

State of Kansas commits to U.S. 69 expansion project

Last month, Governor Laura Kelly was in Overland Park to announce that the region's number one priority, the U.S. 69 Expansion and Modernization project – totaling a \$300 million investment – has been committed to construction as part of her administration's bipartisan transportation plan.

"This project will enhance accessibility, address long-term safety concerns, and relieve congestion to recruit new businesses and families to Johnson County," Governor Laura Kelly said.

For many years, the Overland Park Chamber has joined the City of Overland Park in advocating for enhancements to improve the efficiency and safety of U.S. 69 Highway as a top priority.

The design-build project will include the use of express toll lanes (ETLs), a new-to-the-region strategy for managing congestion along busy highway corridors. While the two existing lanes will remain free for drivers to use, the project will add a new, third tolled lane in each direction between 103rd and 151st streets, replace 50-year-old pavement and reconfigure interchanges at Blue Valley Parkway and I-435.

"This project improves traffic flow for all drivers on U.S. 69," said Secretary Julie Lorenz. "The Overland Park Council voted to use this approach to manage congestion and provide their local contribution through tolls. The Kelly Administration's transportation program is built on partnerships. Communities across the state are providing a local funding contribution or phasing projects so their projects can be constructed sooner."



Governor Laura Kelly, along with U.S. Representative Sharice Davids and Kansas Department of Commerce Secretary Julie Lorenz, were in Overland Park to announce the State's commitment to the U.S. 69 Expansion and Modernization project.

"I'm glad to join Governor Kelly, Secretary Lorenz, and Overland Park City Councilmembers as they take the next step on this project to expand US 69 – a project that has been a longtime priority for our community. It's a team effort, and with the recent passage of the bipartisan INVEST in America Act through Congress, we are one step closer to bringing home additional federal funds for the US 69/167th Street interchange," said Rep. Sharice Davids.

Moving this project to the construction phase will take place after preliminary engineering and right of way acquisition is complete. The U.S. 69 project is scheduled to be let for construction in fiscal year 2022 and open to traffic in 2025.

To stay informed about the project, visit www.69Express.org and sign up for updates. You also can post comments or pose questions at the website feedback page – [click here](#).



Vote in the primary election on August 3!

Learn about the candidates at www.VoteJoCo.com.



Who will decide your future?

For the first time in 16 years, Overland Park voters will select a new mayor. This means EVERY registered voter in Overland Park should cast a ballot in the August primary.

Voters in Wards 1, 2, 4, and 5 also will vote for council members, with no incumbents running in Wards 2 and 5. This means that at least three new officials will be elected to our City Council.

In the last local election in 2019, only 8.3% of Johnson County voters turned out in the primary. That's right, fewer than 10% of voters determined who you could vote for on the November ballot, the one many people consider the important one. So important that in the November 2019 election only 17% of Johnson County voters took the time to cast a ballot. In Kansas, advance voting is so easy and convenient, there's no reason to not cast a ballot. Otherwise, you're letting other people choose the direction of your community for you.

Need to:

- See your sample ballot for who's running?
- Find the closest advance voting location and when it's open?
- Learn about the candidates from surveys and recorded forums?

Check out www.votejoco.com, a non-partisan, no-endorsements website sponsored by the Johnson County Public Policy Council (that's all your regional chambers of commerce)

You often hear that local government impacts your business and your life the most because it's true. That's why it's critical that you make this election a priority. Share www.votejoco.com with your colleagues, family and friends and encourage them to learn about their candidates and vote. I've already voted and was in and out of my polling place in less than ten minutes.

Please join me in casting an advance ballot, or visit your assigned polling location on Tuesday, August 3.

#votejoco



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

VOTEJOCO.com

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Vote JoCo

Helping you make informed decisions when you vote in Johnson County Elections.

[Register to Vote](#)

2021 Primary Election – August 3

2021 General Election – November 2

Can't wait to vote? Click [here](#) for an advance ballot application.

To see where you can advance vote or drop off your ballot, click [here](#).



Primary Election on August 3!

Be an Informed Voter!

