Business Perspective

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 10



OCTOBER 2023

Chamber leaders meet with Federal representatives

After a hiatus during the pandemic, the Chamber's annual Washington, D.C., Fly-in resumed this year.

Joining Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen and Kevin Walker, Executive Vice President & Chief Policy Officer, in meeting with national officials were Josh Beck, MarksNelson; Cindy Rock, C2FO; Kim Winslow, Evergy; and Reagan Cussimanio, The University of Kansas Health System. The delegation met with U.S. Senators Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall and U.S. Representative Sharice L. Davids to discuss issues and share the Chamber's Federal priorities including the challenges of attracting and retaining talent, access to international travel documents and problems with reliable and consistent delivery of the U.S. postal mail.

The Chamber delegation discussed how legal immigration reform – including greater

access to H1B and H2B Visas – is critical to key sectors of Overland Park's business community getting the workers they need.

The Chamber representatives also met with U.S. Chamber of Commerce officials and representatives of the American Hospital Association.



Chamber delegation at the U.S. Capitol.



Meeting with Senator Jerry Moran.



Meeting with Representative Sharice L. Davids.

Chamber Board

Board Officers:

Joan Wells, Chair Augeo Cindy Rock, Chair-Elect C2FO Josh Beck, 1st Vice Chair MarksNelson LLC Matt Sogard, 2nd Vice Chair Overland Park Regional Medical Center Chris Wally, Treasurer Wally & Co. Matt Sheets, Secretary FNBO Tony Rupp, Past Chairman Foulston Siefkin LLP

Board Members:

Rick Axthelm, Compass Minerals Josh Bitterman, Goldfish Swim School India Boulton, T-Mobile Ken Bowman, Shamrock Trading Corporation Sterling Cramer, OWN Dr. Stuart Day, The University of Kansas Edwards Campus David Freisner, Fortune Financial Advisors Tracy Garry, Empower Hyleme George, Black & Veatch Matt Gunter, SelectQuote Courtney Kounkel, Monarch Build LLC Kristen Leathers-Gratton, Affinis Corp Will Mann, Zurich North America Rich Muller, VanTrust Real Estate Neelima Parasker, SnapIT Solutions, LLC Rick Schier, CommunityAmerica Credit Union Dr. Alan Verrill, AdventHealth South Overland Park

Christian Weld-Brown, MBB Kim Winslow, Evergy Jason Wright, JE Dunn Construction Company

Ex-Officio Board:

Jim Holland, **Fisher Phillips LLP** Dr. Michelle Hubbard, **Shawnee Mission School District** Lori Curtis Luther, **City of Overland Park** Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, Chamber Mayor Curt Skoog, City of Overland Park

Chamber staff

- Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, President & CEO Courtney Cavlovic, Workforce Development Coordinator
- Alex Cook, Director of Events & Member Services
- David Dyer, Membership Director

Corey Cohn, Economic Development Project Coordinator

Frank Ebling, CFO

Tim Holverson, IOM, Director, Workforce & Business Growth

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

Hannah Melton, Member Services Coordinator

Tanya Rife, Executive Assistant

Kevin Walker, IOM, Senior Vice President of Public Policy

Andrew Weisberg, Director of Talent





Playing the long game

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We celebrated the long-awaited expansion of Overland Park's Arboretum and Botanical Garden and its gorgeous LongHouse Visitor Center a few weeks ago.

The Arboretum is one of my favorite places – both as a space to refresh and relax and to show off Overland Park to visitors. Some of my favorite memories were created there – my family celebrating Thanksgiving at the Luminary Walk, laughing with friends at Stems, and searching for the first signs of spring on a crisp winter morning with my best friend. The addition of the spectacular LongHouse and its surrounding gardens, fountains, reflecting pools and panoramic views takes the Arboretum experience to a new level.

At the LongHouse ribbon cutting, I shared that this addition is important from an economic development perspective. It's a differentiator for our community in terms of amenities. It tells our residents, businesses, and the country we're a community serious about investing in ourselves.

In the old days, economic development was about having great sites – meaning buildings – good schools, highway access and maybe a golf course – and you could attract new businesses to your community. Now, it's not just about an ideal site, the right financing, and quality of life; it's about the quality of your place. You must demonstrate you have the "cool factor." Fortunately, Overland Park has been building the quality of our place since we were incorporated in 1960. But that doesn't mean we can rest on our laurels. Every year we must look at what we can do to improve and invest in those things. It's a long game.

