

Chamber celebrates Annual Meeting

More than 400 Chamber members came together for the Chamber's Annual Meeting last month. Leaders reflected on the past year and looked to the year ahead, several individuals were recognized for their service to the community and keynote speaker Mary C. Kelly presented a high-energy program.

Presenting Sponsor



City Manager Bill Ebel received the 2021 Richard A. "Rick" Worrel Community Legacy Award from 2022 Chairman Tony Rupp and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen.



2022 Chairman Tony Rupp, **Foulston Siefkin LLP**; thanked 2021 Chairman Bill Ferguson, **Central Bank of the Midwest**; for his service to the Chamber.



Leading up to his retirement, Mayor Carl Gerlach was thanked for his many years of public service.



Retiring board members recognized at the Annual Meeting were Brenner Holland, **Hunt Midwest**; Stacy Rose, **AdamsGabbert**; Steve Troester, **PGAV Architects**; Matt Masilionis, **Perspective Architecture + Design**; and Tom Herzog, **Netsmart**.



Keynote speaker
Mary C. Kelly.

Chamber Board

Board Officers:

Tony Rupp, 2022 Chairman
Foulston Siefkin LLP

Joan Wells, Chair-Elect
Wellington, an Augeo 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

Mayor Curt Skoog, City of Overland Park

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

Chamber staff

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, President & CEO

Corey Cohn, Economic Development Project
Coordinator

Alex Cook, Member Services Coordinator

Frank Ebling, CFO

Cindy Green, Special Projects

Tim Holverson, IOM, Director, Workforce &
Business Growth

Beth Johnson, CECD, Senior Vice President of
Economic Development

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

Kevin Walker, IOM, Senior Vice President of
Public Policy

2022 Chamber Chairman

Tony Rupp

[Foulston Siefkin LLP](#)



Let's make Overland Park prosper

2022 CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I've spent my adult life living or working in Overland Park and I count myself among the many who believe it is an ideal place. I'm convinced the Overland Park Chamber has played a significant role in making this community such an outstanding place. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2022 Chair.

I'm pleased to say my favorable opinion of Overland Park is not alone. The "community attitudes" poll the Chamber commissioned in 2021 yielded extraordinary results. Voters saw local government as responsive to their needs and handling their tax dollars well. Some 90% agreed Overland Park is a welcoming community. Voters thought the city was "growing at about the right speed." Thank you to the Chamber Foundation and the [Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City](#) for joining with the Chamber to commission that poll.

The poll also measured the approval rating of Mayor Gerlach, who had not yet retired. In a day of divisive and hyper-partisan politics, the approval rating of Mayor Gerlach was roughly 70% among Republicans and 70% among Democrats. This is quite a testament to someone doing things the right way and placing non-partisan progress over divisive politics.

We also have new data from the recently completed census. The census tells us Overland Park has 197,238 residents, a population growth of more than 23,000 in just ten years. It also confirms that Johnson County is thriving as eight of its cities are among the state's top 10 cities for percentage of growth.

Our population is older, more urban and suburban, and more diverse. The city is becoming a little bit older, too. This has an impact on infrastructure, housing, workforce development, and health care.

The Chamber plays a central role in helping the City determine how to face the challenges of a maturing community in the modern era – workforce, housing, education, health, well-being, mobility, and transportation. And how can we continue to educate and inform about why businesses large and small are critical to this community's future?

To expand our ability to compete nationally, we need to take strategic advantage of our opportunities to be a welcoming community for businesses, promote and encourage a broad and diverse workforce, and make the necessary investments in our own future and the future of this outstanding community.

Together, we look forward to an excellent year. Let's make Overland Park prosper.

36 selected for 2022 Leadership Overland Park

The Chamber Foundation has selected 36 business professionals to participate in its 2022 Leadership Overland Park (LOP) program. During ten full-day sessions beginning in February, participants meet local leaders and study aspects of the community including government, history, education, politics and current issues impacting the local community, region and state. Class members graduate in June.