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

August 3 Primary Candidates

City of Overland Park Mayor

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

View recording of forum – [click here](#)

City Council Member Ward 1

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

View recording of forum – [click here](#)

City Council Member Ward 2

- Melissa Cheatham
- Tony Medina
- Roger Tarbutton

View recording of forum – [click here](#)

City Council Member Ward 4

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

View recording of forum – [click here](#)

City Council Member Ward 5

- Amy Goodman-Long
- Sam Passer
- Sheila Rodriguez

View recording of forum – [click here](#)

Olathe School District 233-Member 3

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

For information on voting in Johnson County, [click here](#).



The Overland Park Chamber, as part of the Johnson Council Public Policy Council, hosted forums featuring candidates, including these running for City of Overland Park Mayor.

A recording of the mayor's forum can be viewed online – [click here](#).



Now Accepting Nominations for 2021!

Richard A. Worrel Community Legacy Award

The Overland Park Chamber seeks nominations for the 2021 Richard A. Worrel Community Legacy Award. The deadline for nominations is 5:00 p.m. on October 11 and the recipient will be recognized at the Chamber's Annual Meeting on December 3.

The award was established in 2019 to honor longtime community leader Rick Worrel and to recognize individuals who exemplify Worrel's legacy of lifetime service to the community. To read the award criteria, [click here](#).

Worrel, 2012 Chairman of the Chamber, was passionate about building – infra-

structure, our community, his profession's standards and public education. His eyes were focused on the future and how he could make someone's life or our community better.

After Worrel's widow Susan accepted the award that first year, the 2020 recipient was Sen. John Skubal whose lifelong passion has been to build and develop a community that thrives on a foundation of investment in education, infrastructure, business development and community spirit.

To nominate someone for the 2021 award, [click here](#).

Cook joins Chamber staff

Alex Cook has joined the Chamber staff as Member Services Coordinator. In her role, she provides service to members and guests, assists in event, program committee and administrative support, provides website support, assists with social media activities and manages front-of-house functions.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Overland Park Chamber," Alex said. "I can't wait to meet and work with the amazing people who help Overland Park thrive. I am excited to assist businesses reach their full potential."

Previously, Alex held positions involved in logistics, marketing and promotions, and special projects.

Alex is a graduate of the University of Missouri.



Alex Cook
Member
Services Coordinator

Chamber publications offer 2022 advertising opportunities

The Chamber has two upcoming publishing opportunities to advertise in 2022 – *Welcome to Overland Park* and our annual *Membership Directory / Community Profile*.

Our *Welcome to Overland Park* guide is mailed monthly to new residents moving into single family homes, townhouses, condos and apartments, reaching approximately 4,000 new Overland Park residents as they establish buying habits. It features information of interest to new residents. To see the current guide, [click here](#).

Our *Membership Directory* is a magazine-style publication of about 120 pages that showcases why Overland Park is consistently ranked among the best cities in the country. It also serves as a buyer's guide for products and services offered by our members. Plus, it contains a Who's Who listing of local business leaders. To see our 2021 directory, [click here](#).

Information about these advertising opportunities is available from Kathy Moore, **MetroMedia**, at (913) 951-8441 or kmoore@metro-mediapublishers.com.



Negotiating with employees who want to keep working from home

Multiple studies have confirmed that a high percentage of employees want to keep working from home after the pandemic – and are willing to find other jobs if they can't work remotely at least some of the time.

That creates a potential double hit for businesses. At the same time employees may be inclined to leave if you insist on having them work on site, some candidates for open positions won't even consider your company if you don't offer a remote-work option.

Businesses can take these four steps to retain good employees who want to keep working at home:

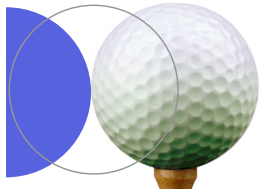
1. Figure out how effective telecommuting was for your company. Did managers interact effectively with their teams? Did team members work effectively and achieve goals together? Did remote work raise or lower productivity? Answers to those questions will help determine whether long-term remote work could be successful.
2. Before deciding, actively listen to employees' concerns. Understanding their thinking will help you decide what structure best meets their needs and the company's, whether that's all at the workplace, all remote or somewhere in between.
3. Consider which positions may lend themselves to remote work. Telecommuting won't be an option for employees who stock shelves but might work great for IT and customer service employees.
4. If you really want all employees back in the workplace, consider sweetening the pot. Consider whether you might be able to view a certain amount of commute time as work hours or offer new amenities or technologies that would make coming to the workplace appealing and more efficient than working at home.

