

City supports U.S. 69 modernization

The Overland Park City Council approved a resolution with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) on reconstruction of U.S. 69 Highway and a new financing mechanism. The resolution allows for the City and KDOT together to propose to the state construction and implementation of express toll lanes on the highway between 103rd and 179th Streets.

The Chamber Board of Directors endorsed express toll lanes as the preferred option for modernization and expansion of the U.S. 69 corridor, recognizing revenue from tolling provides the city's local contribution for the project while providing the best value for local and statewide taxpayers.

"Innovative approaches like this one have been a hallmark of Overland Park for decades, and I'm optimistic about the opportunity for improving this backbone of the community," said Mayor Carl Gerlach. "Express toll lanes are not only a creative option that will give us the best improvement project possible, but they are our best choice to make these improvements sooner."

For more information, [click here](#).



Cameron McCown, HNTB Corporation; Mayor Carl Gerlach; Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz; and Kansas Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Lindsey Douglas.

2021 Leadership Overland Park class graduates

2021 Class members

Back row, left to right: Jeff Whitton, **St. Joseph Medical Center**; Matt Johnson, **Turner Construction**; Keith Jenkins, **Overland Park Police Department**; Sara Holmes, **McCownGordon Construction**; Nadine Franz, **APEX Career Services**; Morgan Dye-Wingerson, **Hoefler Welker**; Chris Gigstad, **Gigstad Law Office**; Josh Bitterman, **Goldfish Swim School**; Phil Bennett, **Commerce Bank**.

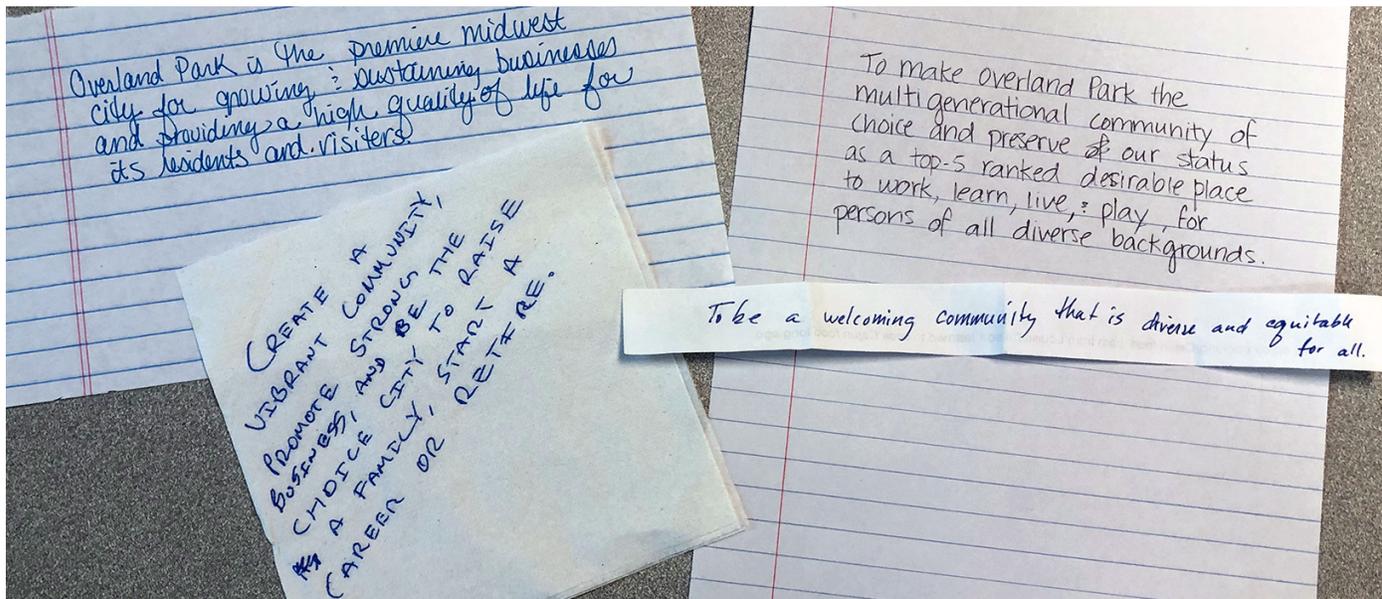
Middle row: John Spell, **Affinis Corp**; Stuart Lord, **Johnson County Wastewater**; Erin Seager, **Office Evolution**; Shaun Baker, **Empower Retirement**; Jordan Buscher, **Cornerstone Presbyterian Church**; Leslie Karr, **City of Overland Park**; Rachel Lierz, **Johnson County Community College**; Hilary Zerr, **Davidson Architecture & Engineering**.

