



## Be an informed voter!

Learn more about the candidates here:

- [Overland Park Mayor](#)
- [Overland Park City Council](#)
- [Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees](#)
- [Johnson County Water District](#)
- [Blue Valley, Olathe and Shawnee Mission school districts](#)

[www.VoteJoCo.com](http://www.VoteJoCo.com)



# 2021 Annual Meeting

FEATURING MARY C. KELLY, PH.D., U.S. NAVY (RETIRED)

**Friday, December 3** - 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

SPONSORED BY  **Netsmart**

We are pleased to feature Mary C. Kelly, Ph.D., U.S. Navy (Retired), an executive consultant and coach who helps organizations improve their profitability and productivity.

#### She will help us:

- Understand the 6 stages of any crisis, challenge, or change.
- Implement the 5 ways to P.I.V.O.T. through the crisis.
- Use the 7 business reminders to lead out of a crisis and achieve the right outcomes.

**REGISTER HERE!**

#### Promote Your Company!

As our largest event of the year, the Annual Meeting offers numerous ways to get your company in front of a broad public audience of hundreds of business, government and community leaders.

For sponsorship opportunities, [click here](#).

#### Annual Meeting Highlights:

- Presentation of the 2021 Richard A. Worrel Community Legacy Award
- Review of the year's achievements by 2021 Chairman Bill Ferguson, [Central Bank of the Midwest](#); and a preview of next year by 2022 Chairman Tony Rupp, [Foulston Siefki LLP](#).
- Opportunity for networking with hundreds of business leaders

#### About our Speaker:

One of the first female graduates of the Naval Academy, Mary Kelly served 25 years on active duty leading multicultural teams in nine countries. Her remarkable career of service included working as an intelligence officer, chief of police, HR director, and chief of staff, as well as training more than 40,000 military personnel. Mary has been a leadership and economics professor at the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and Hawaii Pacific University. She has written 13 business books and is a popular keynote speaker and leadership adviser working with businesses, associations and government agencies.

# Chamber president authors Kansas City Star guest editorial

The *Kansas City Star* recently published a guest editorial by Chamber President & CEO Tracey Osborne Oltjen and co-authored by Will Ruder, [Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City](#).

The editorial shared results of a recent community poll that indicates voters are happy – content with their quality of life, the taxes they pay and the direction of their city. It also encouraged readers to vote in the November 2 election and not take the city’s longtime positive trajectory for granted.

To read the guest editorial in the *Star*, [click here](#).



## Who’s following you?

Like many, I carry my world in my phone. It dictates my schedule, organizes my many contacts, my email accounts, texts, apps and social media. It’s my touchstone, but the truth is that I still rely on my old-fashioned Daytimer with its worn leather binder and scribbled months and days at-a-glance to keep me on track. My daily calendar even offers a new quote to inspire each day.

Recently an offering from author Neale Donald Walsch caught my attention:

“If the whole world followed you, would you be pleased with where you took it?”

This is an interesting twist of the “if everyone else was doing it would you?” logic. By extension, it’s a reminder we are examples even if we’re unaware. Are we always worthy?

As we round out the 4th quarter, we focus on closing out projects and planning for 2022, with an eye on the new and shiny – new projects, budgets and new opportunities. January 1 brings a fresh start even if you’ve already been working on the “new” year for months. I’m not big on resolutions, but I find this time of year to be a good opportunity to be mindful of what I want to achieve personally and professionally.

Though I’ve never read any of Walsch’s books, his quote resonated with me. When I came across it, I was working on welcome remarks for the conference of a statewide civic organization meeting in Overland Park. Part of the group’s mission is empowering women to change the world, so it was perfect timing. There was a big smile on every face and the energy in the room was palpable as I began. This group was excited to be together again in person. They were ready to re-charge their batteries, ready to learn with and from each other, ready to embark on a new year and make a difference in their communities.

I enjoy welcoming people to Overland Park and telling them a little about us. For this group, I shared a few of our rankings, particularly those critical to women such as *SmartAsset’s* ranking of Overland Park as 5th best city where women are successful or #8 best places to start a career. I shared these not to brag, but to make a point that Overland Park, just like their hometowns, are not excellent places to live by accident. They are that way through intentional leadership.

Great communities are planned. As leaders we must also plan for our future – our replacements to lead our organizations and our communities. If it’s not already, consider adding to your 2022 goals mentoring a student or young professional, volunteering with a school or youth organization or adding an intern to your team.

I am inspired by the leaders I work with every day, from small business owners, corporate leaders, young professionals, elected officials and community volunteers. Look around for those whose example you would like to follow, but always be mindful there are those who may be following you.