The pandemic has given companies a new opportunity to reimagine the fundamentals of how and where work gets done. It will be in businesses' best interest to listen closely and work to find compromises that benefit the company's ability to retain and recruit top employees.

Jeanette Coleman is Director of Human Resources with Axcet HR Solutions where she supports the HR team in providing unparalleled HR expertise and service to small business clients. She holds a master's degree in human resources and SPHR and SHRM-SCP certifications.



Jeanette Coleman
Director of
Human Resources
[Axcet HR Solutions](#)



2021 Golf Tournament



Presenting Sponsor

Advent Health
South Overland Park

Monday, August 16

Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate

10:45 a.m. Registration and lunch / 12:00 p.m. shotgun start

Beverage Carts Sponsor



Lunch Sponsor



Birdie Sponsors



Soft Drinks Sponsor



95th & Antioch

Signage Sponsor



Overland Park

Hole Sponsors:

- [Academy Bank](#)
- [Baron Contracting Corporation](#)
- [Equity Bank](#)
- [Farmers Insurance - The Wertzberger Agency](#)
- [Firestone Complete Auto Care-135th Street](#)
- [FNBO](#)
- [Fortune Financial Advisors, LLC](#)
- [Impact Health and Performance](#)
- [INTRUST Bank](#)
- [Nifty Promotions](#)
- [Office Evolution](#)
- [OMNI Human Resource Management](#)
- [PGAV Architects, Inc.](#)
- [Print & Ship KC](#)
- [Renewal by Andersen](#)
- [The INN at Meadowbrook](#)
- [Wallace Saunders](#)
- [Worlds of Fun](#)

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

- Event sponsor
- Donate door prizes (minimum value of \$25 each) - due to the Chamber office by noon on August 6.

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

Upcoming events

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, August 11 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Summit52, 5200 Metcalf Avenue

Hosted by [Colliers International](#)

Make connections and see the opportunities available for new tenants at Summit52.

To register, [click here](#).

Series sponsor: [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)



Member Orientation

Tuesday, August 24 – 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street

Learn more about the Overland Park Chamber and opportunities available to you as a member.

To register, [click here](#).

Series sponsor: [Lettiann & Associates Real Estate Services](#)

Community Blood Drive

Tuesday, August 31 – 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street

Join our Overland Park Young Professionals and donate blood to save a life! Blood donors are essential. Our local blood supply must increase in order to meet local hospital need. Appointments are strongly recommended; walk-ins will be accepted based on capacity.

To make an appointment, [click here](#).

Upcoming ribbon cuttings

August 5 - 4:00 p.m.

[American Legion Dwight Cowles Post 370](#), 7500 West 75th Street

August 6 - 4:00 p.m.

[We Got Your Back Apparel](#), 7940 Santa Fe Drive

August 12 - 4:00 p.m.

[Sandler Training](#), 10955 Lowell Avenue

August 12 - 5:00 p.m.

[Modern Vascular of Overland Park](#), 5320 College Boulevard

August 18 - 4:00 p.m.

[HOTWORX](#), 7308 West 80th Street

August 19 - 4:00 p.m.

[Phoenix Home Care & Hospice](#), 6803 West 64th Street

August 22 - 11:00 a.m.

[Maggie's Place at Colonial Village](#), 12500 West 137th Street

August 23 - 4:00 p.m.

[FNBO](#), 12260 College Boulevard

August 25 - 4:30 p.m.

[Anthology of Overland Park](#), 10300 Indian Creek Parkway

August 26 - 4:00 p.m.

[Novel Place Senior Living](#), 9651 Barkley Street

August 27 - 4:00 p.m.

[Catalyst Chiropractic](#), 6540 West 95th Street, Suite 102

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR JULY NEW MEMBERS

ArchWell Health

Lori Doonan, Community Relations Specialist
9840 West 87th Street
Overland Park KS 66212
www.archwellhealth.com
Health Care, Physicians & Surgeons

AtWork Personnel

Amanda Diaz, Recruiting Mgr.
6731 West 121st Street, Suite 228
Overland Park KS 66209
(913) 221-0677
amandad@atwork.com
www.atwork.com
Employment Agencies

Bell Bank Mortgage

Nathan Thurman
11095 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park KS 66211
(913) 804-4082
nthurman@bell.bank
www.bell.bank
Banks, Mortgages