Front row: Josh Nichols, **A.C. Printing Company**; Michelle Carpet, **Riordan Clinic**; Kim Tassone, **Black & Veatch**; Catalina Velarde, **CBIZ, Inc.**; Heather Steppe, **KC Hemp Co.**; Aurora Unger, **JE Dunn Construction Company**; Emily Huffman, **AdventHealth Shawnee Mission**; Mike Makris, **BHC**.

Not pictured: Brad Cusick, **Overland Park Fire Department**; Cory Mead, **Overland Park Regional Medical Center**; Hayley Watkins, **Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co.**



Last month our 2021 Leadership Overland Park class wrapped up its 10-session program, completed its class project and graduated. To read more about the class project, see page 6. Nominations for the 2022 Leadership Overland Park class are now being accepted through September 10. See page 7 for details.



LOP's vision

Abraham Lincoln is quoted as saying, "The best way to predict the future is to create it."

This can definitely be said about the Leadership Overland Park class of 2021. They applied for the program with an uncertain future, participating masked, distanced, at times virtually, and finally unmasked, but always with passion and engagement with each other and our speakers – on fire about the future of Overland Park.

We began and ended the program with a SWOT analysis, digging in to how we might mitigate weaknesses and threats and optimize the strengths and opportunities to make Overland Park and this region THE CHOICE for families and businesses. We saw a slight shift in the SWOT from Opening Session to the Closing as the class thought process evolved from six months of subject analysis.

This year I asked the class to prepare Vision Statements for Overland Park. Here's a sampling:

- Overland Park: work here, live here, thrive here.
- An inclusive community, providing top class amenities and opportunities for growth.
- Create a vibrant community, promote strong business, and be the choice city to raise a family, start a career or retire.
- To make Overland Park the multi-generational community of choice and preserve our status as a top-five ranked desirable place to work, learn, live and play for persons of diverse backgrounds.
- Overland Park is the premier Midwest city for growing and sustaining businesses and providing a high quality of life for its residents and visitors.
- To be a welcoming community that is diverse and equitable for all.

That's a lot to aspire to, but I have great faith in this class and those who came before them. The passion and enthusiasm I've seen in their class sessions spill over in their professional and civic work. They give to a variety of organizations regionally and dream big for the future. The words they use are telling: thrive, vibrant, diverse, equitable, multi-generational, choice, welcoming. They didn't just speak abstractly; they were specific about their visions. They were clear that we will not reach our vision without addressing big issues like transportation, affordable housing and DEI culture. One observation I thought particularly clarifying during the SWOT analysis was that DEI is a priority conversation, but it's still a weakness in practice.

Overland Park recently received its latest accolade, #1 ranked "Best Place to Raise a Family from WalletHub. We're proud of these "best places" rankings, but we know that better is always possible. One of the reasons the Chamber's Foundation sponsors Leadership Overland Park is to ensure the sustainability of future leadership. These classes give me energy, and also the knowledge that Overland Park is moving forward and prepared for innovation. We're taking nominations for LOP 2022. Contact us to learn more.



Tracey Osborne Oltjen
President & CEO
[@traceylosborne](https://www.linkedin.com/in/traceylosborne)

Economic recovery funds available

The City of Overland Park has opened a second round of the Community Development Block Grant Small Business Economic Recovery Program. It provides funding for small businesses struggling with capital and payroll expenses, low demand and other challenges associated with the pandemic and reopening process.

During a preliminary round of funding in 2020, the City distributed \$200,000 to 40 small businesses in Overland Park. This time, the City has more than \$550,000 to distribute. In the second round of funding, businesses are eligible to receive up to \$10,000, or \$5,000 if they received a grant during the 2020 funding round.

The application period closes on July 16. The City has partnered with Community Capital Fund to administer the grants. Business owners can apply online at www.ccfkansascity.squarespace.com/opks.

Overland Park ranked best place to raise a family for fifth time



For the fifth time in a row, *WalletHub* has ranked Overland Park as the top “Best Place to Raise a Family” out of 182 cities in the United States. Rankings were based on factors including family fun, health and safety, education, affordability and socio-economics. Data was pulled from the U.S. census and other sources, then scores in each category were averaged to select the overall winner. To read more, [click here](#).

Upcoming events

Upcoming ribbon cuttings

July 15 – 9:30 a.m.