**Tracey Osborne Oltjen**  
President & CEO  
[@traceylosborne](#)





Kansas Governor Laura Kelly, City Council President Curt Skoog and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen helped Sam Huenergardt, CEO, Mid-America Region, and other hospital officials celebrate the expansion of [AdventHealth South Overland Park](#).

This 193,000-square-foot addition to the Bluhawk development expands upon the emergency services, medical offices and imaging that have served patients at AdventHealth South Overland Park since 2017. It was designed to provide patients with access to a full suite of medical and emergency services when it opens in early October. It adds a birth center, surgical services, intensive care unit, heart care and more.

For more information: (913) 373-1100 or [click here](#).

## Chamber building offers meeting space

Located in Corporate Woods, the Chamber Foundation Building offers a variety of meeting space rental options. Whether you are planning a large event, training session, small conference, one-on-one interviews or a staff retreat, our building has the perfect space for you.



Completely updated, our meeting spaces offer new technology including flat LCD smart TVs.

In addition to conference and meeting rooms, our outdoor garden terrace has a 100-person capacity and features a fire pit and is suitable for unique cocktail receptions.



Chamber members have limited complimentary use of the Affinis Room, but it must be reserved in advance and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For details, [click here](#).

If you have questions about room rentals, contact Alex at [acook@opchamber.org](mailto:acook@opchamber.org) or (913) 491-3600.

## Chamber is hiring

The Chamber seeks qualified applications for two open positions: Membership Director and Director of Member Services.

Our **Membership Director** interacts with business leaders and owners to determine how the Chamber can help their businesses succeed. The successful candidate must possess excellent sales and communication skills and be highly organized and motivated.

For details, [click here](#).

Our **Director of Member Services** coordinates events, secures sponsorships, coordinates Leadership Overland Park and related programming, oversees meeting space, and develops/revises events and programming as needed to best serve members and community.

For details, [click here](#).

## 2022 Board Officers

The Chamber Board of Directors announces the following board officers for 2022:

**Chairman:** Tony Rupp, **Foulston Siefkin LLP**

**Chair-Elect:** Joan Wells, **Wellington**

**1st Vice-Chair:** Cindy Rock, **C2FO**

**2nd Vice-Chair:** Josh Beck, **MarksNelson LLC**

**Secretary:** Matt Sogard, **Overland Park Regional Medical Center**

**Treasurer:** Chris Wally, **Wally & Co.**

**Past Chairman:** Bill Ferguson, **Central Bank of the Midwest**

**President & CEO:** Tracey Osborne Oltjen



Congratulations to Dr. Troy Burns, Dr. Sonny Holbrook and Dr. Angela Prato on celebrating the 20th anniversary of [ProPartners Healthcare](#), 4501 College Boulevard.

ProPartners is a pioneer in Direct Primary Care, an affordable membership-based "concierge medicine" practice model that provides 24/7 access to your personal physician.

For more info: (913) 451-4776 or [click here](#).

# Committee drafting 2022 legislative agendas

The Chamber's Public Policy & Advocacy Committee (PPA) has been working on the Chamber's 2022 legislative agendas for federal, state and local platforms.

To view our current legislative agendas, [click here](#).

The PPA Committee is comprised of Overland Park Chamber member representatives. This committee discusses governmental and legislative issues and recommends policy to the Chamber's Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

The PPA Committee is co-chaired by Michael Hockley, [Spencer Fane LLP](#); and Reagan Cussimano, [The University of Kansas Health System](#).

This committee typically meets on the second Friday of the month. Interested in joining? Contact Kevin Walker at [kwalker@opchamber.org](mailto:kwalker@opchamber.org) for more information.



Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen joined City Council Member Tom Carignan to help celebrate HealthStar One, HCA Midwest Health's new transport helicopter based at [Overland Park Regional Medical Center](#).

The new helicopter transports patients from throughout the region. It carries neonatal, maternal and cardiovascular specialty transport teams, bringing the highest level of specialty care to patients that need these services.

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

## Thank you!

If you missed one of our most popular annual events – **Good Morning, Overland Park!** featuring Greg Musil, [Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C.](#), and Aaron Attebery, [Black & Veatch](#) – you can watch a recording of it: [click here](#).