Brian Quinn Agency

Brian Quinn, Owner
13260 Foster Street
Overland Park KS 66213
(773) 531-7244
bq5050@icloud.com
Insurance

Canterbury Academy at Small Beginnings

Elizabeth Zsuzsics, Exec. Dir.
15801 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park KS 66223
(913) 851-2223
director.smallbeginnings@canterburyprepschool.com
www.cadence-education.com
Child Care

Capital One Spark Business Card

Rob Hess, Vice President | Spark Business Card
1600 Capital One Drive
McLean VA 22102
(816) 400-2544
www.capitalone.com
Banks, Financial Services

Catalyst Chiropractic

Kaylea Cantrell, Owner
6540 West 95th Street, Suite 102
Overland Park KS 66212
(913) 286-4968
catalystchirokc@gmail.com
www.catalystchirokc.com
Chiropractic Physicians-D.C.

GE Johnson Construction Company

Derek Cox, General Manager
8711 Penrose Lane, Suite 300
Lenexa KS 66219
(913) 340-8299
coxd@gejohnson.com
www.gejohnson.com
*Construction Management,
Contractors-General*

Grain Craft

Preston Powell, Director of Sales
4400 West 109th Street, Suite 200
(913) 890-6300
Overland Park KS 66211
ppowell@graincraft.com
www.graincraft.com
Commodity Trading, Food Service

Health Partnership Clinic-Olathe

Catherine Rice, Vice President
Marketing & Outreach
407 South Clairborne Road
Olathe KS 66062
(913) 648-2266
www.hpcks.org
Non-Profit Organizations

Health Partnership Clinic-Shawnee Mission

9119 West 74th Street, Suite 210
Mission KS 66204
(913) 432-3334
www.hpcks.org
Non-Profit Organizations

Homestead of Overland Park

Cortez Jordan, Exec. Director
11701 Nieman Road
Overland Park KS 66210
(913) 345-2200
www.midwest-health.com
Senior Care & Living, Assisted Living

MaidPro Johnson County

Jill Crockett, Owner
11720 West 95th Street
Overland Park KS 66214
(913) 254-3290, ext. 2
jcrockett@maidpro.com
www.maidpro.com
Cleaning Services

Modern Vascular of Overland Park

– Opening Soon!

Carl Scotten, VP of National Sales & Strategic Alliances
5320 College Boulevard
Overland Park KS 66211
(913) 529-8600
MVKC@modernvascular.com
www.modernvascular.com
Health Care, Medical Centers

Nations Lending

Chad Howell, Mortgage Lender
200 Northeast Missouri Road,
Suite 200, Office 245
Lee's Summit MO 64086
(816) 248-3484
www.nationslending.com/lees-summit-mo
Mortgages

Prime IV Hydration and Wellness – Opening Soon!

Bob Scholes, Owner
6984 West 135th Street
Overland Park KS 66223
(479) 644-7412
bscholes@primeivhydration.com
www.primeivhydration.com
*Health & Wellness, Health and
Fitness Program Consultants*

ProPartners Healthcare

Heide Williams, Sales & Marketing Coordinator
4501 College Blvd, Suite 300
Leawood KS 66211
(913) 451-4776
heide@propartnershealthcare.com
www.propartnershealthcare.com
Health Care, Physicians & Surgeons

Thanks for reinvesting!

JULY MEMBER RENEWALS INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

40-49 Years

St. Joseph Medical Center

20-39 Years

AdventHealth Care Center
Overland Park
Ascension Living St. Joseph Place
Buchanan Clarke Schlader CPAs
Downtown Overland Park
Partnership, Inc.
Drs. Hawks, Besler, Rogers & Stoppel

Garden Terrace at Overland Park
GBA
Hampton Inn Kansas City/
Overland Park
Hechler Orthodontics
Logan Logan & Watson, L.C.
Martin, Pringle, Oliver, Wallace & Bauer, LLP
Polsinelli
Safehome, Inc.
Show-Me Presentation Resources
Spencer Fane LLP
U.S. Engineering Company
VanTrust Real Estate, LLC
Wellington

10-19 Years

Corporate Woods
Parker Communications Group
Talk of the Town Grill & Bar-
Overland Park
Tekniq Data Corporation