Our 2022 Leadership Overland Park class:

- Dr. Sanmi Areola, Johnson County Government
- Ben Asnicar, Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.
- Kristy Baughman, United Community Services of Johnson County
- Erin Bradley, Garver, LLC
- Erin Coats, Perspective Architecture + Design
- Zac Coppersmith, TranSystems
- Kelsey Crow, Back On Track Chiropractic + Acupuncture
- Trent Dansel, Olsson
- Shane DeWald, Blue Valley Recreation Commission
- Andie Ewing, SelectQuote
- Sherrie Gayed, The University of Kansas Health System
- Lindsey Hales, Central Bank of the Midwest
- Laura Harsch, Shawnee Mission Education Foundation
- Jordan Herbert, HNTB Corporation
- Brandy Kimble, FNBO
- Bob Lambrechts, Lathrop GPM LLP
- Will Mann, Zurich North America
- Erica Miller, Johnson County Community College
- Erin Moffett, Worlds of Fun
- Tina Mummey, AdventHealth South Overland Park
- Chelsea Newkirk, City of Overland Park
- Cami O'Brien, WaterOne
- Andrea O'Hara, Visit Overland Park
- Tyler Parker, Black & Veatch
- Andrew Payne, Creative One Marketing, LLC
- Melissa Pruett, Maxus Properties
- Gregg Riess, Ernst & Young
- Myric Rollison, Empower Retirement
- Anna Sahli, Saint Luke's South Hospital
- Cindy Shelton, Nifty Promotions
- Robbie Tinker, Turner Construction
- Christian Weld-Brown, MBB
- Adam Wessel, Blue Valley School District
- Josh Wetzig, DLR Group
- Emily Held Wooldridge, JE Dunn Construction Company
- Inas Younis

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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Upcoming events

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, January 12 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

[Chiefs Fit](#), 9290 Metcalf Avenue

Make connections, develop lasting business relationships and create new opportunities while checking out Chiefs Fit.

In this new facility you can train like a pro on the indoor turf field and recover in the lounge facility that features cryotherapy treatment, hydromassage machines, NormaTec compression systems, sauna, and full-amenity locker rooms. Group fitness classes and personal training services are offered plus there's a fuel station for nutrition and a retail space with apparel.

Join us for networking over coffee!

To register, [click here](#).



EDC Honors Lunch

Thursday, February 3

[Johnson County Community College](#), 12345 College Boulevard

Join us at this annual lunch where we recognize exceptional businesses and leaders.

OP After Hours

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

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

2022 Series Sponsor: STAFFVIRTUAL

Enjoy drinks and light hors d'oeuvres, connect with other business professionals and admire art at one of Johnson County's jewels.

Since opening in 2007, the Nerman Museum has received national and international acclaim for its architecture, exhibitions, educational programming and collection. The museum is regarded as one of the region's most significant cultural destinations.

See it for yourself while networking with your business colleagues!

To register, [click here](#).



Ribbon cuttings

January 27 – 10:30 a.m.

[Real World Learning](#) at [Oak Park Mall](#), 11149 West 95th Street

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR DECEMBER NEW MEMBERS

School of Rock Blue Valley

– Opening Soon!

Jeremy Wilkinson
11516 West 135th Street
Overland Park KS 66221
(913) 430-7625

jwilkinson@schoolofrock.com

www.schoolofrock.com/bluevalley

Educational Services, Entertainment

Tailored Living

Julie Tyrell, Owner
3719 West 180th Terrace
Stilwell KS 66085
(913) 905-4010
julie.tyrell@tailoredliving.com
www.tailoredliving.com/johnson-county-ks

Home Improvements, Remodeling &
Repairing-Building Contractors



Kansas Lieutenant Governor David Toland, Mayor Curt Skoog and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen helped founder Neelima Parasker and her team at [SnapIT Solutions](http://www.snapit.com) celebrate their beautiful new offices at 7780 West 119th Street.