Club Car Wash, 7140 West 121st Street

July 16 – 3:00 p.m.

Gleason Magic Experience, 5501 West 135th Street

Leads Groups

Small groups meeting twice a month to cultivate professional relationships, establish trust, increase knowledge and build business.

For more information, [click here](#).

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, July 14 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

In The Zone Cryo + Health Upgrades,
7102 College Boulevard

At this monthly networking event, make connections, develop lasting business relationships and create new opportunities while learning more about our host. In The Zone Cryo + Health Upgrades provides an array of clinically proven health methods that support the body’s natural healing process.

To register, [click here](#).

Series sponsor: [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)



Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, August 11 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Hosted by **Colliers International Summit52**, 5200 Metcalf Avenue

Make connections, develop lasting business relationships and tour Summit52 to see the opportunities available there for new tenants.

To register, [click here](#).

Series sponsor: [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)



Chamber Golf Tournament

Monday, August 16 – 10:45 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate

Our annual golf tournament is **SOLD OUT** for players and teams. However, you can promote your company with these opportunities:

- Event sponsor
- Donate door prizes (minimum value of \$25 each)
- Donate 150 like-items for registration swag bags

For details, contact Drew at daggus@opchamber.org.





Primary Election on August 3!

Primary Election Calendar

July 13 - Last day to register to vote

July 14 - Advance voting by mail begins

July 24 - Advance voting in person begins

July 27 - Advance ballot application deadline - 5 p.m.

August 3 - Primary Election - Polls open 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

August 3 Primary Candidates

City of Overland Park Mayor

- Mike Czinege
- Faris Farassati
- Clay Norkey
- Curt Skoog

Overland Park Council Member Ward 1

- Michael Czerniewski
- Logan Heley (Incumbent)
- Carol H. Merritt
- Ryan Spencer

Overland Park Council Member Ward 2

- Melissa Cheatham
- Tony Medina
- Roger Tarbutton

Overland Park Council Member Ward 4

- Ty Gardner
- Stacie Gram (Incumbent)
- Scott Mosher

Overland Park Council Member Ward 5

- Amy Goodman-Long
- Sam Passer
- Sheila Rodriguez

Olathe School District 233-Member 3

- J. Ryan Campbell
- Jennifer Gilmore
- Tiffany Seaman
- Julie Steele
- Stephen Todd

Be an Informed Voter!

Visit www.VoteJoCo.com for candidate profiles and videos of candidate forums hosted by the Johnson County Public Policy Council.

Our city's future depends on your vote

An advertisement I saw reminded me that Independence Day was approaching. The ad focused on traditions like time with family and friends, picnics and fireworks. As I thought about those fun moments, I also was drawn deeper into the reason we celebrate Independence Day – to recognize the many privileges we enjoy as citizens of this great country.

However, those privileges don't come without a responsibility. We must all do our part to make sure future generations of Americans are able to experience the benefits and freedoms we've enjoyed for more than 200 years. Voting is one way in which we shape our future and I believe we should take full advantage of the opportunity when it comes to us.

Sometimes I take the mere act of voting for granted. Sometimes I do it with a sense of relief that the bombardment of political messages is about to end. Sometimes I vote out of anger because I don't like the direction we're going. Sometimes I vote out of sheer excitement because I really believe the candidates for whom I'm voting will bring new ideas to the table.

Regardless of what motivates you to vote, I believe it is incumbent upon each of us to learn about the candidates and cast our vote. While the act of voting is simple, the significance is great. The future of our city and our republic depend on the outcome. As we get closer to electing the newest leaders of Overland Park, I urge you to think carefully about your vote. Whose vision aligns with yours? Whose vision will build on the wonderful legacy past leaders have established for Overland Park?

These are not easy questions to answer but when we are called upon to do our civic duty this fall, it is important we each answer these questions with care. Undoubtedly Overland Park will continue to exist. However, the choices we make at the ballot box will determine what the Overland Park of tomorrow looks like. Please join me in casting a vote for inspiring and forward-thinking leadership. Let's make Overland Park's next 60 years even better than her first 60 years.