Thank you to the following who provided door prizes:

- ArchWell Health
- Association Insurance Services, Inc.
- Brian Quinn State Farm Agency
- Budget Blinds of Overland Park
- Chiefs Fit
- Club 27 Restaurant
- Club Car Wash
- Deka Lash
- Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers
- Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue
- Humana
- In The Zone Cryo + Health Upgrades
- INTRUST Bank
- Johnson County Community College
- Kansas City Monarchs Baseball
- KuSHH
- Maxwell Psychological Services
- Mr. Brews Taphouse
- Novel Place Senior Living
- Overland Park Historical Society
- Pinot's Palette
- Plowboys Barbeque
- ProPartners Healthcare
- Riordan Clinic
- SHC Roofing, Inc.
- TFI Family Services
- The Arts & Recreation Foundation of Overland Park
- The Forum at Overland Park
- The Single MOM KC
- Trusted Lending Center
- University of Saint Mary



City Council Member Chris Newlin and Chamber representatives helped owners Steve & Teresa McKinzie and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Fastsigns of Blue Valley](#), 16012 Metcalf Avenue.

Banners . . . signs . . . vehicle wraps – the highly skilled team of marketing and graphics experts at Fastsigns of Blue Valley can solve any of your branding and promotional needs.

For more info: (913) 912-5536 or [click here](#).

# Welcome to the Chamber!

## INTRODUCING OUR OCTOBER NEW MEMBERS

### Chicken N Pickle

Rachel Santschi, Director of Public Relations  
5901 West 135th Street  
Overland Park KS 66223-4844  
(913) 484-5676  
[www.chickennpickle.com](http://www.chickennpickle.com)  
*Entertainment, Restaurants*

### Fusion Bank

Simon Miller, Assistant Vice President  
7800 College Boulevard  
Overland Park KS 66210  
(913) 327-1111  
<https://fusion.bank>  
*Banks*

### Inspired Play Cafe

Bianca Sisillo, Owner & Founder  
6527 West 119th Street  
Overland Park KS 66209  
(913) 749-6851  
[info@inspiredplaycafe.com](mailto:info@inspiredplaycafe.com)  
[www.inspiredplaycafe.com](http://www.inspiredplaycafe.com)  
*Coffee Houses, Entertainment*  
*Referred by David Chew, Core Bank*

### Walmart-119th & Metcalf

Robert Bethea, Store Manager  
11701 Metcalf Avenue  
Overland Park KS 66210  
(913) 338-2202  
[www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com)  
*Grocers, Department Stores*



Rep. Dan Osman, City Council Member Fred Spears and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen helped Drs. Spencer Eagan and Jeff Markey and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new state-of-the-art clinic of [Ascentist Plastic Surgery](#), 14340 Metcalf Avenue.

Ascentist Plastic Surgery offers botox, fillers, laser rejuvenation, facial contouring, such as face and neck lifts, breast augmentation, rhinoplasty, eyelid rejuvenation and more.

For more info: (913) 914-5975 or [click here](#).



The Overland Park Chamber joined the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce to help Jim Reeves and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new location of [SHC Roofing, Inc.](#)

SHC Roofing is a commercial roofing contractor preserving the budgets and properties of the commercial real estate industry.

For more info: (913) 489-7890 or [click here](#).

# Thanks for reinvesting!

## OCTOBER MEMBER RENEWALS INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

### 50+ Years

Mize CPAs Inc.  
Varnum/Armstrong/Deeter, L.L.C.

### 40-49 Years

DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas  
City-Overland Park

### 20-39 Years

Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate-Phil Summerson  
DLR Group  
Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue  
Georgetown Apartments L.L.C.  
McCownGordon Construction  
Menorah Medical Center  
Mitchelson, Lynn  
Olathe Public Schools USD 233  
Ottawa University - Kansas City Campus  
Southcreek Office Park  
Straub Construction Company, Inc.

### 10-19 Years

Andre's Confiserie Suisse-Andre's Rivaz  
Crowley Furniture  
GoalGETTERS®  
Mirabile M.D. Beauty, Health & Wellness

### 5-9 Years

Aesthetic Surgical Arts  
Avila University  
Corbin Crossing Apartments  
Great Southern Bank - Overland Park  
Hutchins & Haake, LLC  
Mazuma Credit Union  
Retail Success  
Parisi Coffee

### 1-4 Years

Back On Track Chiropractic + Acupuncture  
Onspring Technologies LLC  
Crushed Red  
Fiorella's  
Honeywell FM&T  
House of Real Estate, LLC  
HopeKids Kansas City  
Jason's Deli  
Mickey "The Cotton Candy Man"  
Red Door Woodfired Grill  
Spectrum Eyecare  
Tiger-Rock Martial Arts of Overland Park



City Council President Curt Skoog and Chamber representatives helped Ron Gochee, general manager, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Chiefs Fit](#), 9290 Metcalf Avenue.

Chiefs Fit features 37,000 square feet of state-of-the-art fitness and recovery equipment including a strength and conditioning area with Chiefs-branded free weights, machines and cardio equipment, indoor turf field, cryotherapy, sauna, and more.

