



photo courtesy of Chicken N Pickle

The ice rink at [Chicken N Pickle](#) in Prairiefire offers a new outdoor wintertime activity in Overland Park.

City launching \$3 million grant to help small businesses

COMMUNITY NEWS

Last year, the Overland Park Chamber advocated for the creation of a small business grant to assist qualified small businesses and businesses in the tourism, travel, and hospitality industries financially impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are pleased the City of Overland Park is launching the Overland Park Small Business Rescue Program. The City intends to distribute \$3 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to assist qualified small businesses financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Capital Fund (CCF) partnering with the City to administer the fund. CCF has been engaging

business owners and community stakeholders to ensure the grant funds meet the areas of most need. Business owners, employees and community members are encouraged to provide input to determine both the use of funds and performance indicators of this new program.

“We know the COVID-19 pandemic created unexpected economic difficulties for businesses in our community, particularly small businesses and businesses in the travel, tourism and hospitality industry. Many businesses continue to struggle or to hire or retain employees,” said Erin Ollig, Overland Park Strategic Planning Manager. “This infusion of funds provides an opportunity for the city to directly support eligible businesses that need more help.”

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

Chamber Board

Board Officers:

Tony Rupp, 2022 Chairman
Foulston Siefkin LLP

Joan Wells, Chair-Elect
Wellington, an Ageo Company

Cindy Rock, 1st Vice Chairman
C2FO

Josh Beck, 2nd Vice Chairman
MarksNelson LLC

Matt Sogard, Secretary
Overland Park Regional Medical Center

Chris Wally, Treasurer
Wally & Co.

Bill Ferguson, Past Chairman
Central Bank of the Midwest

Board Members:

Aaron Attebery, Black & Veatch

Josh Bitterman, Goldfish Swim School

Ken Bowman, Shamrock Trading Corporation

Patrice Brown, Yellow

Sterling Cramer, Olsson

Dr. Nadine Franz, APEX Career Services

David Freisner, Fortune Financial Advisors

John Fuller, DLR Group

Tracy Garry, Empower Retirement

Matt Gunter, SelectQuote

Dr. Michelle Hubbard, Shawnee Mission
School District

Angela Hurt, Veracity Consulting, Inc.

Neelima Parasker, SnapIT Solutions, LLC

Melody Rayl, Fisher Phillips LLP

Allan Samson, T-Mobile

Rick Schier, CommunityAmerica Credit Union

Dr. Alan Verrill, AdventHealth South Overland
Park

Kim Winslow, Evergy

Jason Wright, JE Dunn Construction Company

Ex-Officio Board:

Dr. Stuart Day, The University of Kansas
Edwards Campus

Bill Ebel, City of Overland Park

Jim Holland, Fisher Phillips LLP

Dana Markel, Visit Overland Park

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, Chamber

Matt Sheets, FNBO [2022 Chairman of Cham-
ber Economic Development Council]

Mayor Curt Skoog, City of Overland Park

Chamber staff

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, President & CEO

Kathy Buso Healy, Executive Assistant

Corey Cohn, Economic Development Project
Coordinator

Alex Cook, Member Services Coordinator

Frank Ebling, CFO

Tim Holverson, IOM, Director, Workforce &
Business Growth

Beth Johnson, CECD, Senior Vice President of
Economic Development

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

Riley O'Dell, Director of Events & Member
Services

Kevin Walker, IOM, Senior Vice President of
Public Policy

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



Month Two, 2022

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! How are you doing so far?

Does it feel like 2021, but at a faster pace, and more expensive?

A few weeks ago, we held a small group bonus session with Mary Kelly, whom many of you met at our Annual Meeting. We talked about leadership success and what businesses can expect in 2022. There were few surprises, as it's a little like "Groundhog Day." What's clear is that the end isn't in sight, not for the competition for talent, including rising costs for retention and attraction as well as operational costs and supply chain issues.

Remote work is here to stay, even as surveys indicate employers are concerned with productivity and collaboration and employees desire more engagement, better collaboration, and work / life balance. These will drive the need for innovative solutions in management, office space and hybrid options.

The war on talent has ripple effects for everyone, creating stress in our organizations. Our people feel it and if we're not careful, our customers and clients will, too.

When someone can't make a purchase because the line is too long or hours have been reduced or wait times to resolve a question on the phone are too lengthy, customer loyalty is at risk. Think about the interactions you have with businesses each week and how you feel. Energized? Appreciated? Or that you were just another in a long line of customers that day? For many people, loyalty is based on their most recent interaction, so that gives us perspective on how we might stack up on a given day and whether we need to redeploy resources or provide additional training.