Reagan Cushman, JD
Director of Governmental Affairs
[The University of Kansas Health System](#)

Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome these new members that have joined since April:

- ADT Security Services
- Advantage Tech, Inc.
- Ascentist Plastic Surgery
- Association Insurance Services, Inc.
- Boy Scouts of America-Heart of America Council
- Cenetric Network Services
- Centennial Park Apartments
- Club Car Wash
- Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers
- Fairway Exteriors
- Gleason Magic
- HOTWORX Overland Park
- In The Zone Cryo + Health Upgrades
- Maxus Properties
- Neutrality Data Centers*
- Orange Circle International, LLC
- Osman Consultants, LLC
- ProCore Resource Group
- Roling Chiropractic and Wellness
- Shawnee Steel and Welding*
- Taylor Strategies
- Terrace Home Health
- The Single MOM KC
- The Village at LionsGate
- Torchy's Tacos
- Tradition Home Group
- Useagility
- Whataburger
- Wycliff Animal Clinic
- YogaSix

**also an EDC Investor*



City Council approval of Express Toll Lanes strengthens region's future

Businesses large and small, including **AdventHealth**, have thrived in Overland Park for decades because of smart economic development that has provided the foundation for the high quality of life our community enjoys.

As we emerge from the pandemic, some still see an uncertain future. Overland Park's City Council, however, has demonstrated a positive outlook for the future with its approval last month to proceed with optional express toll lanes on U.S. 69 Highway.

One reason AdventHealth expanded in south Overland Park was due to southern Johnson County's growth. The addition of a sports arena in Bluhawk, coupled with new businesses and neighborhoods, will continue that growth, which is supported by the accessibility of U.S. 69. The modernization of this locally critical highway will further strengthen the impact of investments into this area for years to come.

The highway expansion with express toll lanes will improve public safety and access. It will allow U.S. 69 to receive an efficient upgrade and expansion that provides for those coming phases of development and effectively manages the traffic congestion that will grow with them. It also will enable the roadway to be expanded quickly without adding a burden on the general tax base.

Without the addition of express toll lanes on U.S. 69 Highway, these goals would have taken many more years to accomplish and would have come with higher price tags.

As an Overland Park resident and employer, I thank our City Council members for their diligence in studying the issue in depth to find solutions to the major congestion and safety concerns of U.S. 69. They engaged in serious discussions about the project and ultimately voted to do what is best for our community.



Alan Verrill
CEO
[AdventHealth South Overland Park](#)

Leadership class benefits KidsTLC

As the country began to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, professionals from prominent sectors of the Overland Park community assembled to form the Leadership Overland Park (LOP) class of 2021. The group began meeting in mid-February, with a mix of in-person and virtual meetings, while keeping the health and safety of all members in mind. Together, the group focused on the common goals of learning more about the community in which they live and how they could become engaged in the Overland Park community moving forward. The 2021 class chose [KidsTLC](#) as the beneficiary of its class project.

Founded in 1972, KidsTLC exists to transform the lives of children and families experiencing mental and behavioral health challenges, developmental trauma and autism. On Health and Social Issues Day, Erin Dugan, KidsTLC president and CEO, shared with the LOP class the ways in which the organization benefits children and their families in the metropolitan area, and this struck a chord with many of the LOP participants. One of the largest immediate needs at the KidsTLC facility was highlighted by Dugan during her panel presentation to the class: a resurfacing of the playground area. This playground resurfacing would help ensure

the safety and well-being of the children that utilize the space daily.

The total cost of the playground resurfacing project was quoted at more than \$10,000, and LOP participants took it upon themselves to work with their respective businesses, friends and family to raise funds to support this cause. On June 18, the LOP class hosted an ice cream social with members of the KidsTLC community. At that event, the LOP class was able to present a check for \$15,295 to KidsTLC. In addition to funds raised, LOP class member Keith Jenkins, Overland Park Police Department, helped secure games and activities the class donated to KidsTLC.

As the 2021 LOP session came to a close, the group is proud of the resiliency displayed by the Overland Park community amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce and the many presenters from the city, county and region that added value to the experience. The knowledge gained by class participants will be invaluable as each member seeks to leave their mark on the community today and into the future.

– Phil Bennett, **Commerce Bank**
2021 LOP class member



Thank You!

Thanks to these donors to the LOP Class project:

Monetary Donors

- Affinis Corp
- BHC
- Black & Veatch
- Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.
- Chamblin, Andrea
- Commerce Bank
- Davidson Architecture & Engineering
- Ebling, Frank
- Empower Retirement
- Fritz-Watson, Celia
- Gigstad Law Office LLC
- Goldfish Swim School
- Hoefler Welker
- JE Dunn Construction Company
- Makris, Mike
- McCownGordon Construction
- Overland Park Fraternal Order of Police
- Overland Park Regional Medical Center
- Riordan Clinic
- Spell, John
- Turner Construction
- Whitton, Jeff

In-kind Donors

- Huffman, Emily
- KC Hemp Co.
- Lord, Stuart
- Makris, Mike
- Nichols, Josh
- Office Evolution
- Scheels
- Target - Blue Valley Pkwy
- Walmart-117th & Metcalf
- Walmart-157th & Metcalf
- Whitton, Jeff



Leadership

Overland Park

Seeking 2022 nominations

The Overland Park Chamber Foundation is accepting nominations for the 2022 Leadership Overland Park (LOP) class. Nominations are due at the Chamber office by noon on September 10. For an online form and more information about the program, [click here](#).

