



Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen joined federal, state and local officials to celebrate the beginning of work on 69 Express, the state's first express toll lane project. For details: [www.69express.org](http://www.69express.org).



Community leaders, including three Johnson County legislators, took time to show their Chiefs Kingdom spirit at a Chamber meeting on the Red Friday before the [Kansas City Chiefs](#) won the Super Bowl.

## 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, Lambie Custom Homes Inc.

Dr. Stuart Day, The University of Kansas  
Edwards Campus

Dr. Nadine Franz, APEX Career Services

David Freisner, Fortune Financial Advisors

Tracy Garry, Empower Retirement

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

Alex Cook, Director of Events & Member  
Services

David Dyer, Membership Director

Corey Cohn, Economic Development Project  
Coordinator

Frank Ebling, CFO

Katelyn Gravley, Member Services Coordinator

Tim Holverson, IOM, Director, Workforce &  
Business Growth

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

Kevin Walker, IOM, Senior Vice President of  
Public Policy

**Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE**  
Chamber President  
[@traceylosborne](https://twitter.com/traceylosborne)



## This region is on fire!

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

#### What a year – and we're only two months in!

First, the Chiefs! I could fill this newsletter with superlatives about the leadership and talents of Coach Reid, Patrick Mahomes, the coaches and entire team. They've put us on the map, not just as Champions but also as example-setters who know how to win – and lose – with grace, respect for their opponents, and personal responsibility.

Second, KCI! Seriously, is it possible to be in love with an airport? I was fortunate to tour the airport with Overland Park Mayor Curt Skoog for a sneak peek last month. Even with a few weeks of construction before opening, it was apparent that the new KCI bears no resemblance to its predecessor. Everything about the design and functionality of the terminal and new parking garage is intentional and innovative.

Easy access, wide open spaces and natural light are your first impressions. So much

space! Of course, you're there to fly, so that has been made as accessible as possible. Yes, you can still drive practically up to the door to drop off/pick up. There are lots of kiosks for check-in, lots of room for TSA security, and so many places to sit in the gate areas – with charging stations everywhere. And amenities? You can choose from a business center, quiet room, simulation room (for those who've never flown or are anxious), pet relief area, and children's play area. And there are sooooo many restrooms (with doors that swing out so you don't wrestle with your luggage), changing rooms, family restrooms, and water bottle filling stations. The variety of local restaurants onsite will have you contemplating early arrival.

Then there's the art – carefully curated to celebrate local and national artists from the moment you drive up until you step onto the jetway. There's so much to experience – think the opposite of old KCI.

The Overland Park Chamber was an early endorser of the "single terminal." While it

*(continued on page 4)*



## Upcoming events

### Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, March 8 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

[BRKTHROUGH](#), 6403 West 135th Street

At this monthly networking event, make connections, develop lasting business relationships and create new opportunities while exploring the high-tech, interactive game rooms that offer a combination of physical, mental, and skill-based challenges.

Free for Chamber members.

To register, [click here](#).



SERIES SPONSOR



### State of the County Address & Luncheon

Tuesday, April 4 – 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Boulevard

Join hundreds of other business professionals at a lunch to hear Johnson County Chairman Mike Kelly deliver his first State of the County Address.

\$50 per person

\$550 for a Corporate Table of 10

To register, [click here](#).



### State of the City Address

Tuesday, April 25 – 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Aspiria, 6300 Sprint Parkway

Mayor Curt Skoog presents the annual State of the City Address in an afternoon program followed by a reception. The Mayor will highlight Overland Park successes and focus on the City of Overland Park's priorities for the future.

Save the date!



## Tanya Rife joins Chamber team

Tanya Rife is joining the Chamber staff as Executive Assistant. In her role, Tanya will provide project and administrative support for the president, senior staff, board and Chamber members.

Tanya said joining the Chamber staff aligns with lifelong passions.

