

Happy New Year!



Senator John Skubal was recognized for his lifelong service to the community with the 2020 Richard A. Worrel Community Legacy Award at the Chamber Annual Meeting last month. Posing with Sen. Skubal are 2020 Chairman Bobby Olm-Shipman, Saint Luke's South Hospital; Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen; and 2021 Chairman Bill Ferguson, Central Bank of the Midwest.

Chamber board endorses SMSD's Bond 2021 proposal

QUALITY OF LIFE

The Chamber's Board of Directors has endorsed Bond 2021, a \$264.22 million bond package Shawnee Mission School District residents will vote on in a mail-in ballot election this month.

"Our quality schools have long been a source of pride for Johnson County and have driven much of the success and growth we've experienced in our community," said Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy. "This bond proposal positions the Shawnee Mission School District to serve our kids well into the future through the hiring of exceptional educators and state-of-the-art facilities."

The bond proposal encompasses a series of proposed projects identified to make facility improvements with the goal of benefiting every student and to support student learning and hire additional teachers. The proposal includes updates across the district for students in Pre-K through 12th grade. More information about Bond 2021 is available at www.smsd.org/bond-2021.

All registered voters in the school district will receive a ballot in their mailbox. Ballots must be received at the Johnson County Election Office by 12 p.m. on January 26. Voters can register, check the status of their registration, and find more information about the election at www.jocoelection.org.

Have you updated your Info Hub profile?

The new year is a great time for a fresh start. Take this time to log into your member Info Hub in the Chamber's database to make sure your contact information is up-to-date and choose your communications preferences for which information you want to receive from us.

To create an account, [click here](#) or contact Drew at daggus@opchamber.org or (913) 491-3600.

Events Calendar

Virtual Coffee Break

Sponsored by [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)

Wednesday, January 13
9:30-10:30 a.m.

To register, [click here](#)

Looking for opportunities to promote your business as an event sponsor in 2021?

Let Celia Fritz-Watson know at cfritzwatson@opchamber.org.

Board & Staff

Board Officers:

Bill Ferguson, 2021 Chairman
Central Bank of the Midwest

Tony Rupp, Chairman-Elect
Foulston Siefkin LLP

Joan Wells, 1st Vice Chairman
Wellington

Cindy Rock, 2nd Vice Chairman
Thryv

Josh Beck, Secretary
MarksNelson

Chris Wally, Treasurer
Wally & Co.

Bobby Olm-Shipman, Immediate Past Chairman
Saint Luke's South Hospital

Mike Hess, Past Chairman
HNTB Corporation

Board Members:

Aaron Attebery, Black & Veatch

Sean Barnard, Bambou Salons & Spas

Patrice Brown, YRC Worldwide

Faruk Capan, Intouch Group

John Fuller, DLR Group

Tracy Garry, Empower Retirement

Matt Gunter, SelectQuote

Tom Herzog, Netsmart Technologies

Brenner Holland, Hunt Midwest

Angela Hurt, Veracity Consulting, Inc.

Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Blue Valley School District

Melody Rayl, Fisher Phillips LLP

Stacy Rose, AdamsGabbert

Allan Samson, T-Mobile

Rick Schier, CommunityAmerica Credit Union

Matt Sheets, FNBO-First National Bank of Omaha

Matt Sogard, Overland Park Regional Medical Center

Steve Troester, PGAV Architects, Inc.

Kim Winslow, Evergy

Jason Wright, JE Dunn Construction Company

Ex-Officio Board:

Dr. Andy Bowne, Johnson County Community College

Bill Ebel, City of Overland Park

Mayor Carl Gerlach, City of Overland Park

Dana Markel, Visit Overland Park

Matt Masilionis, RMTA
[2021 Chairman of Chamber Economic Development Council]

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, Chamber

Greg Wolf, Dentons

Staff:

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, President & CEO

Drew Aggus, Member Services Coordinator

Stacey Cowan, Membership Director

Frank Ebling, CFO

Celia Fritz-Watson, IOM, Director of Events & Member Services

Tim Holverson, IOM, Director, Workforce & Business Growth

Chris Jackson, Research Analyst

Beth Johnson, CEcD, Senior Vice President of Economic Development

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

Erin Murray, Executive Assistant

Kevin Walker, IOM, Senior Vice President of Public Policy

2021 Chamber Chairman
Bill Ferguson
Central Bank of the Midwest



We are committed to being your essential organization

2021 CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I look forward to leading the Chamber this year in its ongoing mission to make Overland Park – and businesses like yours – prosper.