That's why this LongHouse – and the expansion all around it – is so important. Great companies won't locate here, and won't stay and expand in Overland Park, if we don't have all the amenities – the best schools, great roads, broadband, housing, parks, walkability, entertainment, restaurants, retail – amenities that help them attract and retain their talent.

I'm grateful to our community's leaders – past and present members of the Arts and Recreation Foundation of Overland Park who had the vision for the LongHouse, past and present City Council members and our professional city staff and volunteers, and of course the numerous donors who made this project possible.

I saw the LongHouse presentation numerous times, but the reality is far greater than I imagined. This is a generational project – a game changer and true gathering space for our region. I look forward to seeing you at the Arboretum!

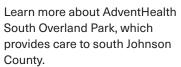
Upcoming events

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, October 11 – 8:00-9:00 a.m. AdventHealth South Overland Park, 7820 West 165th Street

Make connections, develop lasting business relationships and create new opportunities, all while enjoying coffee and breakfast items.





Free for Chamber members.

To register, click here.



Good Morning, Overland Park!

Friday, October 20 – 7:30-9:00 a.m. Sheraton Overland Park Hotel, 6100 College Boulevard

Join us for a fun and upbeat breakfast program where you learn about exciting developments happening around Overland Park. Featuring our MCs (masters of corniness): Aaron Attebery and Greg Musil!

To register, click here.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Humana



Executive Leadership Series

Featuring Bryan Dehner, Former Overland Park Fire Chief and Current Assistant City Manager Thursday, October 26 – 7:30-9:00 a.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas City Overland Park, 10800 Col-

lege Bouelvard

Enjoy breakfast and hear from Bryan Dehner who dedicated three decades of his career to the Overland Park Fire Department before recently becoming Assistant City Manager. Former Chief Dehner created a culture of innovation with a primary focus on the safety of his staff and all who live and work in Overland Park.



series sponsor

Ribbon cuttings

October 11 – 100th KC metro store of <u>QuikTrip</u>, 9731 Metcalf Avenue – 11:00 a.m.

October 13 – <u>Nautical Bowls</u>, 8051 West 160th Street Inside Cosentino's – 11:30 a.m.

October 13 – Remodeled science building at Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Boulevard – 1:00 p.m.

October 19 – 10th annivesary of <u>Nothing</u> Bundt Cakes, 13420 Metcalf Avenue – 9:00 a.m.

October 24 – <u>Springhill Suites Kansas City/Over-</u> land Park, 12000 Blue Valley Parkway – 9:00 a.m.

October 25 – <u>ProPartners Healthcare</u>, 8500 West 110th Street, Suite 200 – 4:00 p.m.



Vote on November 7!

C OP Che

Be an informed voter this election!

Visit <u>www.VoteJoCo.com</u> to read questionnaires completed by the candidates and watch videos of candidate forums and interviews.

General Election Calendar

October 17 - Last day to register to vote October 18 - Advance voting by mail begins October 28 - Advance voting in person begins **November 7 - General Election** – 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

OP After Hours

Thursday, November 16 – 4:30-6:30 p.m. Lifted Logic, 7815 Floyd Street

Join us at OP After Hours for a fun evening of networking, delicious appetizers and drinks. This event is a great opportunity to see the creative space Lifted Logic calls home.

The creatives at Lifted Logic create things – experiences, feelings, engagements – that elevate brands.

This event is an exclusive benefit for Chamber members only.

Register by noon on November 14. **To register**, <u>click here</u>.



SERIES SPONSOR



To register, <u>click here</u>.

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

AdventHealth Sports Park at Bluhawk – New EDC Investor!

Greg Jackson, General Manager 7951 West 160th Street Overland Park KS 66223 www.bluhawk.com/play Sports Facilities

Ageless Med Spa by Mindy

Mindy Ladatto, Owner/CEO 7440 West 135th Street Overland Park KS 66223 (913) 602-8007 mindy@agelessbymindy.com www.agelessbymindy.com

Spa - Medical Referred by Ruby Woodruff, Nothing Bundt Cakes

Dynamo Methods

Isaac Wambua, Author, Speaker and Trainer 6550 Sprint Parkway, Suite 200 Overland Park 66211 www.dynamomethods.com Management Consultants, Training and Development

D Abraham Solutions

Dana Abraham (816) 560-0543 dana.abraham@eosworldwide. com www.eosworldwide.com/ Dana-Abraham Business Consultants