"Growing up, I always admired professional, prestigious women working in roles to help support and grow their community," Tanya said.

"Fast forward to adulthood and getting the opportunity to be part of an organization that does that . . . that's something both my adult self and the child in me is over the moon about. I'm so happy to have joined such a wonderful organization and to work with even more wonderful people."

Before coming to the Chamber, Tanya held positions in the financial industry.



Tanya Rife

## Sponsorships available!



### 2023 Golf Tournament August 14, 2023

We have many opportunities to promote your company to the nearly 150 business professionals who participate in the Chamber's popular annual Golf Tournament.

For more information about sponsorships, contact Alex at [acook@opchamber.org](mailto:acook@opchamber.org) or (913) 766-7603.

## Ribbon cutting celebrations

Celebrate our members this month!

March 9 – [Red Door Home Store](#), 3805 West 95th Street – 11 a.m.

March 16 – [St. Croix Hospice](#), 7200-A College Blvd – 4 p.m.

March 16 – [KU Health System Care Clinic](#), 6501 135th Street – 3:30 p.m.

March 28 – [Nifty Promotions](#), 8002 Reeder Street – 4 p.m.

March 29 – [First Option Bank](#), 7300 West 159th Street – 11 a.m.



# Welcome to the Chamber!

## President's message continued . . .

got the job done in flying you from point A to point B, it held us back from an economic development standpoint. We'd heard from businesses that their leadership didn't want to invest in their Kansas City location because of the access. The new KCI is a game-changer for opportunities to attract more flights – and business in the future.

Finally, this month we'll celebrate the victory of the Chamber's Opportunity NOW campaign. This first-of-its-kind in the region strategic initiative will attack the issues you've told us concern you most: getting the talent you need, attracting quality jobs and investment, and maintaining a pro-business climate in our region. We're excited to get to work.

Here's to the rest of 2023!

## Job Postings

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

#### Is your company hiring?

As a Chamber member, you can post your job openings for free on the Chamber's website. To view current job postings, [click here](#).

To submit job postings, log into your Info Hub here and complete the online submission.

If you need your login credentials, contact Katelyn at [kgravley@opchamber.org](mailto:kgravley@opchamber.org).

### INTRODUCING OUR FEBRUARY NEW MEMBERS

#### Adams Brown

Shaun Kellar, Wealth Consultant  
10990 Quivira Road, Suite 160  
Overland Park KS 66210  
(913) 491-5080

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

*Accountants, Financial Planning Consultants & Services*

#### BCCM Construction Group

Sean Walsh, Vice President  
100 East 7th Street, Suite 201  
Kansas City MO 64106  
(816) 659-9115

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

*Construction Management, Contractors-General*

#### Big O Tires

Casey Graham, Territory Manager  
7953 West 151st Street  
Overland Park KS 66223  
(913) 624-9051

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

*Auto Repair & Service, Tire Dealers*

#### BRR Architecture

Megan Whitman, Senior Vice President  
8131 Metcalf Avenue, Suite 300  
Overland Park KS 66204-3846  
(913) 262-9095

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

*Architects, Interior Design*

#### Holiday Inn Express & Suites Overland Park

Jaanki Patel, General Manager  
7580 West 135th Street  
Overland Park KS 66223-1202  
(913) 681-8400

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

*Hotels*

*Referred by Peter Naik, Quality Inn*

#### Jill Campbell Consulting LLC

Jill Campbell, Director  
(913) 481-7364

[jcampbell@cfosystemsllc.com](mailto:jcampbell@cfosystemsllc.com)

[www.cfosystemsllc.com/teams/kansas-missouri/jill-campbell](http://www.cfosystemsllc.com/teams/kansas-missouri/jill-campbell)

*Accountants, Accounting & Bookkeeping Systems*

#### Red Door Home Store

Rep. Jesse Borjon, Owner  
3805 West 95th Street  
Overland Park KS 66206  
(913) 608-3399  
[info@reddoorhomestore.com](mailto:info@reddoorhomestore.com)  
[www.reddoorhomestore.com](http://www.reddoorhomestore.com)  
*Home Decor, Retail*

