soden, **Haas & Wilkerson Insurance**; Tom Smith, **PlumbSmith Service**.



Darin Bugbee and Brian Hofen, **1861 Wealth Advisors**; Kathy Denis, **Restaurant Guide of Kansas City**.

Brian Harrison, **JAN-PRO Cleaning**; Julie Harber, **Finance of America**; Kathy Denis, **Restaurant Guide of Kansas City**.



### Sponsor Spotlight:



[www.affinis.us](http://www.affinis.us) | 913-239-1100

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### Highlights from our 16 Years:

- ▶ Proud OP chamber members since 2001. Happy 50 years to you, Chamber!
- ▶ Affinis co-workers have history of involvement at the Chamber:
  - ▶ Rick Worrel - Past Chamber Chair
  - ▶ Jason Davis, Cindy Martens, Cliff Speegle, Mike McKenna, Ryan Fleming, Rick Worrel - Leadership OP Alums
- ▶ Named 8 times to the list of best Civil Engineering Firms to Work For.
- ▶ Award winning civil engineering and surveying projects across the metropolitan area. Projects in Overland Park:
  - ▶ Blue Valley School District Campus Improvements
  - ▶ 400 Residential Street Improvements
  - ▶ 30,000 feet of Major Storm Sewer Improvements
  - ▶ 159th Street, Quivira to Antioch, Metcalf to Nall, and Nall to Mission
  - ▶ Metcalf Avenue, 99th to 103rd
  - ▶ 79th Street in Downtown OP



## Member News & Events

**Overland Park VFW Post #846** is helping some of the 10,000 veterans in Overland Park with its first annual Veteran Support Day on **May 6**. For details: Joe Arnold at [event@vfwpost846ks.org](mailto:event@vfwpost846ks.org) or (913) 216-5011.

**Saint Luke's South Hospital's** 10th annual Books & Boutiques fundraiser featuring an author lunch, boutique shopping and a fashion show is **May 5** at **Overland Park Convention Center**. [www.booksandboutiques.org](http://www.booksandboutiques.org).

**Kansas State University Olathe** is hosting its 2017 Research Showcase on **May 17** where you can learn about research expertise available to business, industry and public partners in Greater Kansas City.

The medical office building at **Shawnee Mission Health-Overland Park** in the BluHawk development is now open. Services include Women's Imaging, Primary Care and SportsCare, adjacent to the Emergency Department, Lab and Imaging Center that opened in February.

**Business Data Services** has been named to the 2017 Tech Elite 250 list by *CRN*, a brand of The Channel Company.

**The Builders' Association** Safety Excellence awards were presented recently to these Chamber members: **JE Dunn Construction Company, A.L. Huber, Inc., Mark One Electric Company, Inc., and U.S. Engineering Company.**

**InterUrban ArtHouse** is accepting applications for its newly expanded studio space

in the former downtown post office sorting facility.

**Ecafe**, 10650 Roe Avenue, is now open later (8:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday and 9:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday) and serving beer and wine along with food items.

In its 2016 Annual Report, the **Overland Park Convention Center** announced its gross revenue for the year generated the largest operating surplus (\$858,108) in its 14 years of operation.

The **Digital Ally Open** has opportunities for your company to partner with the PGA Tour-sanctioned golf tournament as a charter member of "Friends of the Digital Ally Open." Packages start at \$250 to be a sponsor in the tournament, which is July 24-30 at **Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate**.

**Downtown Overland Park Partnership** seeks volunteers to help at the Farmers' Market and other events this year. For details: [elliehaire@downtownop.org](mailto:elliehaire@downtownop.org).

The **Arts & Recreation Foundation of Overland Park** has volunteer opportunities with the 10th annual Stems party at the Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. For details: [info@artsandrec-op.org](mailto:info@artsandrec-op.org).

Dr. Jim Hinson announced his retirement from **Shawnee Mission School District**, effective June 30, 2017.

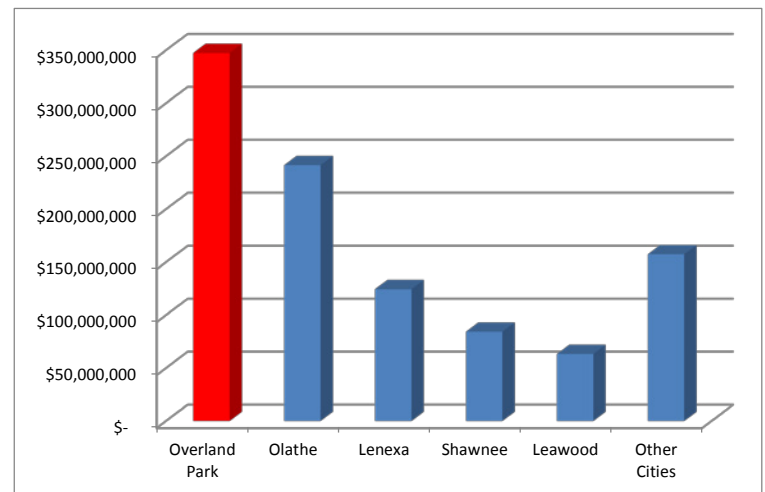
**Johnson County Government** has hired Cindy Green as assistant to the county manager and chief of staff, effective May 15.

(continued on page 12)



Congressman Kevin Yoder met with Chamber members last month to provide an update on the first 100 days of the new administration and a host of business issues including tax and regulation reform, health care, immigration and infrastructure.

## Overland Park Retail Sales January 2017



## Unemployment

	February 2017	February 2016
Overland Park	3.1%	3.2%
Johnson County	3.2%	3.3%
Kansas City Metro MSA	4.4%	4.5%
State of Kansas	4.1%	4.2%

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

## Building Permits in Overland Park

	New Commercial	Institutional, Schools	Other Commercial	Totals
March 2017	2	0	53	55
Square Feet	6,144	NA	NA	6,144
Value	\$2,597,550	\$0	\$10,435,205	\$13,032,755

— City of Overland Park

## Thank you to our 2017 Sponsors!

### Corporate Partners



### Corporate Sponsors

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### Leadership Circle Sponsors

Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas  
Memorial Events of Johnson County  
OMNI Human Resource  
Management  
Overland Park Wealth Management

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



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### Member News & Events

**Valbridge Property Advisors** has hired Chris Hoffman as an appraiser and Drew Murray as a researcher. The firm also recognized Garrett Connolly, Appraiser, with the Bernie Shaner Award for Excellence.

**Harmon Construction** has hired Steven Kern as a senior project manager. Lauren M. Sobaski has joined the Kansas City office of national labor and employment law firm **Fisher Phillips LLP** as an associate.

Rick Kingery has joined **Garver LLC** as a senior project manager. He will work in the Kansas City, Mo., office providing clients with a comprehensive outlook to bridge engineering.

**TPP Retirement Plan Specialists, LLC**, has hired Matthew Skea as a Senior Plan Administrator, Michael Schmidt as an Assistant Retirement Plan Administrator and Joan Wiseman has as a Daily Transactional Processor.

Aaron Witt has been promoted to Chief Engineer at **Johnson County Wastewater**.

Hannes Zacharias, county manager of **Johnson County**, has been named the 2017 Outstanding Public Administrator by the Kansas chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

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Submit company news to Stan Lawson at  
[slawson@opchamber.org](mailto:slawson@opchamber.org).