5-9 Years

Choice Physicians Group
Heartland Soccer Association
TITLE Boxing Club 119th
MW Builders, Inc.
Price Brothers
Rasmussen University
REACH Healthcare Foundation
Rehabilitation Hospital of
Overland Park
Servpro of Leawood/Overland Park
SG360
Primrose School of Overland Park

The Andersons, Inc.
The University of Kansas Health System

1-4 Years

MTI EVENTS
Arbor Development, LLC
Avenue 81
NEAT Method Kansas City
Falafel Express
LaunchCode
Lettiann & Associates Real Estate Services, LLC
Q39
Regency Park-Mission Peak Capital
Sky Real Estate-Metcalf Crossing
Style Encore
Vision Bank
WellSky Corporation

Diversify workforce with new recruitment strategy

Not only is equity in the workplace an important part of strengthening our local workforce, it's proven that companies that value diversity perform better and create better products that appeal to more people.

But the truth is, diversifying your workplace and achieving true equity within your company starts way before you invite more people to the table....and even before you extend that offer letter.

Here's how to shake up your recruitment strategy and tap into a wider talent pool:

1. To diversify your talent, diversify where you're finding talent. Companies who solely focus on hiring from universities and colleges are missing out on a huge pool of learners who may have honed skills on their own or through an alternative skilling pathway.
2. Recruit based on skill, not credentials. True diversity of thought means building teams that come from a wide variety of life experiences. For example, requiring your next hire to have 5 years of recent work experience might make you miss out on a stay-at-home parent re-entering the workforce who could add a lot of value to your team.
3. Leverage apprenticeship programs. If you're looking for a hard-to-find skill set, taking on an apprentice who is eager to learn on the job is a great way to diversify your pipeline. And you don't need to reinvent the wheel - there are lots of companies like mine who offer apprenticeship-to-hire models that easily integrate with your current HR processes.

Companies hiring from one recruitment pool or searching for "the perfect resume" often overlook great candidates, but with a fresh outlook on recruiting and hiring, you can tap into a new, diverse pool of talent.

LaunchCode is now enrolling women for its digital job training course, CoderGirl! I'd love to speak with you about this program and your hiring needs. Contact me at kkershaw@launchcode.org.

Kate Kershaw is Managing Director of LaunchCode Kansas City, a nonprofit adding new talent to tech ecosystems across the nation through free, accessible tech training and job placement. Since 2016, LaunchCode has provided free education to nearly 800 aspiring technologists in Kansas City, who now work at leading companies as well as area startups.



Kate Kershaw
Managing
Director
[LaunchCode](#)



Travis Kelce, [The Kansas City Chiefs'](#) KC Wolf, City Council President Curt Skoog and Chamber Senior Vice President Kevin Walker helped Rollie Bartels, owner and CEO, celebrate a ribbon cutting for the grand opening of [Club Car Wash](#), 7140 West 121st Street.

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



City Council President Curt Skoog, Chamber Senior Vice President Beth Johnson and Chamber Diplomats helped celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Gleason Magic Experience](#).

Kansas City's newest entertainment venue, Gleason Magic is in an intimate 80-seat theater in [Prairiefire](#) and features a 90-minute show of world class sleight-of-hand magic and mind-reading performed by Vegas magician Greg Gleason. For more information, [click here](#).



Overland Park Chamber leaders recently met with U.S. Representative Sharice Davids, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly and Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz to discuss the Chamber's priorities for transportation needs in Overland Park.

City begins College + Metcalf Mobility Study

The City of Overland Park has begun an additional study to build on the recommendations of the OP Central report, which provided a vision of a "walkable, engaging, and inviting" multi-use urban district around College Boulevard and Metcalf Avenue. As Overland Park's largest concentration of office employment, the area is uniquely positioned to support innovative mixed-use development. It is a major destination for visitors with the Overland Park Convention Center, eight hotels and major adjacent retail centers nearby.

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

New program offers innovation and commercialization incentive

Kansas Department of Commerce announced a new program designed to enable promising technology to advance to a stage where it is capable of attracting licensees, seed investment, or generating revenues. The KITE Proof of Concept (POC) fills a need for support where typical funding mechanisms are not available, acting as a bridge between federal funding for basic research and commercial seed funding by angel or venture investors. The program offers funding from \$5,000-\$25,000 to help early-stage entrepreneurs move significantly forward towards commercialization. For more information, [click here](#).