LOP educates participants about the critical issues facing Overland Park, Johnson County and the metropolitan region, and provides opportunities to engage in organizations that resolve these issues. The program focuses on information, education and discussion of local and regional assets, challenges and opportunities. It is a six-month program, with 10 full-day sessions beginning in January.

Applications from nominees are due by October 15 and class members will be announced on or before December 6. Candidates are selected on criteria that includes leadership ability or potential, along with evidence of a strong commitment to the community. The selection committee will seek a class representing diverse backgrounds, affiliations, and goals.

Founded in 1983 as a program of the Overland Park Chamber, LOP is now part of the Chamber's educational foundation. It has graduated more than 975 alumni who provide leadership in our local business community, as well as in private, public and non-profit organizations.



Aubrey Herrin is the inaugural recipient of the Leadership Overland Park (LOP) Elevate and Educate Scholarship. She received the scholarship from (on left) Cris Powell, [Kansas Gas Service](#); and (on right) Brady Myers, [JE Dunn Construction](#); members of the 2020 class that established the scholarship to help in-need residents of Johnson County gain a professional or technical career. Aubrey was selected based on her high academic standing, outstanding extracurricular activities and exemplary community service. She will continue her education at the University of Missouri in its honors program with an emphasis on pediatric medicine.

To support the LOP Elevate and Educate Scholarship, you can make an online donation at www.opchamber.org/chamber-foundation.

Leadership Overland Park was a fantastic way to engage with other leaders across many sectors. I expanded my network of business partners and extended my circle of friends, advisors, and mentors. I gained a keen awareness of the challenges facing Overland Park, a deeper connection to the community and a better understanding of goals to advance the City forward. Great experiences, great networking, great learnings complemented with business and personal relationships that will last a lifetime.



Marshaun Butler
Vice President
[Children's Mercy Kansas City](#)

Leadership Overland Park was a positive experience for me professionally! I was new to the city and looking to meet other professionals in the area, and wanted to make an impact in the community as well. Leadership Overland Park checked all the boxes for me. The experiences we went through as a class were meaningful, and I was able to establish some long-term relationships with classmates. I'd highly recommend Leadership Overland Park!



Dawn Wolfgram
Regional Managing Director
[Principal](#)



Craig Zahnd, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and a 2004 LOP graduate, was the keynote speaker for this year's LOP Graduation Luncheon.

Suze Parker, [Parker Communications Group](#) and a 2010 LOP graduate, was the emcee for this year's LOP Graduation Luncheon.





City Council President Curt Skoog and the Chamber's Tim Holverson helped Steve Flones and his co-owners celebrate the opening of [Overland Park Auto Clinic](#), 9001 West 95th Street. This is the second location for the owners of Olathe Auto Clinic. The owners are committed to providing quality, honest, and fair repair services. For more info: (913) 914-2050 or [click here](#).

2022 city budget recommendation includes mill increase

City Manager Bill Ebel recommended a 2022 Budget that focuses on expanding Overland Park's mental health resources and staffing Police and Fire departments.

The \$327 million recommended annual budget includes a 6.5% increase in operating expenses over the current year. The City's operating budget supports daily operations and current services.

The City of Overland Park is recovering from the pandemic when sales taxes and other revenue sources decreased.

Overland Park has the lowest mill levy of any Johnson County city and all first-class cities in Kansas. Overland Park's total mill rate accounts for around 12% of a resident's total property tax bill.

The owner of commercial property valued at \$500,000 would pay \$125 more per year. On the high end, taxes for a property

appraised at \$25 million would increase by \$6,250 per year.

The mill levy increase primarily funds several new public safety positions. It also expands staffing at the Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens to accommodate needs for a new visitors center.

In all, the proposed 2022 Budget adds nearly 74 full time equivalent employees; 26 in Police and 27 in Fire; 22 of the Fire Department personnel are funded by the merger with Johnson County Fire District No. 2.

The proposed 2022 Budget also makes changes to the five-year plan for future public improvements and facilities in the city.