Emler Swim School

Micheala Driskell, General Manager 2848 West 47th Avenue Kansas City KS 66103 (816) 656-8600 westwood@emlerswimschool. com www.emlerswimschool.

com/location/kansas-citywestwood

Educational Services, Family, Community & Civic Organizations

Integrity Inspired Solutions

Travis Dietz, Co-Owner 7820 Metcalf Avenue Overland Park KS 66204 info@integrityinspired.com (913) 375-0611

www.integrityinspired.com

Computers-System Designers & Consultants, Computer Software & Services

LifeStance

Kimberly Beliof, Regional Operations Director 12541 Foster Street, Suite 200 Overland Park KS 66213-2307 kimberly.beliof@lifestance.com (913) 327-7505 www.lifestance.com Health Care

LCG Construction LLC

Nestor Guerrero, Project Manager (913) 202-4945 info@lcgconstructionks.com www.lcgconstructionks.com Contractors-Masonry, Remodeling & Repairing-Building Contractors Referred by Jonathan Pitallo, VIVE Brand Co LLC

Montrose Chemical Corporation of California

Michael Hockley, President 600 Ericksen Avenue NE Bainbridge Island WA 98110 mhockley@montrosechemical.

com (913) 433-0099 *Manufacturers*

MTI EVENTS

Alyssa Hunter, Office Manager 10400 West 103rd Street, Suite 10 Overland Park KS 66214 (913) 438-2600 www.mtievents.com Event Services, Travel

Refer a potential Chamber member to Dave at <u>ddyer@</u> <u>opchamber.org</u> and receive a credit when they join!

Pound 4 Pound Elite Boxing Academy

Erin Taylor 10324 Mastin Street Overland Park KS 66212 (816) 550-5151 https://pound-4-pound-eliteboxing-academy.business. site Fitness, Non-Profit Organizations

PT2go

Matt Timm (816) 520-4755 matt@pt2gokc.com *Physical Therapists*

Ryan Companies US,

Inc. – New EDC Investor!

Brandon Brensing, Vice President of Real Estate Development 215 East 18th Street, Suite 22 Kansas City MO 64108 (816) 278-1980 kansascity@ryancompanies.com www.ryancompanies.com Real Estate-Commercial, Real Estate-Developers

SpringHill Suites by Marriott

Priscilla Graves, Area Director 12000 Blue Valley Parkway Overland Park KS 66213 (913) 491-0010 www.marriott.com/mciss Hotels

Thanks for reinvesting!

SEPTEMBER MEMBER RENEWALS

50+ Years

40-49 Years

DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas City-Overland Park Marriott Kansas City Overland Park

20-39 Years

Enterprise Center in Johnson County GoalGETTERS® Hy-Vee Food & Drug Store #1 Martin, Pringle, Oliver, Wallace & Bauer, LLP MD Management Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate SPX Cooling Technologies State Farm Insurance-Penny Hardesty True North Hotel Group

10-19 Years

Buffalo State Pizza Co. DeFrain & Million CPAs, LLC

Please support these businesses investing in our community!

Fairfield Inn and Suites Mazuma Credit Union Rasmussen University SG360 Tallgrass Creek Senior Living-Erickson Living Titan Built, LLC

5-9 Years

Altasciences Clinical Kansas, Inc. Arbor Development, LLC Bassett Home Furnishings Garver, LLC Indian Creek Land & Investment Co., LP Mariner Holdings Q39 Stephens & Associates

1-4 Years

Andy's Frozen Custard -Bluhawk Behavioral Health Holdings LLC Chicken N Pickle Fusion Bank GRID Collaborative Workspaces MBB SpringHill Suites by Marriott



City Councilmember Sam Passer joined the Chamber to help Mindy Ladatto and her team celebrate a ribbon cutting for <u>Ageless Med Spa by</u> <u>Mindy</u>, a premier med spa at 7440 West 135th Street.

The professionals at Ageless Med Spa address all skin concerns with a wide range of treatments from injectables to advanced skincare and cutting-edge technologies like the Glo2Facial system and Aerolase Neo and Era.

For more info: (913) 602-8007 or <u>click here</u>.



Our Chamber joined the Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce to help Valerie Jennings and her team celebrate the 20th anniversary of Jennings Social Media & Martech and a new office at 7301 West 133rd Street, Suite 310.

From humble beginnings to becoming a trailblazer, JSMM has been at the forefront of shaping the digital landscape through pioneering strategies in social media and digital marketing and countless success stories it has created for clients over the past two decades.