While wages have been increasing, the net effect of rising costs and inflation will mean that disposable income decreases this year, so financial stresses for workers will remain an issue.

Successful employers will create opportunities for advancement and training, and will also develop partnerships with education, utilizing tools like internships to develop our talent pool.

Recently we cut the ribbon for the Real World Learning Virtual Store Front at [Oak Park Mall](#). This is a truly innovative partnership that features young entrepreneurs from [Shawnee Mission West](#). Inspired

(continued on the next page)



President's message continued ...

by their business instructor Tiffany Dixon, these students created business plans and opened businesses. They had a dream to bring them to market, and in stepped Karla Engel, Sr. General Manager of Oak Park Mall, offering a storefront. On display now on the lower level outside the JCPenney entrance, you can find a sampling of the students' products. With a scan of the QR code or this website: www.smwikingdesigns.com, you enter the virtual store and access all the businesses.

I love ribbon cuttings. Meeting a new business owner, learning what they do and why. This one was uniquely inspiring. A teacher so passionate about showing her students everything they can be. Students jumping at the chance to work hard and dream beyond the classroom with projects that will hone talents that set them apart.

2022 has got its challenges for sure, but after seeing these young entrepreneurs, I know we've got a bright future ahead.

Upcoming ribbon cuttings

February 9 – [Taco Naco KC](#), 8220 Metcalf Avenue – 11:00 a.m.

February 22 – [Johnson County Library](#), 9875 West 87th Street – 2:00 p.m.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

Mayor's State of the City – Presented by [Saint Luke's Health System](#)
April 12, 2022

Leadership Overland Park Graduation
June 16, 2022

Golf Tournament – Presented by [AdventHealth](#)
August 15, 2022

Annual Meeting
December 7, 2022

Numerous sponsorships are available to market your company at these events and many others. For details, contact Riley at rodell@opchamber.org or (913) 766-7628.



Wednesday Wake-up

SPONSORED BY



Wednesday, February 9 – 8:00–9:00 a.m.

[Security Bank of Kansas City](#), 7500 West 95th Street

Security Bank of Kansas City celebrated its 50th anniversary at 95th & Metcalf with an extensive remodel. You may have seen the exterior updates, which carefully preserved the Mid-Century Modern architecture. Now the Security Bank team is eager to welcome you inside to share some hospitality and see the new look at our monthly networking coffee.

To register, [click here](#).

Thanks to our Series Sponsor: [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)



Member Orientation

SPONSORED BY



Tuesday, February 15 – 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Overland Park Chamber, 9110 West 110th Street

If you are new to the Chamber or new at your company, this event is for you. Meet the Chamber staff who are working for you, connect with fellow members and learn about resources for you and your business. Be prepared to introduce yourself and the business or organization you represent. We look forward to seeing you and welcoming you to the Overland Park Chamber.

To register, [click here](#).

Thanks to our Series Sponsor: [Lettiann & Associates Real Estate Services](#)



OP After Hours

SPONSORED BY



Wednesday, February 23 – 4:30–6:00 p.m.

[Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art](#) at [Johnson County Community College](#), 12345 College Boulevard

Join us for a fun evening of networking, delicious appetizers and drinks at one of the region's most significant cultural destinations. Since opening in 2007, the Nerman has received national and international acclaim for its architecture, exhibitions, educational programming and collection. See it for yourself while networking with your business colleagues.

To register, [click here](#).

Thanks to our Series Sponsor: [STAFFVIRTUAL](#)

2022 Leadership class begins this month

The 36 business professionals in the 2022 Leadership Overland Park (LOP) class are beginning this month with an opening retreat on February 2.

To see the roster of this year's LOP class members, [click here](#).

Later in the month, the class will learn how economic development works in Over-

Leadership Overland Park Class of 2022

land Park and the many ways it contributes to a positive local economy.

To learn more about the Chamber Foundation's LOP program, [click here](#).



Our Public Policy & Advocacy Committee held a virtual meeting last month in which Kansas Senator Cindy Holscher and Kansas Representative Chris Croft provided updates on the 2022 Kansas Legislative Session.

Thanks for your reinvestment!