For more info: (913) 914-5858 or [click here](#).



City Council Member Paul Lyons and Chamber Senior Vice President Beth Johnson helped Courtney Laufketter and her team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new showroom of [Budget Blinds of Overland Park](#), 7250 West 151st Street.

Receive advice on custom window coverings and see displays in the showroom. Or, the professional design consultants provide in-home or business consultation to meet your window covering needs.

For a free consultation, call (913) 402-1600 or [click here](#).

[Click advertisement below for more information.](#)

  
1858  
**BAKER**  
UNIVERSITY

**UNPARALLELED ACCESS TO  
REAL-WORLD BUSINESS EXPERTISE**

Gain the skills you need to successfully launch a new venture.

During the **Executive Leadership & Entrepreneurship Certificate** program, you will have direct access to knowledge, guidance, and mentorship from the area's most accomplished business leaders.

Reserve your seat now for this 12-week intensive program that starts **January 2022**.

**LEARN MORE**  
[bakerU.edu/entrepreneur](http://bakerU.edu/entrepreneur)

## 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  
C2FO

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

Alex Cook, Member Services Coordinator

Frank Ebling, CFO

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

Tim Holverson, IOM, Director, Workforce & Business Growth

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

## Member news

Overland Park was ranked #3 in the 2021 Top 100 Best Places to Live by *Livability.com*. [More](#)

The [Mayor's Holiday Festival](#) is 5:30-8:00 p.m. on **November 19** in Downtown Overland Park. Bryan Busby, KMBC 9, will emcee the lighting ceremony and welcome Mayor Gerlach as he presents a check to [Safehome, Inc.](#) Activities include photos with Santa, live reindeer, Snow Princesses, family hay ride, holiday music, children's train ride, carolers and a pop up Strawberry Swing Makers' Market.

EXHIBITOR magazine named the [Overland Park Convention Center](#) one of North America's Top 30 convention centers for trade shows and events.

[GBA](#) has acquired Rio Engineering, Inc., its second deal in Texas, to capitalize on market potential for infrastructure preservation and expansion.

[Rhycom Advertising](#) was selected as the 2021 Agency of the Year by the Kansas City Media Mix organization.

[Hillcrest Transitional Housing](#) invites the community to adopt a family this holiday season.

[HCA Midwest Health](#) appointed Amber Boes, RN, MSN, as Division Chief Nursing Officer.

Carol Baber, CPA, has joined [Mize CPAs](#) as audit shareholder.

Shane DeWald was named executive director for [Blue Valley Recreation Commission](#). He has been at Blue

Valley Recreation since 2018 as the recreation manager.

Jay Antle, [Johnson County Community College](#), has been honored with an Impact Award from the Climate + Energy Project.

John Hutchison, [Olathe Public Schools](#), was elected the 2022 Vice President for the Association of School Business Officials International.

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



City Council Member Chris Newlin and Chamber Senior Vice President Kevin Walker helped Andy Kuntz, CEO, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the 102nd [Andy's Frozen Custard](#) and the 9th location in Kansas City at 5821 West 135th Street in [Prairiefire](#).

For more information: (913) 392-3030 or [click here](#).



City Council Member Tom Carignan and the Chamber's Tim Holverson helped General Manager Ross Lamoureux and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the rebranded [Sonesta Simply Suites](#), 11001 Oakmont Street. Offering long-term stays, this property has a new look, new style and new vibe.

For more info: (913) 469-5557 or [click here](#).





City Council Member Holly Grummert and the Chamber's Tim Holverson helped Amy Falk, [Health Partnership Clinic](#); and Steve Loe, [Shawnee Mission School District](#); and their teams celebrate a ribbon cutting for the opening of the Health Partnership Clinic at Shawnee Mission West High School, which provides quality, accessible and affordable health care services to all district students and their siblings, three to 20 years old.

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



Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen helped officials with [Johnson County Government](#), [Johnson County Park and Recreation District](#) and the [Johnson County Museum](#) celebrate the opening of the new and improved Museum Store in the [Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center](#).

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



City Council President Curt Skoog and Johnson County Commissioner Becky Fast joined Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen and the Chamber Diplomats to help Lee Cross celebrate the new offices of [Cross Law Firm, LLC](#), 8001 Conser Street.

For more info: (816) 454-5297 or [click here](#).