Applications are being taken through September 12 at the [Enterprise Center in Johnson County](#). For questions, contact info@ecjc.com or (913) 438-2282.

ECJC helps entrepreneurs and enterprises with start-up or scale-up

For more than 25 years, the [Enterprise Center in Johnson County](#) (ECJC) has been helping entrepreneurs start new businesses and existing business owners grow their enterprises to new heights to create new jobs for the Kansas City region.

Throughout its 25-year history, ECJC has helped companies raise more than \$480 million helping to create nearly 3,000 new jobs. Companies supported by ECJC programs have generated over \$1.8 billion in revenue.

The umbrella of services offered by the Enterprise Center are wide and varied. From mentoring and educational programs to capital and seed-funding vehicles, ECJC works with entrepreneurs and enterprises from start-up to scale-up.

Additionally, ECJC is one of the organizations Johnson County utilizes to help our small business community. In November 2020, the county partnered with ECJC to deliver \$13.5 million in federal CARES relief funding by providing \$10,000 grants to 1,351 Johnson County small businesses.

The Enterprise Center is home to:

- **Mid-America Angels Network** – one of the largest networks of angel investors in the Midwest that helps provide early-stage investment capital to scalable start-ups
- **The Kansas City Women's Business Center** – an SBA-affiliated organization focusing on women entrepreneurs and business owners and a partner with AltCap for micro lending
- **Growth Mentoring Service** – an M.I.T. developed program that couples young enterprises looking to grow to the next level with a team of skilled mentors
- **Fountain Innovation Fund** – the region's only nonprofit evergreen fund that offers seed funding investments for early-stage founders
- **Pitch Perfect** – an investor-led pitch preparation bootcamp helping founders become educated and prepared for the funding environment.
- **Women's Capital Connection** – a women-only angel investment group that invests solely in early-stage enterprises founded and/or run by women
- **Sales for Startup Founders** – ECJC's newest bootcamp helps founders learn to be effective as their company's first salesperson.

As our region's economy looks to recover from the recent pandemic, it is vital we not only continue to support our local businesses, but also help those looking to start new ones as entrepreneurship and small business growth are the engines that drive job growth.



Jeff Shackelford
President & CEO
[Enterprise Center](#)

Leadership

Overland Park

Seeking 2022 nominations

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

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

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

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

Leadership OP

Educate & Elevate Scholarship

Support the LOP Educate & Elevate Scholarship

The Overland Park Chamber Foundation seeks donations to the Leadership Overland Park (LOP) Educate & Elevate Scholarship program.

The scholarship was established by the LOP Class of 2020 to create a ongoing source of funding to help in-need Johnson County residents gain a professional or technical career. The scholarship is intended to make a collective impact on someone's life and help support his or her path out of poverty and improve adult literacy in our community.

The Overland Park Chamber Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, all donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. To donate to the scholarship fund, [click here](#).

Applications for the 2022 scholarship will be accepted beginning in January. The recipient of the scholarship is recognized at the annual Leadership Overland Park graduation. For more information about the application process, [click here](#).

Participating in Leadership Overland Park 2007 was one of the best professional decisions I have ever made. The relationships, knowledge and experiences that I gained from LOP not only strengthened my leadership at the time as the Associate Director of [Safehome](#), but it also inspired and prepared me to later seek public office as a Johnson County Commissioner. LOP set the foundation for a broader understanding and appreciation for our wonderful city!



Janee Hanzlick
County Commissioner
Johnson County

I found Leadership Overland Park to be the premier resource for providing an opportunity for members of our community to comprehensively look at what it takes to build and maintain a great community. Through access to leaders in local and state government, private business and industry, health care, and public education, participants are able to discuss current and future issues affecting our community. Most importantly, the relationships that are started and cultivated; and the support from alumni provide a framework for someone to get directly engaged in advancing the quality of life here in Overland Park.



Bill Ebel
City Manager
City of Overland Park

The Leadership Overland Park program broadened my community knowledge, allowed me to meet and learn from other inspiring community leaders and gain additional leadership skills. I came away with lifelong friendships and a wealth of knowledge I didn't have before regarding different service industries, social service organizations and the important roles they all play in our economy.



Margaret Steele
Manager of Community Relations
Kansas Gas Service

I was privileged to participate in the inaugural Leadership Overland Park class in 1983. The experience inspired me to become involved in our community and ultimately to hold leadership positions with both the Chamber and the City Council. These experiences have been very rewarding and I am grateful for the springboard to community service that Leadership Overland Park provided.