I am proud to represent [Central Bank of the Midwest](#) in our partnership with the Chamber that dates back to Ben Craig. At the recent Leadership Overland Park (LOP) graduation, as I listened to our own Theodis Watson deliver the class message, I reflected on my experience in LOP 16 years ago. New to Overland Park at the time, it was a perfect introduction to the power of the Chamber, and a pivotal time in my career that has continued to inform my leadership journey through relationships I have built here.

The Overland Park Chamber is an amazing organization made up of dedicated and passionate staff as well as an incredibly experienced board of directors who work tirelessly to support, advocate and deliver results essential to our business community. The accomplishments of this chamber are possible through intentional leadership, unwavering dedication and everyday engagement from this team of professionals.

During the recent Good Morning, Overland Park! program, I was inspired to hear

speakers using words like pivot, re-imagine and re-engineer with respect to their business models, product offerings and delivery channels. The face of prosperity is changing, and you are rising to the challenge. How ironic that social distance brought us together to do things previously unimagined.

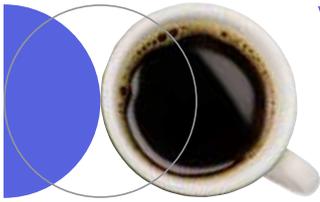
With a new year and new hope ahead, we are more nimble, more creative and more determined to discover and respond to needs and opportunities.

Whether you are new to the Chamber or a longstanding member, I urge you in 2021 to:

- Add your bold voice to ours;
- Join us in the tough conversations that tackle the big issues;
- Become an advocate with us for action and growth;
- Partner with us as we work hard every day to make Overland Park the best place to build a business, a career and a home.

Healthy businesses keep the pulse of our community strong, and the Chamber is committed to being your essential organization for resources that help your business thrive – information, advocacy, member connections and strong relationships - all in one place.

Think of us as #MyOPChamber.



Virtual Coffee Break

SPONSORED BY



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29 selected for 2021 Leadership Overland Park

The Chamber Foundation has selected 29 business professionals to participate in its 2021 Leadership Overland Park (LOP) program. During ten full-day sessions beginning in February, participants meet local leaders and study aspects of the community including government, history, education, politics and current issues impacting the local community, region and state. Class members graduate in June.

Our 2021 Leadership Overland Park class:

- John Bakarich III, [Baron Contracting Corporation](#)
- Shaun Baker, [Empower Retirement](#)
- Philip Bennett, [Commerce Bank](#)
- Josh Bitterman, [Goldfish Swim School](#)
- Jordan Buscher, Cornerstone Church
- Michelle Carpet-Chichura, [Riordan Clinic](#)
- Brad Cusick, [Overland Park Fire Department](#)
- Morgan Dye, Hoefer Wysocki Architects L.L.C.
- Nadine Franz, [APEX Career Services](#)
- Robert Gigstad, Robert Gigstad Law Firm
- Sara Holmes, [McCownGordon Construction](#)
- Emily Huffman, [AdventHealth Shawnee Mission](#)
- Keith Jenkins, [Overland Park Police Department](#)
- Matthew Johnson, [Turner Construction](#)
- Leslie Karr, [City of Overland Park](#)
- Rachel Lierz, [Johnson County Community College](#)
- Stuart Lord, [Johnson County Wastewater](#)
- Mike Makris, [BHC RHODES](#)
- Cory Mead, [Overland Park Regional Medical Center](#)
- Josh Nichols, [A.C. Printing Company, Inc.](#)
- Erin Seager, [Office Evolution](#)
- John Spell, [Affinis Corp](#)
- Heather Steppe, [KC Hemp Co.](#)
- Kimberly Tassone, [Black & Veatch](#)
- Aurora Unger, [JE Dunn Construction Company](#)
- Catalina Velarde, The Velarde Law Firm LLC
- Hayley Watkins, [Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.](#)
- Jeff Whitton, [St. Joseph Medical Center](#)
- Hilary Zerr, [Davidson Architecture & Engineering](#)

Wednesday, January 13 – 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Start the new year by connecting with other business professionals virtually from the comfort of your home or office to exchange ideas and support one another.