JANUARY MEMBER RENEWALS INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

50+ Years

Capitol Federal Savings Bank
Kansas Gas Service

40-49 Years

Black & Veatch
Bodker Realty, Inc.
FNBO
Wells Fargo Advisors

20-39 Years

AC Printing Company, Inc.
A.L. Huber General Contractor
Gary C. Richter, C.P.A., P.A.
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Hilton Garden Inn Overland Park
MarksNelson LLC
Rosati's Pizza
Saint Luke's Health System
Sheraton Overland Park Hotel

10-19 Years

Allied National, Inc.
Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.
Canon Solutions America
Empower Retirement
Equity Bank
SCS Engineers
Kansas City Chiefs Football Club & Arrowhead Events

Merrill Companies
Synergy Wealth Solutions
University of Saint Mary

5-9 Years

Candlewood Suites - Overland Park
Fogel-Anderson Construction Co.
InQuest Marketing
Metcalf 108
Museum at Prairiefire
Oades Brothers Tire & Auto
Pivot International, Inc.
Residences at Prairiefire Apartments
Tower Properties Company

1-4 Years

Ad Astra Financial Group
Maciel Wealth Management
Monarch Build LLC
Rhycom Advertising
Riordan Clinic
Pilgrim Coffee Company
Regency Park
Trusted Lending Center
The Great Frame Up in Overland Park

We encourage you to support these businesses that are investing in our community!

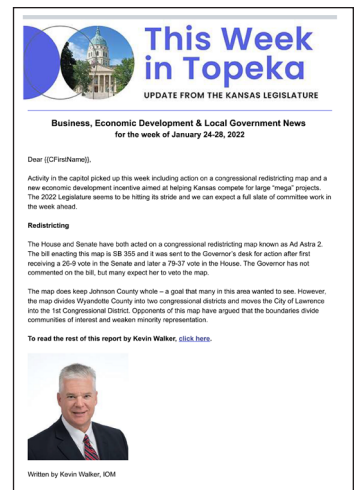
Weekly report provides legislative updates

To keep you informed about legislative action at the Statehouse that can potentially effect your business, the Chamber distributes a weekly electronic update.

Kevin Walker, the Chamber's Senior Vice President of Public Policy, writes "This Week in Topeka," which is e-mailed to those who've requested it.

To view reports, [click here](#).

If you'd like to be added to the distribution list, contact Kathy at khealy@opchamber.org.



Chamber building offers affordable meeting space

Do you have occasional remote working needs? The Chamber building offers a variety of options for those in need of a small work space. Our larger conference rooms also allow enough space for social distancing.

Conveniently located in Corporate Woods, our meeting space is ideal for events, training sessions, or a one-on-one interview.

For details, contact Alex at acook@opchamber.org.

New faces at the Chamber office

The Chamber is pleased to welcome two new staff members!

Riley O'Dell has joined the Chamber staff as Director of Events & Member Services. In this role, he provides leadership and management of Chamber and Foundation programs and events including Leadership Overland Park.

"I have been waiting for the right opportunity to join an organization where I can give back to the community and this role is the perfect fit," Riley said.

Previously, Riley was at Rockhurst University where he was Director of Alumni Relations. He earned a Bachelor's at Rockhurst and a Master's degree from Missouri State University.

You can reach Riley at rodell@opchamber.org.



Riley O'Dell

Kathy Buso Healy is now Executive Assistant at the Chamber. She will provide support to the Chamber President and senior team, support the Chamber's core purpose and facilitate engagement with governing bodies and major investors.

Kathy has considerable experience as an executive assistant at universities, nonprofits and for-profits, and she worked for the Chamber of Commerce in Columbia, Mo.

Kathy earned a Bachelor's at The University of Kansas, but she also has worked for MU, so she can root for both sides of the border.

You can reach Kathy at khealy@opchamber.org.



Kathy Buso Healy

Submit a guest column for this newsletter

Chamber members are invited to share industry knowledge through a guest column in this monthly newsletter. Columns should provide general information beneficial to a wide range of professionals working across industries, and be commercial-free and not promotional in nature. Ideally, columns will focus on best practices and would be a timely topic.

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

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR JANUARY NEW MEMBERS

A Right Place For Seniors Kansas City

Diane Arps
1908 Southwest Wall Street Circle
Blue Springs, MO 64015
(816) 608-5293
dd@rightplace.com
www.arightplaceforseniors.com/kcity
Senior Care & Living, Senior Citizens Services

Free State Innovations

Stephen Bastasch
10854 Strang Line Road
Lenexa, KS 66215
(913) 378-3800
steve@lenexamc.com
www.freestateinnovations.com
Engineers, Manufacturers

My Digital Advertising

Chris Myers, President
P.O. Box 195
Lewis Center, OH 43035
(614) 816-2989
cmyers@mydigitaladv.com
www.mydigitaladv.com
Internet Marketing & Advertising, Website Design

OneRequest, LLC

Georgina Greenyer, Marketing Analyst
6363 College Boulevard, Suite 400
Overland Park, KS 66211
(913) 348-2430
georgina.greenyer@onerequest.com
www.onerequest.com
Auto Dealers

Know someone who's not a Chamber member? Refer them to us at opcc@opchamber.org and receive a credit when they join!