Jim Hix
Former City Council Member
City of Overland Park

Chamber Board

Board Officers:

Bill Ferguson, 2021 Chairman
Central Bank of the Midwest
Tony Rupp, Chairman-Elect
Foulston Siefkin LLP

Joan Wells, 1st Vice Chairman
Wellington

Cindy Rock, 2nd Vice Chairman
Kendall Bank

Josh Beck, Secretary
MarksNelson

Chris Wally, Treasurer
Wally & Co.

Bobby Olm-Shipman, Immediate Past Chairman
Saint Luke's South Hospital

Mike Hess, Past Chairman
HNTB Corporation

Board Members:

Aaron Attebery, Black & Veatch

Sean Barnard, Bambou Salons & Spas

Patrice Brown, Yellow

Faruk Capan, Intouch Group

John Fuller, DLR Group

Tracy Garry, Empower Retirement

Matt Gunter, SelectQuote

Tom Herzog, Netsmart Technologies

Brenner Holland, Hunt Midwest

Angela Hurt, Veracity Consulting, Inc.

Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Blue Valley School District

Melody Rayl, Fisher Phillips LLP

Stacy Rose, AdamsGabbert

Allan Samson, T-Mobile

Rick Schier, CommunityAmerica Credit Union

Matt Sheets, FNBO

Matt Sogard, Overland Park Regional Medical Center

Steve Troester, PGAV Architects, Inc.

Kim Winslow, Evergy

Jason Wright, JE Dunn Construction Company

Ex-Officio Board:

Dr. Andy Bowne, Johnson County Community College

Bill Ebel, City of Overland Park

Mayor Carl Gerlach, City of Overland Park

Dana Markel, Visit Overland Park

Matt Masilionis, Perspective Architecture + Design [2021 Chairman of Chamber Economic Development Council]

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, Chamber

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Beth Johnson, CECD, Senior Vice President of Economic Development

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

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Kevin Walker, IOM, Senior Vice President of Public Policy

Member news

Sweet Tooth Pediatric Dentistry has opened a Shawnee location with the goal of serving uninsured kids.

Johnson County Museum was awarded the American Association of State and Local History's 2021 Award of Excellence for its response to COVID-19.

Network Tech is now part of **The Purple Guys**, creating the largest IT services provider in Kansas City.

Johnson County Community College Continuing Education is offering four new business leadership certificates this summer and fall.

Menorah Medical Center was recognized as an accredited center of excellence in colorectal and robotic surgery.

PREVAIL Innovative Wealth Strategies recently was announced as one of Kansas City's 50 fastest-growing companies of 2021.

Johnson County Community College announced JoAnne Northrup as executive director and chief curator of the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art.

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission has named Lisa Hays, MD, FACE, as chief medical officer.

Shari Fox has joined **MarksNelson LLC** as a partner.

TPP Certified Public Accountants has hired Anne Willman, CPA, as a senior accountant; and Misty Torralbo as a senior plan administrator.

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

Education that works for Kansas City

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Understanding the needs of both Kansas City area employers and the current and emerging workforce drives decision-making at the **University of Kansas Edwards Campus** (KUEC). Working with business leaders, community colleges and high schools, KUEC offers relevant degree programs, academic certificates, professional development and lifelong education programs. Receive the quality education you expect from KU in Overland Park and online with programs and services designed for adult learners.

How can you and your business benefit?

- Enroll in 80+ graduate and undergraduate degree programs and academic certificates.
- Advance or start your career with hundreds of continuing education courses.
- Improve your workforce with online and onsite training programs.
- Connect with current students and graduates to build your talent pipeline.
- Attend free, educational webinars and seminars on important trending topics.
- Learn for fun with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.
- Let KU plan your next conference online, at KUEC or anywhere in the world.

The KU Edwards Campus opened in 1993 and has since contributed more than \$400 million to the Johnson County economy through education, research and service initiatives.

For more information, visit www.edwardscampus.ku.edu.



Business continuity: Preparing for disaster

Every day, we are reminded of the risks that surround us - pandemics, natural disasters, and cyber-attacks are all examples of events that can severely impact a business, its employees, and their families. As a former Regional Administrator with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Kansas City, I witnessed firsthand the impacts of these events on our communities and business sector.