Residents can weigh in at public hearings and City Council committee meetings, or by contacting their City Council member. A vote on the proposed budget is scheduled for September 20. For details, [click here](#).



City Council President Curt Skoog and the Chamber's Tim Holverson helped owners Frank and Cindy Davis celebrate the opening of [HomeWell Care Services Johnson County](#), 10500 Barkley Street. HomeWell Care serves seniors and others in need of home care in Johnson County. For more info: (913) 295-9205 or [click here](#).



City Council Member Fred Spears and Chamber Senior Vice President Kevin Walker helped franchisee Jasmine Li, General Manager Aaron Tobias and their team on opening [Hook & Reel Cajun Seafood & Bar](#), 11721 Metcalf Avenue. Hook & Reel is a fun, authentic, experience-driven seafood concept featuring Cajun-inspired cuisine with bold flavors and a saucy attitude. For more info: (913) 787-3660 or [click here](#).



City Council President Curt Skoog and Chamber Senior Vice President Kevin Walker helped Christopher Renfro and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Torchy's Tacos](#), 6815 West 135th Street. Torchy's is always innovating to deliver the most unique tacos, award-winning queso and refreshing margaritas while living the "Damn Good" mantra. For more info: (913) 340-9299 or [click here](#).

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR JUNE NEW MEMBERS

ADT Security Services

Larry Owens
7900 West 156th Street
Overland Park KS 66223-2985
(816) 835-8395
ksangevine@aol.com
www.adt.com
Security Consultants

Advantage Tech, Inc.

Andrew Marquardt
4400 West 107th Street
Overland Park KS 66207-4003
(913) 888-5050
www.advantagetech.net
Business Consultants, Employment
Agencies & Services

Centennial Park Apartments

Michelle Stearns, Community
Manager
12000 Hayes Street
Overland Park KS 66213
(913) 696-1111
www.centennialparkapartments.com
Apartments

Club Car Wash – Opening Soon!

Brittney Goran, Brand Manager
7140 West 121st Street
Overland Park KS 66213
(833) 416-9975
bgoran@clubcarwash.com
www.clubcarwash.com
Car Washing & Polishing

HOTWORX Overland Park

Amanda Scoggin, General
Manager
7308 West 80th Street
Overland Park KS 66204
(913) 308-0000
manager.ks0006@hotmail.com
[www.hotworx.net/studio/
overland-park](http://www.hotworx.net/studio/overland-park)
Fitness

Maxus Properties

Greg Wolf, General Counsel
104 Armour Road
North Kansas City MO 64116
(816) 303-4500
www.maxusprop.com
Property Management

Olathe Health Family Medicine–Antioch

Lacey Kane, Physician &
Community Outreach Liaison
8416 West 135th Street
Overland Park KS 66223
(913) 851-9800
www.Olathehealth.org
Health & Wellness, Health Care

Overland Park Historical Society

Brad Moore, Executive Director
7319 West 79th Street
Overland Park KS 66204
(913) 381-8867
info@ophistorical.org
www.ophistorical.org
Non-Profit Organization

Summit Media Solutions

Daine Meinen, Media
Consultant
215 Platte Clay Way, Suite C
Kearney MO 64060
(816) 628-5492
info@summitmediasolutions.com
www.summitmediasolutions.com
Internet Marketing & Advertising,
Advertising

Terrace Home Health

Michael Brooks, Owner
4721 South Cliff Avenue, Suite 211
Independence MO 64055
(816) 441-0000
mbrooks@terracehomehealth.
com
Health & Wellness

The Village at LionsGate

Rosey Jones, Community
Manager
14631 Broadmoor Street
Overland Park KS 66223-3801
(913) 814-7368
lionsgatemgr@greystar.com
www.villageatlionsgate.com
Apartments

We Got Your Back Apparel

Reid Jolly, Co-Owner
7940 Santa Fe Drive
Overland Park KS 66204
(816) 519-9344
Reid53@hotmail.com
www.wegotyourbackappraisal.com
Retail

Wycliff Animal Clinic

Randy McCallum, Owner/
Operator
10339 Mastin Street
Overland Park KS 66212
(913) 888-2195
wycliffanimalclinic@gmail.com
www.wycliffveterinaryllc.com
Animal Health

Whom would you like to refer to the Chamber?

Connect them to Stacey at
scowan@opchamber.org
and receive a credit when
they join.

Thanks for reinvesting!