#### Shear Couture

Shannon Reynolds, Owner  
7226 West 79th Street  
Overland Park KS 66204  
(913) 579-4498  
[shearcoutureop@gmail.com](mailto:shearcoutureop@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/shearcoutureop](http://www.facebook.com/shearcoutureop)  
*Beauty Services, Retail*

#### Slush Your Mouth!

Rachel Caldwell, Owner  
(913) 214-6775  
[rachel@slushyourmouth.com](mailto:rachel@slushyourmouth.com)  
[www.slushyourmouth.com](http://www.slushyourmouth.com)  
*Event Services, Beverages*

#### The Aesthetic Place

Kristen Kneidel, Founder & Aesthetic Nurse Injector  
5416 West 151st Street  
Leawood KS 66224  
(913) 379-1111  
[Theaestheticplacekc@gmail.com](mailto:Theaestheticplacekc@gmail.com)  
[www.theaestheticplacekc.com](http://www.theaestheticplacekc.com)  
*Spa-Medical*

#### Unite Private Networks

Adam Lenowicz, Account Director  
120 West 12th Street, Floor 11  
Kansas City MO 64105  
(816) 903-9400  
[upnscreening@upnfiber.com](mailto:upnscreening@upnfiber.com)  
[www.uniteprivatenetworks.com](http://www.uniteprivatenetworks.com)  
*Internet Providers; Telephone Companies*

Please support our  
community by supporting  
these local businesses in  
Overland Park.

Refer a potential Chamber member to Dave at [ddyer@opchamber.org](mailto:ddyer@opchamber.org)  
and receive a credit when they join the Chamber!



# Thanks for reinvesting!

## FEBRUARY MEMBER RENEWALS

### 50+ Years

Capitol Federal Savings Bank  
Kansas Gas Service

### 40-49 Years

Black & Veatch  
Bodker Realty, Inc.  
FNBO - College Boulevard

### 20-39 Years

Agenda: USA  
Axcet HR Solutions  
Blue Valley Recreation Commission  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Everfast Fiber Networks, LLC  
Gary C. Richter, C.P.A., P.A.  
HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Hilton Garden Inn Overland Park  
Hyatt Place Kansas City/Overland Park/  
Convention Center  
Johnson County Funeral Chapel &  
Memorial Gardens  
MarksNelson  
Mutual of Omaha  
PNC Bank  
United Community Services of Johnson  
County

### 10-19 Years

Equity Bank  
PGAV Architects, Inc.  
Premier Volvo Cars Overland Park  
Savage & Browning LLC  
SCS Engineers  
Stallard Technologies, Inc.

### 5-9 Years

Academy Bank  
Arcadia at Overland Park  
Ball Event Center  
Brookridge Day School  
Edison District  
Fogel-Anderson Construction Co.  
Oades Brothers Tire & Auto  
Phoenix Home Care and Hospice  
Riordan Clinic  
YaYa's Euro Bistro

### 1-4 Years

Club 27 Restaurant  
Cypress Realty  
Fastsigns Blue Valley  
First State Bank  
Geiger Prell  
Kansas Turnpike Authority  
Kendall Bank  
Life 88.5  
Markley Strategies  
Rhycom Advertising  
Senior Helpers Overland Park  
SnapIT Solutions, LLC  
Veracity Consulting, Inc.



City Council Member Tom Carignan and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen helped Pat Gideon, President & CEO; John Geiger, Kansas City Market President; and other bank reps celebrate a ribbon cutting for the opening of [Silver Lake Bank's](#) new loan production office at 7206 College Boulevard. For more info: (913) 914-4002 or [click here](#).