Paul Taylor
Owner
[Taylor Strategies](#)

There are many reasons for businesses to invest its resources to better prepare for disasters. First, the private sector represents a significant portion of the country's critical infrastructure, to include transportation, energy, food, and medical. These sectors are important to maintaining and restoring community services during a disaster response, and local emergency managers should actively partner with businesses to plan and prepare to minimize disruptions.

Second, businesses should take prudent steps to actively assess and manage risk to their workforce, property, and revenue lines because preparedness and effective response minimizes interruption to operations and maintains employee safety.

Third, businesses have resources critical during a disaster response and recovery. Food, water, fuel, generators, heavy equipment, technical staff, and other similar resources are often in short supply, and local emergency management will often seek out donations to help their communities. Companies can also offer commodities or services to local governments at cost.

Lastly, companies represent networks of employees and families who all need information about how to be better prepared and what to do during a disaster. Many businesses have a social media presence and can provide additional reach for critical messaging both before and after a disaster.

Don't know where to start? Your local Emergency Management Agency, [FEMA](#), and the [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency](#) (CISA) all provide valuable resources to help you get started. Good luck!

Paul Taylor recently served as the Regional Administrator for FEMA Region 7. He spent more than 20 years in the military, including extensive service working as a liaison to the U.S. Congress. Currently, his government relations consulting firm helps organizations connect with state and federal agencies to solve complex problems.

Driving Economic Success

Unemployment

	June 2021	May 2021	June 2020
Overland Park	3.5%	3.1%	6.1%
Johnson County	3.6%	3.0%	6.0%
Kansas City Metro MSA	N/A	5.0%	7.5%
State of Kansas	4.4%	3.5%	6.8%

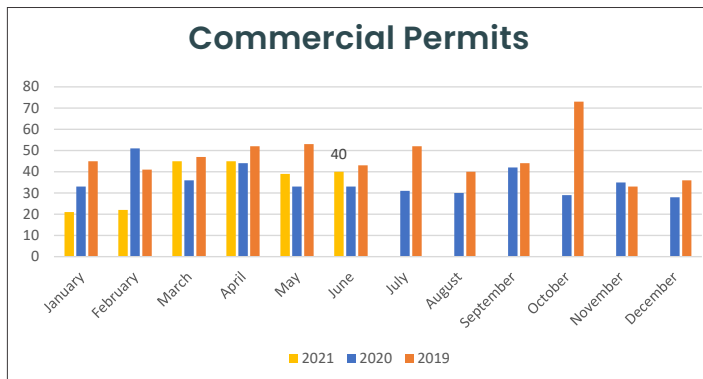
*(These percentages are not seasonally adjusted)
- Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC)
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

Building Permits

	New Commercial	Institutional, Schools, etc.	Other Commercial	Totals
June 2021	2	1	37	40
Sq. Feet	5,261	47,988	0	53,249
Value	\$1,722,140	\$15,443,018	\$10,229,969	\$27,395,127

- City of Overland Park

Commercial Permits



Retail Sales - March 2021



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

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

A Commitment to Community

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Empower Retirement is the second-largest retirement services provider in the U.S.¹, helping over 12 million people² across America build a better financial future. With the recent addition of Personal Capital, a digital-first wealth management firm, Empower is poised to raise the level of personalized advice and innovative financial wellness tools it delivers to millions of people.

With nearly 9,000 associates worldwide – and more than 600 based in Overland Park – Empower is also committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive workplace and striving to enrich the communities where its associates live and work. Its specialized Business Resource Groups rally around various interests, experiences and identities to champion more diverse ideas and ultimately build better solutions for all. Through the A.C.T. program (Associates. Community. Together.), the company encourages its associates to support causes that are closest to their hearts through volunteer service and financial contributions. Empower amplifies the charitable impact by matching donations, funding volunteer time and supporting collaborative philanthropy.

This is the sixth year Empower is the presenting sponsor for the American Lung Association's Fight For Air Climb.

For more information, visit:

- www.empower-retirement.com
- [@EmpowerToday](#) on Twitter
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¹ Pension & Investments 2020 Defined Contribution Survey Ranking as of April 2020.

² As of January 4, 2021



Members networking at our July Wednesday Wake-up event hosted by [In The Zone Cryo + Health Upgrades](#), 7102 College Boulevard.