To register, [click here](#).

New guide on COVID-19 emergency loans

The U.S. Chamber has released a new guide with the latest information and answers to FAQs about changes Congress has made as part of its end-of-the-year pandemic relief package.

To view the **Guide to Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Loans**, [click here](#). This guide will be updated as new information becomes available.

Congress passed several changes to the Paycheck Protection

Program (PPP) and created a “Second Draw” PPP for small businesses that have exhausted their initial loan. Other changes impact eligibility for initial PPP loans, the loan forgiveness process and the tax treatment of PPP loans. Changes also have been made to other programs that will benefit small businesses including the Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) program, the Employee Retention Tax Credit, a Venue Grant program and SBA loan programs.



The Chamber was pleased to help Kansas City Eye Clinic celebrate a groundbreaking for its new surgery center at 75th & Antioch. The surgery center is scheduled to open in Fall 2021. For more information: www.kceyeclinic.com.

Promote your business!

Gain visibility by partnering with the Chamber to sponsor events and programs. Sponsorships include individual events and program series.

For information: Celia Fritz-Watson at (913) 766-7603 or cfritzwatson@opchamber.org.

Nine professionals join Chamber Board in 2021

We are pleased to welcome the following leaders to the Chamber Board of Directors in 2021.



Aaron Attebery
Black & Veatch

Aaron Attebery is Director of Business Capture in the Telecom-Connected Communities business line at [Black & Veatch](#), focused on bringing community solutions to bear in the data and telecommunications industry. Aaron has two U.S. Patents, successfully built and exited a commercial product startup company, has served on the Kansas City Chamber Energy & Environmental Committee, and is a graduate of Leadership Overland Park in 2017. In addition, you may have seen Aaron cracking dad jokes as co-employee of Good Morning Overland Park in recent years.



Patrice Brown
YRC Worldwide

Patrice Brown, Senior Counsel at [YRC Worldwide](#), has more than twenty years experience in labor and employment law including restructuring compliance policies, EEO, diversity and inclusion implementation and employment law. She was the first African-American female executive at Kansas City Southern Railroad and also worked for Hill's Pet Nutrition. Patrice is an active member of the Kansas Bar and has been praised as a sharp consultant and corporate trainer able to quickly assess and recognize an organization's HR deficiencies, and train leaders on how to implement and sustain appropriate change initiatives and cultural shifts.



Tracy Garry
Empower Retirement

Tracy Garry is Vice President of Client Services for [Empower Retirement](#). In her role, she is responsible for leading and providing strategic direction to teams responsible for the oversight of the day-to-day administration of retirement plans across Empower's government and institutional markets. Tracy has 25 years in the retirement services industry and has served in mul-

iple leadership roles focused on operational excellence and exceptional client service. Tracy is a 2015 Leadership Overland Park Class graduate.



Angela Hurt
Veracity Consulting

Angela Hurt is the founder and CEO of [Veracity Consulting](#), where she oversees the strategic direction and management of the technology consulting company. Founded in 2006, Veracity is composed of curious and trusted advisors ready to deliver unique solutions to the toughest business challenges of commercial and federal clients. She believes healthier businesses produce smarter people who build stronger communities, and she not only fosters a culture of giving within Veracity but always leads by example.

Matt Masilionis is a founding member and Managing Partner of [RMTA](#), an architectural design firm providing architectural, interior, retail and environmental graphic design services throughout the United States where his responsibilities include oversight of the business's management in addition to ongoing development and oversight of the firm's large projects and clients. Matt is the



Matt Masilionis
RMATA

2021 Chair of the Overland Park Economic Development Council. He graduated with the 2008 Leadership Overland Park class.



Allan Samson
T-Mobile

Allan Samson is Senior Vice President-Marketing at [T-Mobile](#). He leads marketing for the B2B line of business for T-Mobile including integration of the Sprint and T-Mobile customer bases, acquisition go-to-market efforts and advertising. Prior to the merger, Allan served as Senior Vice President-Marketing at Sprint. Prior to joining Sprint, Allan was with Charter Communications, Birch Communications and AT&T.