City Council Member Melissa Cheatham joined the Chamber to help Kirk Jefferies, owner; Ryan Lindsey, Managing Partner; Sidra Connell, Marketing Director; and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the opening of [Jason's Deli](#) at 9617 West 87th Street. For more info: (913) 210-0511 or [click here](#).



City Council President Jim Kite joined the Chamber in helping owners Stan and Heather Ehrhardt; Corey Coburn, Director of Operations; and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Lean Kitchen](#), 12070 Blue Valley Parkway. Lean Kitchen is a healthy meal prep company that offers individual meals for in-store sales, pick-up or delivery. For more info: (913) 261-9302 or [click here](#).



# Leadership

## Overland Park Class of 2023

Presented by  
 United  
Healthcare

Last month, Leadership Overland Park (LOP) class members toured educational institutions and interacted with administrators and students during its Education Day session.

With panel discussions and facility tours, class members learned about real world learning, workforce needs and challenges, student transitions to the workforce, special education and early childhood education. Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen moderated a panel discussion featuring superintendents Dr. Michelle Hubbard, [Shawnee Mission School District](#); Dr. Tonya Merrigan, [Blue Valley School District](#); and Dr. Brent Yeager, [Olathe Public Schools](#).



At last month's Chamber board meeting, [Shawnee Mission School District](#) students presented on their Real World Learning experiences working with local businesses.

## Recent Events

### MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS



Chamber Diplomats last month volunteered with [HopeKids Kansas City](#) to help that organization in its mission to restore hope and transform the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions.



# Recent Events

## MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS

New Chamber members attended an orientation session last month to get acquainted with each other, meet Chamber staff and hear about the various ways the Chamber works to help companies be successful.



# KU Edwards focuses on evolving workforce needs

## CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

### Meeting the needs of students and serving the community are top priorities for the University of Kansas Edwards Campus (KUEC).

KUEC offers high-quality, in-demand academic programs, research activities, and engaged learning initiatives targeted to transfer students and adult learners. The Edwards Campus provides flexibility through online, in person and hybrid classes, to meet the needs of full-time or part-time students and working professionals focused on advanced degrees.

With close ties to business leaders, KUEC focuses on the community's evolving workforce needs to provide companies with skilled employees and ensure our students are workplace ready to start their careers immediately upon graduation. KUEC continues to develop new degree programs, such as the recently launched Applied Data Analytics program and the Cybersecurity degree, to meet the educa-

tional requirements of students and talent needs of businesses.

Take advantage of all the Edwards Campus can offer your business and your employees.

- Enroll in one of more than 60 graduate, undergraduate and certificates programs.
- Host an event, seminar, or conference at KUEC state of the art facilities, or

online—KU's expert planning team will make it almost effortless.

- Attend free, educational webinars and seminars on important trending topics.
- Improve your organization's workforce with online and onsite training programs.
- Connect with current students and graduates to build your talent pipeline.

For more information, visit [www.edwards-campus.ku.edu](http://www.edwards-campus.ku.edu).



# EDC honors companies and business leaders

At the annual EDC Honors Luncheon at [Johnson County Community College](#), the Chamber Economic Development Council recognized several companies and business leaders for their contributions to the Overland Park economy. The EDC presented these awards:

- **NOVA Award** recognizing fast-growing companies
- **Commercial Development Award** recognizing significant investment and reinvestment in the Overland Park economy
- **Business Hall of Honor** recognizing long-standing significant investments
- **Ben Craig Vision Award** recognizing those who have exemplified the work and dedication to our community of banker and longtime leader Ben Craig.



Adam Fichman, CEO, accepted a **NOVA Award** on behalf of [Lifted Logic](#), his company that creates cutting-edge online experiences that elevate brands, maximize ROI, and generate conversions. For 15 years, Lifted Logic has been a sector leader as one of the best web design agencies in Kansas City, offering best-practice SEO, top website development, and ongoing marketing services.