City Councilmembers Paul Lyons and Melissa Cheatham joined Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen to help [Shawnee Mission School District](#) administrators and student entrepreneurs celebrate a ribbon cutting for the Real World Learning virtual storefront in [Oak Park Mall](#).

To see what students have for sale, [click here](#).

Member News

[Johnson County Department of Health and Environment](#) is offering free COVID-19 vaccinations and testing by appointment.

[Blue Valley Education Foundation](#) recently received its single largest gift to date. Arash Ferdowsi, a Blue Valley Northwest graduate and co-founder of Dropbox, donated \$500,000 to establish a fund to support Blue Valley School District schools, teachers and students.

The [Overland Park Convention Center](#) is the first in the world to open a fully-equipped sensory room for neurodiverse, autistic and disabled individu-

als. In partnership with nonprofit KultureCity, the sensory room is a dedicated space created by medical professionals with reduced lighting and noise for guests who may feel overstimulated and need a more secure environment.

[Johnson County Community College](#) students have expressed satisfaction with the institution's student life and learning.

[Netrality Data Centers](#) has expanded its Midwest presence with the acquisition of 7801 Nieman Road.

[St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute](#) has been named a

2021 Guardian of Excellence Award Winner.

[Foulston Siefkin LLP](#) announces that five Overland Park attorneys, along with the firm, have been listed in Benchmark Litigation's latest rankings.

[War Horses for Veterans](#) released a video that has gained national attention.

Richard Linton has been selected as the 15th president of [Kansas State University](#).

[Garver](#) has hired Terry Leeds, PE, former director of KC Water, to lead the company's Water and Wastewater Teams in its Kansas City, Mo., and Overland Park offices.

Randal O. Carlson has joined [Foulston Siefkin LLP's](#) transactional law practice

group in the firm's Overland Park office. He will continue to advise clients in estate planning, trust and probate administration, real estate transactions, tax, and business law.

[Johnson County](#) Manager Penny Postoak Ferguson is the first recipient of the Kansas Association of City-County Management Leadership Award.

Dr. Jerry Cook, formerly a [Johnson County Community College](#) Trustee, was awarded a lifetime membership by the Association of Community College Trustees in Washington D.C.

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

HCA helps make Overland Park one of nation's healthiest communities

CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Menorah Medical Center and Overland Park Regional Medical Center are part of HCA Midwest Health, Kansas City's largest health care network, consisting of hospitals, physician practices, surgery centers and urgent care centers.

Every day, employees at these premier hospitals live out the mission of the organization: "Above all else, we are committed to the care and improvement of human life."

Through community engagement, servant leadership and a commitment to the highest medical standards, [Menorah Medical Center](#) and [Overland Park Regional Medical Center](#) help make Overland Park one of the healthiest communities in the nation.

Both hospitals are part of the Sarah Cannon Research Institute. Menorah Medical Center is one of the area's



**MENORAH MEDICAL CENTER
OVERLAND PARK REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER**

premier hospitals that provides the best in care for the community. The Breast Center is a leader in the region. It offers 3D mammography and is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers and is certified by the Mammography Quality Standards Act. The hospital is a Center of Excellence in Colorectal Surgery, Robotic Surgery, Bariatric Surgery and is home to the state-of-the-art Neuroscience and Orthopedic Center that opened in August 2021. The orthopedic program is Joint Commission Certified and features the latest in robotic technology for physicians to employ when performing complex procedures.

Overland Park Regional Medical Center is home to Johnson County's only Level II Trauma Center; the hospital is also an Accredited Stroke and Chest Pain Center.