(continued on the next page)

Economy will be a focus during 2021 Legislature

Kevin Walker
Senior Vice President of Public Policy

The Kansas Legislature is scheduled to return to Topeka on January 11, but there is much still unknown about the 2021 session. Perhaps the biggest question is how will the legislature operate?

As of this writing, legislative leaders still have not determined if they will function remotely or in-person. Over the summer the legislature invested heavily in beefing up its audio-visual capabilities. This will provide more public access to its deliberations and aid in operating remotely, but a recent opinion by Attorney General Derek Schmidt made it clear that final action on bills almost certainly needs to be conducted in-person. Legislative leaders continue to gather health and legal guidance to help plot a course of action.

As if the question of how the legislature operates isn't enough to complicate matters, we're coming off an election cycle in which every member of the House and Senate was up for election. This occurrence every four years leads to numerous changes in leadership, legislative makeup and committee assignments. Bottom line: the start of the 2021 session will require flexibility and patience as everyone adapts to the changes and learns how to operate under the shadow of a pandemic.

As for the issues, the state of the economy will be front-and-center. How will the state recover from the impacts of COVID-19? What do we do about the well-documented problems with our unemployment system? How do we replenish the unemployment trust fund that helped many Kansans weather the eco-



conomic storm caused by COVID? What changes to laws and regulations can we implement that will not only aid in recovery, but allow businesses more flexibility in how they operate their businesses going forward?

The Chamber will be engaged in these issues as they have direct impact on the business community. Additionally, we'll also be working with legislative leaders to work through the challenges and opportunities uncovered in the ongoing audits of our state economic development incentive programs. We'll also continue to advocate for the expansion and modernization of US 69 and work with lawmakers to ensure the new Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program is adequately funded.

In many ways, it will be a unique session, but in other ways, the regular ebb and flow of the legislative process to start the year may also bring back some sense of normalcy. No doubt we'll all take whatever sense of normalcy we can get at this point. As always, you'll receive regular updates via our weekly "This Week in Topeka" reports. Look for them in your inbox soon.



Rick Schier
CommunityAmerica Credit Union

Rick Schier is Chief Member Officer with [CommunityAmerica Credit Union](#) and has been part of the leadership team for more than 21 years. Rick and his teams serve as the voice of the member, living the CommunityAmerica mission to help its more than 250,000 members achieve financial peace of mind. He leads the strategic vision and operational direction for growth and revenue in all channels, including retail banking with 33 branch locations across the metro, mortgage lending and member service support. He also is Chairman of the CommunityAmerica Credit Union Foundation.

Kim Winslow is a senior director at [Eversy](#) and is responsible for leading the utility's products and services portfolio. Her team focuses on developing product strategies to engage with the utility's 1.6 million residential and business customers through programs in which customers may secure their energy through solar or wind, understand the benefits of choosing



Kim Winslow
Eversy

electric vehicles or electrifying commercial fleets, and helping customers manage their energy usage through electric rates that offer choice based on lifestyle. Kim began her career at Black & Veatch.



Jason Wright
JE Dunn Construction Company

Jason Wright is a vice president with [JE Dunn Construction Company](#) and works in the health care projects division. He is actively involved with several charities and was a baseball coach for several years through Blue Valley Recreation. He is a 2016 graduate of Leadership Overland Park.

Thanks to these retiring board members:

- Jim Hemenway, [Chicago Title](#)
- Craig Jeffries, [Empower Retirement](#)
- Roger Summers, [Fogel-Anderson Construction](#)
- Mark Williams, [Garver, LLC](#)

Thanks for your reinvestment! Welcome to the Chamber!