Valerie and the agency as a whole have received prestigious awards that underscore a dedication to driving transformation in the industry including winning a 2023 Silver Stevie Award as Marketing Executive of the Year. For more information: (913) 424-3042 or click here.

Recent events



Members enjoyed networking over coffee in the beautiful new offices of **Gragg Advertising** during our September Wednesday Wake-up. Thank you for our **Series Sponsor: Fortune Financial Advisors.**





Members from our 2022 Leadership Overland Park class recently got together to catch up. They included, left to right: Erica Miller, Johnson County Community College; Erin Coats, Perspective Architecture + Design; Christian Weld-Brown, MBB; Ben Asnicar, Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.; Josh Wetzig, DLR Group; and Chelsee Newkirk Chism, City of Shawnee.



More than 50 employers participated in a re-employment job fair for affected Yellow employees last week at Johnson County Community College. The Chamber partnered with **Workforce Partnership** and **Johnson County Community College** to host the well-attended event.

2024 sponsorships

Gain visibility in front of business professionals by sponsoring a Chamber event or program!

Branding your name with the Chamber can:

- · Increase your brand awareness and visibility
- · Highly target advertising placement across a variety of print and digital media
- · Access new business relationships and potential customers
- · Enhance credibility with new connections
- Align your business with the Chamber's core purpose: To make Overland Park prosper

For more information, click here or contact Alex at acook@opchamber.org or (913) 491-3600.

Chamber hosting 1 Million Cups series

The Overland Park Chamber is now a satellite location for viewing 1 Million Cups presentations.

The fourth Wednesday each month, entrepreneurs from throughout Johnson County are encouraged to come to the Chamber office for networking and online viewing of the 1 Million Cups presentations occuring in-person at Plexpod in Westport.

Join us for the next event, 8:45-10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 25. Register here.

For more information: Tim at tholverson@opchamber.org.

2024 directory offers ad opportunities

The Chamber's 2024 Membership Directory & Community Profile offers an opportunity to promote your business all year long.

A magazine-style publication showcasing Overland Park, the directory also serves as a buyer's guide for products and services offered by our members.

View this year's directory here.

For information about this advertising opportunity, contact Kathy Moore at (913) 951-8440 or kmoore@tspubsdigital.com.





Johnson County, City of Overland Park and Chamber representatives helped Johnson County Park and Recreation District celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new Makerspace at the Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf Avenue.

Dedicated to Maker and STEAM programming, the new space offers programming for all ages in electronics, hand tools, laser cutting, sewing and 3D printing. For more info: (913) 826-2787.



The Chamber helped Stephen Martinez, Manager; and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for Sleep Outfitters Outlet, 7015 West 75th Street.

You'll save 40% to 60% on a large assortment of premium quality products from two of America's best mattress brands. Chamber members receive 15% off and a free pillow with your purchase.

For more info: (816) 885-3512.



County Manager Penny Postoak Ferguson presented a Johnson County update at a recent EDC Investors luncheon.

Kansas Gas Service: A year of impact

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Kansas Gas Service has a vision of a better tomorrow - a future where it continues to deliver safe, affordable and reliable energy while reducing the environmental impact on our planet.

The utility's 2023 Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Report outlines progress toward this vision by highlighting its commitment to safe operations, responsible environmental stewardship and support of employees and the communities it serves.

The report focuses on efforts in the following areas:

Environmental Stewardship

- Sustainability is at the core of its vision, and it embraces the opportunity to be part of a transition to a carbon-neutral energy future.

Social Responsibility - Kansas Gas is committed to making a difference for its employees, customers and communities.

Corporate Governance & Oversight - Strong, forward-thinking leadership is

necessary to create a better tomorrow for the utility's people and our planet.

Highlights in this year's report: · Working alongside the

- Kansas Corporation Commission to add advanced mobile methane leak detection units. See page 32.
- · Kansas members of the **Employee Resource Group** BLOG (Black Leadership at ONE Gas) planted trees in Northeast Wichita to demonstrate their devotion to community service and environmental stability. See page 41.
- Pratt-based industrial customer Pratt Energy is featured. Natural gas powers their steam boilers 24 hours a day. See page 8.
- · Expanded use of Risk Assessment and Damage Reduction (RADAR) technology into Kansas. This application helps analyze data and prioritize the probability of damage occurring to our pipelines due to excavation activities and supports our efforts to reduce emissions and improve safety performance. See page 31.