Overland Park Regional Medical Center is the premier area destination for Women's and Children's healthcare services. It offers the region's only Fetal Health Center to care for critically ill mothers and their babies under one roof. The hospital includes an antepartum unit, a labor and delivery unit, a Level III NICU and a Pediatric Center that offers pediatric specialty care, a dedicated Pediatric ER and pediatric inpatient and intensive care unit. The HCA Midwest Health Neonatal and Maternal Transport Team – based at Overland Park Regional Medical Center – are prepared 24/7 to safely deliver and care for premature or critically ill infants and care for mothers with high-risk pregnancies via ambulance or helicopter. Overland Park Regional Medical Center has four emergency rooms, including a pediatric emergency room and freestanding ERs in Olathe and Shawnee.

For more information, visit www.hcamidwest.com.

Chamber produces guide for new residents

The Chamber recently produced a 2022 “Welcome to Overland Park” guide.

The digest-sized publication is mailed monthly to new residents who have moved to Overland Park by Chamber partner MetroMedia, Inc.

The publication features community information such as schools, health care, recreation, shopping and dining, events and community links of special interest to new residents.

To view the guide online, [click here](#).

We thank these members for their advertising support:

- [Advent Health](#)
- [Aesthetic Surgical Arts / Mia Bella Donna Med Spa](#)
- [American Legion Dwight Cowles Post 370](#)
- [Arcadia at Overland Park](#)
- [Brain Balance Center of Overland Park](#)
- [Chick-fil-A Oak Park Plaza](#)
- [Children’s Mercy](#)
- [Comfort Keepers of Overland Park](#)
- [Downtown Overland Park Partnership](#)
- [Fast Signs Overland Park](#)
- [Home Well Care Services](#)
- [Johnson County Library](#)
- [Johnson County Museum](#)
- [McGilley & Hoge Johnson County Memorial Chapel](#)
- [Novel Place Senior Living](#)
- [Overland Park Historical Society](#)
- [Overland Park Racquet Club](#)
- [Panera Bread](#)
- [Print & Ship KC](#)
- [ProShred Security](#)
- [Riordan Clinic](#)
- [Terrace Home Health](#)
- [The Great Frame Up in Overland Park](#)
- [The University of Kansas Hospital](#)
- [True Peace Financial Solutions](#)
- [Vision Bank](#)



Driving Economic Success

Unemployment			
	Dec. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020
Overland Park	1.7%	2.1%	3.1%
Johnson County	1.7%	2.0%	3.3%
Kansas City Metro MSA	N/A	2.7%	4.9%
State of Kansas	2.2%	3.6%	3.56%

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



2021 EDC Annual Report now available online

The Overland Park Chamber Economic Development Council has released its Annual Report for 2021.

The report highlights key projects for the year, statistics on jobs attracted and information on public policy and business advocacy work.

To view the Annual Report, [click here](#).



Promote your business!

Gain visibility by sponsoring Chamber events and programs. For information: Riley O'Dell at (913) 766-7603 or rodell@opchamber.org.

Business Perspective is published monthly by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, 9001 West 110th Street, Suite 150, Overland Park, KS 66210.
 (913) 491-3600 | Fax: (913) 491-0393
opcc@opchamber.org | www.opchamber.org

Corporate Partners



Get involved with the Chamber!

With the new year, are you looking for ways to take advantage of your Chamber membership?

Here are some options to consider:

Leads Groups – meeting twice a month, these groups give Chamber member representatives the opportunity to meet consistently in a non-competitive and mutually supportive environment to exchange leads and business referrals. Leads Groups are a tool for members to cultivate professional relationships, establish trust,

increase knowledge and build business. Currently, there are two Leads Groups, each with a capacity of 8-25 chamber members from different industries. For more information, [click here](#).

Chamber Diplomats – serving as the goodwill arm of the Chamber, these volunteers of Chamber members welcome and engage new and existing members. They assist Chamber staff with ribbon cuttings and grand openings, promote member retention, and attend Chamber events. Diplomats

facilitate communication with, help identify member concerns, and promote connections among Chamber members. New Chamber members are paired with a Diplomat as a mentor for the first year of membership. For more information, [click here](#).

Promotions – the Chamber offers numerous ways to help you promote your business including advertising in both print and digital communications and sponsoring events and programs. For more information, [click here](#).

Corporate Sponsors

[Affinis Corp](#)

[CommunityAmerica Credit Union](#)

[Empower Retirement](#)

[Evergry](#)

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

[Foulston Siefkin LLP](#)

[JE Dunn Construction Company](#)

[Johnson County Community College](#)

[Kansas Gas Service](#)

[McCownGordon Construction](#)

[STAFFVIRTUAL](#)

[The University of Kansas Edwards Campus](#)

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



Members networking at our January Wednesday Wake-up event at [Chiefs Fit](#).