## Driving Economic Success

### Unemployment

	Sept. 2021	Aug. 2021	Sept. 2020
Overland Park	2.9%	3.4%	5.5%
Johnson County	2.9%	3.4%	5.4%
Kansas City Metro MSA	N/A	3.8%	6.3%
State of Kansas	3.5%	3.8%	6.2%

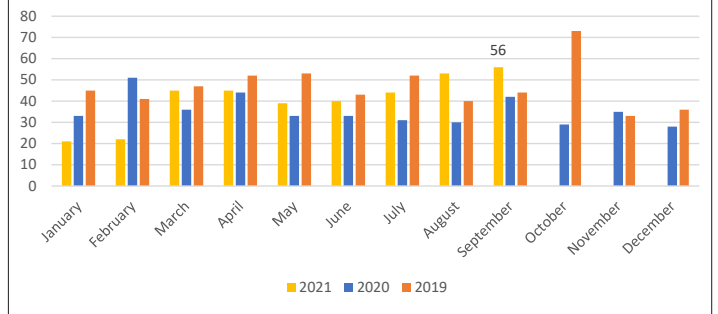
*(These percentages are not seasonally adjusted)  
 – Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC)  
 – U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

### Building Permits

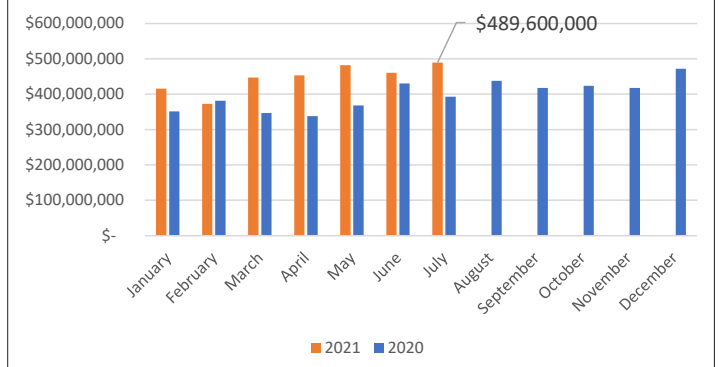
	New Commercial	Institutional, Schools, etc.	Other Commercial	Totals
Sept. 2021	0	0	56	56
Sq. Feet	0	0	9,940	9,940
Value	N/A	N/A	\$16,267,167	\$16,267,167

– City of Overland Park

### Commercial Permits



### Retail Sales – July 2021



This newsletter is distributed 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](mailto:opcc@opchamber.org) | [www.opchamber.org](http://www.opchamber.org)

## Corporate Partners



# Evergy pursues goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2045

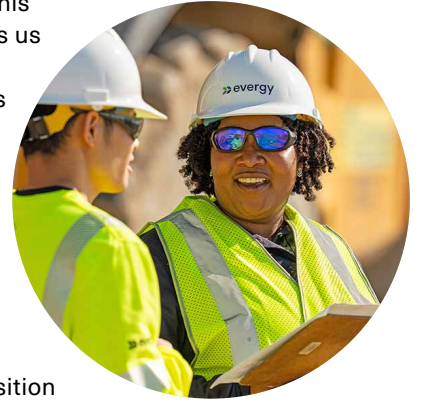
## CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Recently, [Evergy's](#) Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) was filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission, accelerating the company's carbon reduction timeline. As part of the plan, Evergy will retire nearly 1,200 megawatts of coal-based fossil generation and add 3,200 MW of renewable generation in the next 10 years. Within the next three years, the company will retire its Lawrence Energy Center and add 700 MW of solar energy. The plan prioritizes sustainability, reliability and cost competitiveness, while advancing Evergy's goal to reduce carbon emissions 70 percent by 2030 (relative to 2005 levels) and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2045.

"This net-zero carbon emissions goal announcement is a significant step forward for our customers, communities and shareholders," said David Campbell, president and chief executive officer. "We're on a journey to a cleaner energy future, while balancing the highest priorities of

reliability and affordability for our customers. Our coal-fired fossil plants are now more flexible than ever and frequently operate as a backup to renewable generation sources. This flexibility allows us to adapt to real-time needs – running fossil plants more when renewable availability is low or customer demand is high. This measured transition toward more sustainable resource options maintains the reliability our customers need."

The company expects a combination of supportive energy policies and evolving technology to enable the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2045.



## Corporate Sponsors

[Affinis Corp](#)

[CommunityAmerica Credit Union](#)

[Empower Retirement](#)

[Evergy](#)

[FNBO](#)

[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, contact Tracey Osborne Oltjen at (913) 491-3600 or [tosborne@opchamber.org](mailto:tosborne@opchamber.org).



Members networking at our October Wednesday Wake-up event hosted by [American Legion Dwight Cowles Post 370](#) and sponsored by [Foulston Siefkin LLP](#).