Kansas Gas Service is a division of ONE Gas, Inc., a 100-percent regulated natural gas utility. It takes pride in delivering the affordable, reliable natural gas 648,000 customers depend on each day.

For more information, visit www.kansasgasservice.com.

Kansas **GasService** A Division of ONE Gas

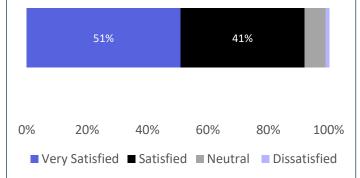
Delivering natural gas for a better tomorrow.

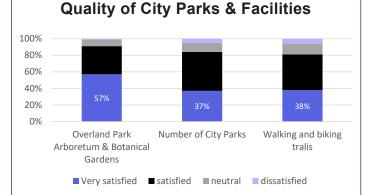
kansasgasservice.com

Investments in infrastructure help drive economic success

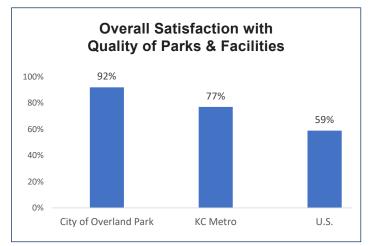
Continued investments in City facilities such as the Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens underscores the importance residents place on guality of place amenities and their economic value to our community.

Satisfaction with City Services Quality of City Parks & Facilities





Satisfaction with City Services



Source: City of Overland Park Community Survey Findings Report, 2021

Corporate Partners

Advent Health



BLACK & VEATCH

Central Bank of the Midwest on of The Central Trust Bani

> MENORAH MEDICAL CENTER OVERLAND PARK REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Saint Luke's

T Mobile

Corporate Sponsors

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Empower

Evergy

FNBO

Foulston Siefkin LLP

JE Dunn Construction Company

Johnson County **Community College**

Kansas Gas Service

McCownGordon Construction

The University of Kansas **Edwards Campus**

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



Community leaders joined Mayor Curt Skoog to celebrate the opening of LongHouse Visitor Center at the Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. LongHouse's striking interior spaces and beautiful outdoor surroundings make it perfect for corporate meetings, community events, special occasions and workshops. On page 7 we highlight satisfaction levels of Overland Park residents with parks and recreation amenities. Photo by Andrew Rossi

Member News & Events

The Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City's Fall Parade of Homes continues through October 8, featuring 337 homes in eight counties built by 100 of the area's finest builders.

Growing Futures Early Education Center is hosting its Fall Festival fundraiser with music, food, drinks and games, 4:00-8:00 p.m. on October 5 at Strang Hall, 7313 West 80th Street.

Aspiria is hosting the KC Foodie Fest featuring 50 of the metro's finest food and beverage purveyors, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on October 7 at 6450 Sprint Parkway.

Securely dispose of documents such as tax forms, checks and medical records during Central Bank of the Midwest's Shred Day held in conjunction with the Overland Park Police Department, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on October 7 at 11900 College Boulevard.

Johnson County Community College is hosting Careers & Conversations virtually on October 10 and in-person on October 25.

Cleveland University-Kansas City is hosting Annual Conference and Expo (ACE), offering speakers and topics in the fields of chiropractic and health sciences. October 19-22 at the **Overland Park Convention Center.**

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission Birth Center has opened an Obstetrical Emergency Department to serve the nearly 5,000 expecting mothers who deliver at the hospital each year.

Bryan Johnson, A.A.E., is now executive director of the Johnson County Airport Commission.

ProPartners Healthcare welcomed a new physician, Dr. Lincoln Andreasen, a two-time research presenter at the Uniformed Service Academy of Family Medicine annual conferences and board certified in Family Medicine.

Aspiria welcomed new event specialist Reagan Burdick to support its expanding campus.

Blue Valley School District Board of Education recently appointed Christi Pribula to the Blue Valley Recreation Commission Board.

Barb Silin, Overland Park Convention Center, has achieved the distinguished designation of Certified Venue Professional (CVP) from the International Association of Venue Managers.

The ETC Institute presented WaterOne with the "Leading The Way" award recognizing outstanding achievement in delivery of services to residents by local governments.

Kansas State University Olathe's 2024 leadership program, a six-session event that begins in January 2024 and wraps up in June, provides the tools and skills needed to enhance management abilities.

To submit member news, log into your Member Info Hub at www.opchamber.org or contact Hannah at hmelton@opchamber.org.