DECEMBER MEMBER RENEWALS INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

50+ Years

Payne & Jones, Chartered

40-49 Years

Alaskan Fur

20-39 Years

Hepler & Associates
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites-
Convention Center
Rosana Square / Mark One
Electric
TranSystems

10-19 Years

Blue Valley Insurance Agency, Inc.
Cancer Action, Inc.
Chick-fil-A at Oak Park Plaza
Empower Retirement
Erickson Solutions Group
Foland, Wickens, Roper, Hofer &
Crawford P.C.
LaMar's Donuts & Coffee
Pete's Pest Control

5-9 Years

Charlie's Car Wash
Great Southern Bank
Hillcrest Transitional Housing of
Kansas
Phoenix Home Care and Hospice
Pinstripes, Inc.
Pivot International, Inc.
Rotary Club of Overland Park
Talk of the Town Grill & Bar-
Leawood

1-4 Years

Ad Astra Financial Group
APEX Career Services
Ayers Realty Group
Game Show Battle Rooms
House of Real Estate, LLC
Market Lofts
Mid American Credit Union
MONARCH
My WiFi Guy
Occidental Management, Inc.
Outpost Worldwide
Pilgrim Coffee Company
Quinn Real Estate Company
Safely Delicious, LLC
Shepherd Elder Law Group, LLC
The Great Frame Up in Overland
Park
Whitmore Chiropractic

Businesses are making difficult choices; we appreciate you recognizing the value the Chamber continues to provide you. We encourage you to support these businesses that are investing in our community!

Chamber Diplomats have new chairs

The Chamber's volunteer group of Diplomats is starting 2021 with a new chairman.

Dawn Crouch, [Oliver Insurance](#), will serve as Diplomat chair for the next two years. Co-chair is Cindy Shelton, [Nifty Promotions](#).

We thank Erin Seager, [Office Evolution](#), for serving as chair the past two years.

Chamber Diplomats are the goodwill arm of the Over-

land Park Chamber, serving as volunteers to welcome and engage new and existing members. They assist Chamber staff with ribbon cuttings and grand openings, promote member retention, and attend Chamber events. Diplomats facilitate communication, help identify member concerns, and promote connections among Chamber members.

For more information: Stacey Cowan at scowan@opchamber.org or (913) 766-7604.

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

GO Car Wash

Jason Boster, General Manager
8100 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66204
(913) 381-2163
KS106.gm@gocarwash.com
[www.gocarwash.com/
locations/metcalf](http://www.gocarwash.com/locations/metcalf)
Car Washing & Polishing

If you know a company that should belong to the Overland Park Chamber, please refer them to Stacey at scowan@opchamber.org and receive a credit when they join our Chamber!

Sampson Construction

New EDC Investor

Joe Buelt, Superintendent
5825 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68512
(402) 306-2454
[joe.buelt@sampson-
construction.com](mailto:joe.buelt@sampson-construction.com)
www.sampson-construction.com
Construction Management

Submit a guest column for this newsletter

Chamber members are invited to share industry knowledge through a guest column in this monthly newsletter. Columns should provide general information beneficial to a wide range of business professionals, and be commercial-free and not promotional in nature. They might focus on best practices and ideally would be a timely topic addressing the current business environment or issues such as COVID-19.

For details, contact Stan at slawson@opchamber.org.

Member News

[SpringHill Suites Overland Park Leawood](#), 4081 Indian Creek Parkway in Mission Farms West, is open for business.

[Occidental Management](#) has announced [Aspiria](#) as the new name for the former Sprint Campus. "The vision includes a place for all people – it will be a diamond in the Midwest that attracts innovative companies to migrate their headquarters to the region," according to Gary Oborny, Occidental Chairman & CEO, "But it will also serve as a community gathering space for people of all ages and interests."

[Kansas State University-Olathe](#) is celebrating nine students completing degree programs at the campus this fall.

The [Johnson County Museum](#) received an Award of Excellence from the Kansas Museum Association for its efforts to catalog Johnson County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The museum curated three exhibits that examine the pandemic's local impact.

[OMNI Human Resource Management](#) has launched an on-call HR service enabling members to connect immediately with an HR expert.

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Indoor/Outdoor Restaurant & Bar

Join us for Restaurant Week January 8-17!

Make a reservation at golfop.com/club27



Open To The Public Year-Round!