John Boucard, founder of [Tesseract Ventures](#), accepted a **NOVA Award** for his company, which focuses on robotics, smart spaces, software and radically connected platforms, helping industries become smarter, better connected and more efficient. As one of Kansas City's most innovative startups, Tesseract Ventures has partnered with school districts, the U.S. Air Force, and more to implement wearable technologies for improved safety, security, and innovation.



A **Business Hall of Honor Award** was presented to [Cleveland University Kansas City](#) and accepted by Dr. Carl Cleveland III, President. With more than 100 years of operation, Cleveland has become one of the premier chiropractic and health sciences universities in the country. Since moving to its Overland Park campus in 2008, the university has expanded degree offerings and increased alumni base.



[The Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City](#) received a **Business Hall of Honor Award**, which was accepted by Matt Adam, Adam Development and Brian Rodrock, Rodrock Homes. KCHBA protects and promotes interests and concerns of its members. KCHBA's recognition is symbolic of how home builders in the region have come together to provide diversified housing options.





Longtime community leader Greg Musil received the **Ben Craig Vision Award**. Musil has been an integral member of our community including serving on the Overland Park City Council and the Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees. He was Chamber Chairman and has chaired numerous committees and task forces. He is an attorney with [Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C.](#)



[Johnson County Rehabilitation Hospital](#) received a **Commercial Development Award**, which was accepted by Krista Jackson, CEO. The hospital was a collaborative development effort by WB Development Partners and Nobis Rehabilitation Partners to bring a new hospital specializing in comprehensive rehabilitation treatment to the area.



A **Commercial Development Award** was presented for Promontory Phase II, which continued [Arbor Development, LLC's](#) mixed-use mega project and is highlighted by the construction of SERV, an entertainment district at 91st Street and Metcalf Avenue. Accepting the award were Jennifer Ryan, Arbor Development; and Jill Overin, Promontory Apartments.



Avenue 82 was recognized with a **Commercial Development Award**, which was accepted by Mike McKeen, [EPC Real Estate Group](#). The project was a collaborative effort between [BRR Architecture](#) and EPC to bring 70,000 square feet of office building to Downtown Overland Park.



Johnson County Librarian Trish Suellentrop accepted a **Commercial Development Award** on behalf of [Johnson County Central Resource Library](#), which was renovated to address the changing needs of users and to accommodate a more robust technology infrastructure.



[MBB](#) received a **Commercial Development Award** for its relocation to Downtown Overland Park where it renovated a former dance and gymnastics studio, transforming 6,000 square feet of space that will enable the agency to rapidly grow in a collaborative environment. Christian Weld-Brown, Managing Partner, accepted the award.



## Corporate Partners



## Corporate Sponsors

[Affinis Corp](#)

[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](#)

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

## Recent Events

### MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS

Last month, members enjoyed networking with food, drinks and fun at **OP After Hours** hosted by [Chicken N Pickle](#).



### OP After Hours Series Sponsor



## Member news

The Johnson County Board of County Commissioners recently approved the allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds that include earmarks for [community investment programs to increase workforce development capacity](#) in Johnson County.

[Nautical Bowls](#) signed a lease for 1,600 square feet of retail space in Quivira Crossing.

[GBA](#) announced a strategic leadership transition with the promotion of Clint Loumaster to Civil department lead after Brad Burton, department lead for 38 years, transitions to part-time.

Megan Foreman was hired for the newly created position of [Johnson County Housing Coordinator](#).

Danika Sullivan has joined [TPP Certified Public Accountants, LLC](#), as a staff accountant in the CPA Services Division.

Jaclyn Wolf has joined [Kansas State University Olathe](#) as professional development specialist.

Alton Hagen, [Agenda: USA](#), has been selected as 2023 president of Skål USA.

Honor the people in your life and support the future of [Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead](#) with a commemorative/tribute gift installed at the Farmstead in honor or memory of a special someone. Opening day is April 1.

**To submit member news**, use your member login at the [Info Hub](#).

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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