JUNE MEMBER RENEWALS INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

50+ Years

Family Tree Nursery
HNTB Corporation
Rau Construction Company

40–49 Years

Oak Park Mall
Valbridge Property Advisors | KC

20–39 Years

API Broadcast Advertising
Claridge Court
Overland Park Convention Center
Paychex, Inc.
Price Chopper Queen's-87th &
Antioch
Santa Fe Body
Visit Overland Park

10–19 Years

Consolidated Communications
Equity Bank - College Boulevard
Fairfield Inn & Suites
Holmes Murphy & Associates
Johnson County Sheriff's Office
Nolan Real Estate

OptumRx
The Goddard School

5–9 Years

Farmers Insurance-The
Wertzberger Agency
Fortune Financial Advisors, LLC
Initiatives, Inc.
Kansas Policy Institute
McCarthy Building Companies
Oliver Insurance Agency Inc.
Stroud's Overland Park
Which Wich? Superior
Sandwiches

1–4 Years

ALDI-95th Street
Bassett Home Furnishings
Cosentino's Market - Blue Valley
Cosentino's Price Chopper-119th
Street
DeMarche Associates
EPC Real Estate Group
Goldfish Swim School
Life 88.5
Marquee Event Rentals
Mickey "The Cotton Candy Man"
Serendipity Labs
Summit Lawn and Landscape, Inc.
Sen. John Vratil



City Council President Curt Skoog, City Councilmember Chris Newlin and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen helped owners Scott & Heather Keen celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Fajita Pete's-Overland Park](#), 8909 West 135th Street. Fajita Pete's offers grilled to order fajitas and other Tex-Mex favorites. Pete can cater and deliver, as well as provide take-out and some dine-in options. For more info: (913) 735-7528 or [click here](#).

Chamber Board

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
Kendall Bank
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, Yellow
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
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, Perspective Architecture + Design [2021 Chairman of Chamber Economic Development Council]
Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, Chamber

Chamber 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, CEEd, Senior Vice President of Economic Development
Stan Lawson, Communications Director
Erin Murray, Executive Assistant
Kevin Walker, IOM, Senior Vice President of Public Policy

Member news

The annual Sidewalk Sale in **Downtown Overland Park** is Friday and Saturday the weekend of July 17 offering a variety of deals, live music and lunch or dinner at your favorite restaurant.

Twelve students across **Blue Valley School District, Olathe Public Schools** and **Shawnee Mission School District** have been named 2021 National Merit Scholarship winners.

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission raised its minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

APEX Career Services is celebrating 10 years in business. Owner Nadine Franz recently earned her Doctor of Education in Learning and Organizational Change from Baylor University.

The Forum at Overland Park announced Cindy Hiltzman as its new executive director.

LANE4 Property Group announced Michael Berenbom as managing partner.

The City of Overland Park announced Vincent Jones as its new manager of community services.

Foulston Siefkin LLP and its attorneys received top-tier rankings in the London-based Chambers USA 2021 Guide.

To submit news, events or promotions, [click here](#). For login information: daggus@opchamber.org.



City Council Members Stacie Gram and Fred Spears and Chamber Senior Vice President Kevin Walker helped Ethan Lowry, Store Manager, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers**, 8950 West 135th Street. In addition to its signature 10-minute oil change, the Express Oil experts provide full mechanical service. For more information: (913) 340-9437 or [click here](#).



The Chamber helped Justin Maxson and his team celebrate the new local offices of **NCRI-National Catastrophe Restoration**, the total disaster restoration company Justin's grandparents started in Wichita in 1972. NCRI provides 24/7 emergency mitigation and turn-key restoration of damage caused by fire, smoke, water, wind, earthquakes and all types of natural and man-made disasters. For more information: (913) 663-4111 or [click here](#).



Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen helped Rachel Segobia, Executive Director, celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new boutique of **The Single MOM KC**, 11539 West 83rd Terrace. This nonprofit brings hope, courage and community to single mothers, offering them support and resources. For more information, [click here](#).

JE Dunn Construction continues to follow founder's vision

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Founded in Kansas City nearly 100 years ago, **JE Dunn Construction** prides itself on building community in Overland Park and beyond through the inspired places they build as well as a commitment to service. While many may recognize the blue cranes and see active projects across the city, it's the culture of serving others, quality work, and continuous improvement that speaks most to Founder John Ernest Dunn's vision.