12501 Quivira Rd • Overland Park, Ky 66213 • (913) 890-1614

Chamber presents virtual Annual Meeting hosted by T-Mobile Business

Presenting Sponsor



The Chamber reflected on the achievements of the past year – despite a devastating pandemic – and looked to the future for a brighter, more promising 2021 during its virtual Annual Meeting presented live from the T-Mobile Campus.

2020 Chairman Bobby Olm-Shipman, **Saint Luke's South Hospital**; reviewed Chamber accomplishments of the past year. 2021 Chairman Bill Ferguson, **Central Bank of the Midwest**; discussed the Chamber's objectives for the year ahead and shared big plans the Chamber intends to pursue.

Recognized for their service to the Chamber were several outgoing board members: Jim Hemenway, **Chicago Title**; Craig Jeffries, **Empower Retirement**; Roger Summers, **Fogel-Anderson Construction**; and Mark Williams, **Garver, LLC**.

The program included the presentation of the 2020 Richard A. Worrel Community Legacy Award to Sen. John Skubal for his lifelong passion to build and develop a community that thrives on a foundation of investment in education, infrastructure, business development and community spirit.

Wrapping up the event was a dynamic presentation by futurist and economist Rebecca Ryan who shared concepts for successfully adapting to whatever the future might bring our way.



Our keynote speaker: futurist and economist Rebecca Ryan.



Above left: 2020 Chairman Bobby Olm-Shipman, Saint Luke's South Hospital.

Above right and on left: 2021 Chairman Bill Ferguson, Central Bank of the Midwest.

Below: DJ Stann Tate brought the vibe to the event and also served as emcee.



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Vibe/DJ Sponsor

DJ Stann

Bronze Sponsor



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[Everygy](#)

[FNBO-First National Bank of Omaha](#)

[Foulston Siefkin LLP](#)

[JE Dunn Construction Company](#)

[Johnson County Community College](#)

[Kansas Gas Service](#)

[McCownGordon Construction](#)

[The University of Kansas Edwards Campus](#)

[The University of Kansas Health System](#)

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

Driving Economic Success

Unemployment

	Nov. 2019	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020
Overland Park	2.6%	4.2%	4.8%
Johnson County	2.5%	4.1%	4.8%
Kansas City Metro MSA	2.9%	4.5%	N/A
State of Kansas	2.9%	4.7%	5.3%

(These percentages are not seasonally adjusted)
 – Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC)
 – U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Building Permits

	New Commercial	Institutional, Schools, etc.	Other Commercial	Totals
Nov. 2020	0	0	35	35
Sq. Feet	0	0	15,174	15,174
Value	N/A	N/A	\$19,863,471	\$19,863,471

– City of Overland Park



Business Perspective is published monthly by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, 9001 West 110th Street, Suite 150, Overland Park, KS 66210.

(913) 491-3600 | Fax: (913) 491-0393

opcc@opchamber.org | www.opchamber.org

Member news

(continued from page 6)

[Everygy](#) has appointed David A. Campbell as CEO.

[Johnson County Community College](#) has named Dr. Leslie Hardin vice president for human resources. Additionally, Kate Allen was promoted to Vice President and will serve on the College's Cabinet, and Rob Wyrick has been promoted from Foundation Director to Executive Director.

Angie Mutti is the new executive director for the [Downtown Overland Park Partnership](#).

[Agenda: USA](#) has hired Kelley Douglass as director of client services.

[Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers](#) now offers mobile ordering through its new app.

[Profile by Sanford](#) is offering Chamber members a discount on one-on-one health coaching, personalized nutrition meal plan, access to top-of-the-line technology to track your progress through January 2021.

[Johnson County Community College](#) is offering 20% off select self-paced online certificate programs with a minimum cost of \$1,200 through January 15. Enter THANKS for discount.

[The University of Saint Mary](#) launched USM Cares, a discount for students enrolled in classes for spring 2021.

[AdventHealth Shawnee Mission](#), [Menorah Medical Center](#), [Overland Park Regional Medical Center](#), [Saint Luke's South Hospital](#), [St. Joseph Medical Center](#) and [The University of Kansas Hospital](#) received A grades in the fall 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade.

[TFI Family Services](#) thanks the community for contributions to its Christmas gifts campaign.

To submit news, events and promotions, [click here](#).