JE Dunn is committed to living out its purpose and vision while being true to the company's guiding principles. The purpose statement says it all: "We exist to enrich lives through inspired people and places." Employees enrich lives through community service work, development programs for employees, and most importantly through the people who use the buildings JE Dunn builds, including **HCA Overland Park Regional**, **Shamrock Trading** headquarters, numerous buildings in the **Blue Valley School District** and many others. The company builds for clients, communities, and the people who will use the remarkable facilities, all while finding other ways to connect – even in the face of recent unprecedented times.

Though JE Dunn's community outreach looked a little different this year, what did not change was the genuine nature of its people and the causes to which they gave their time. From supporting health care heroes with meals at HCA Overland Park Regional to collecting essential supplies for those hit hardest by the pandemic, JE Dunn's employees did what they do best – lift up the community through service and determination during the most challenging of times.

For more information, visit www.jedunn.com.



Shamrock Trading East Campus at 95th Street & Metcalf Avenue.

Driving Economic Success

Unemployment

	May 2021	Apr. 2021	May 2020
Overland Park	3.1%	2.8%	8.8%
Johnson County	3.0%	2.7%	8.7%
Kansas City Metro MSA	N/A	4.1%	10.4%
State of Kansas	3.5%	3.5%	9.0%

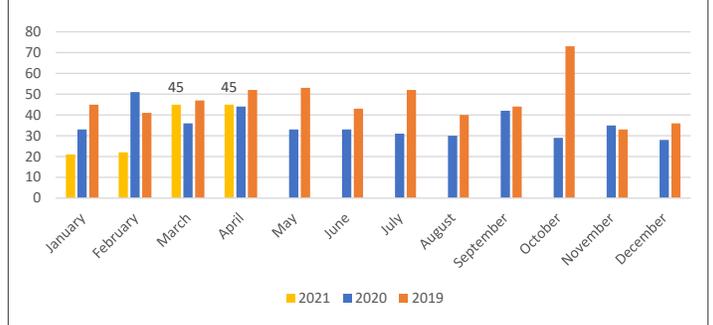
*(These percentages are not seasonally adjusted)
– Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC)
– U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

Building Permits

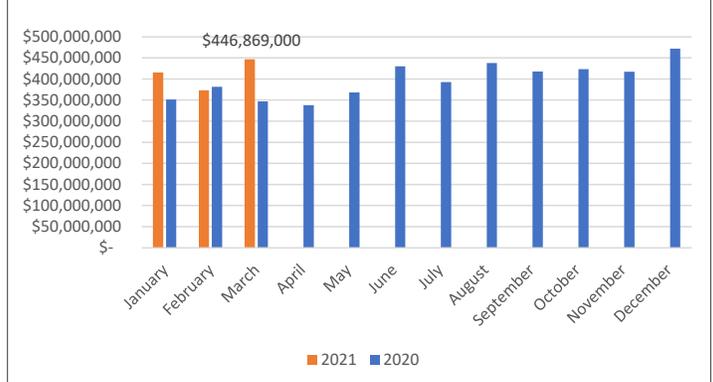
	New Commercial	Institutional, Schools, etc.	Other Commercial	Totals
May 2021	0	0	39	39
Sq. Feet	0	0	3,533	3,533
Value	N/A	N/A	\$13,461,469	\$13,461,469

– City of Overland Park

Commercial Permits



Retail Sales – March 2021



This newsletter is distributed monthly by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, 9001 West 110th Street, Suite 150, Overland Park, KS 66210.

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CommunityAmerica thrives on giving back to the community

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

At the core of **CommunityAmerica Credit Union** is its commitment to the credit union value of "people helping people." Giving back to the community to make it a better place is a part of the company's DNA.

CommunityAmerica, along with CommunityAmerica Foundation, supports local organizations making positive impacts in four key areas: financial literacy and stability, education, health and well-being, and strengthening communities. During a year of instability due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CommunityAmerica was still able to donate nearly \$1.4 million dollars, and its employees managed to volunteer nearly 2,000 hours at 78 different local non-profit organizations in 2020.

Helping its members and business members through the COVID-19 pandemic has been a huge priority for CommunityAmerica, including being present in its partnerships like that with the Overland Park Chamber.

CommunityAmerica is proud to have Rick Schier, Chief Member Officer, serve on the Chamber Board of Directors.

For more information: www.cacu.com.



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[Kansas Gas Service](#)

[McCownGordon Construction](#)

[The University of Kansas Edwards Campus](#)

[The University of Kansas Health System](#)

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



In-person networking at Wednesday Wake-up hosted by [The Vue](#) in Downtown Overland Park.



In-person networking at OP After Hours hosted by [The Venue](#) in Leawood.