Nationally considered as a futuristic and innovative small business with a powerful mission, SnapIT has a team of inventors, innovators and creators developing products that are challenging and cutting edge.

Thanks to these retiring board members:

- Sean Barnard, [Bambou Salons & Spas](http://www.bambousalons.com)
- Dr. Andy Bowne, [Johnson County Community College](http://www.johnsoncountycoll.edu)
- Faruk Capan, [Intouch Group](http://www.intouchgroup.com)
- Former Mayor Carl Gerlach, [City of Overland Park](http://www.cityofoverlandpark.com)
- Mike Hess, [HNTB Corporation](http://www.hntb.com)
- Tom Herzog, [Netsmart Technologies](http://www.netsmarttechnologies.com)
- Brenner Holland, [Hunt Midwest](http://www.huntmidwest.com)
- Matt Masilionis, [Perspective Architecture + Design](http://www.perspectivearchitecture.com)
- Dr. Tonya Merrigan, [Blue Valley School District](http://www.bluevalleyschools.org)
- Bobby Olm-Shipman, [Saint Luke's South Hospital](http://www.saintlukesouthhospital.com)
- Stacy Rose, [AdamsGabbert](http://www.adamsgabbert.com)
- Steve Troester, [PGAV Architects](http://www.pgavarchitects.com)
- Greg Wolf, [Maxus Properties](http://www.maxusproperties.com)

Thanks for reinvesting!

DECEMBER MEMBER RENEWALS INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

50+ Years

Central Bank of the Midwest
McGilly & Hoge Johnson County Memorial Chapel
Payne & Jones, Chartered
Wallace Saunders
WaterOne

40-49 Years

INTRUST Bank
JE Dunn Construction Company

20-39 Years

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas City
Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas
Fastsigns of Overland Park
Fidelity Bank
Hepler & Associates
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites-Convention Center
Johnson County Funeral Chapel & Memorial Gardens
Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc.
Sandler Training
University of Kansas Edwards Campus

10-19 Years

CBRE Group Inc.
Erickson Solutions Group
Grandma's Office Catering
LaMar's Donuts & Coffee
McAuley & Crandall, PA
Principal Financial Group

5-9 Years

American Cancer Society
Davidson Architecture & Engineering
Firebirds Wood Fired Grill
Foulston Siefkin LLP
Kansas Christian College
Kutak Rock LLP
Mia Bella Donna Med Spa
Occidental Management, Inc.
The Sovereign at Overland Park

1-4 Years

B&B Theatres Overland Park 16
CORE Strategies Physical Therapy
Edison District
Edison Spaces
Element Medical Imaging
Hampton Inn & Suites Overland Park South
SelectQuote
Shepherd Elder Law Group, LLC
Tidal Wave Auto Spa
Workforce Partnership
Worlds of Fun

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The great big small bank

11 professionals join Chamber Board in 2022

We are pleased to welcome the following leaders to the Chamber Board of Directors in 2022.



Josh Bitterman
Goldfish Swim School

Josh Bitterman is the owner and general manager of [Goldfish Swim School](#), which opened in May 2018. He also is a business and executive coach. Previously he has worked as a wealth advisor and strategist and a director of corporate partnerships. He is a 2021 Leadership Overland Park graduate.

Ken Bowman is the chief financial officer at [Shamrock Trading Corporation](#). Ken began his career at a national certified public accounting firm and joined Shamrock in 2012 with extensive financial management experience. Previously,



Ken Bowman
Shamrock Trading Corporation

he was also the CFO of a digital communications firm and a senior vice president of finance at a Fortune 500 transportation company.



Sterling Cramer Olsson

Sterling Cramer is [Olsson's](#) Senior Director of Operations leading the Senior Leadership Team in analyzing key business metrics and consulting with leadership to achieve operational and team goals, strategies, and priorities. Since joining the firm in 1999, he has risen through the ranks as a project engineer, land development team leader, Overland Park office leader, and regional leader responsible for the operations of 10 offices. He is a graduate of Leadership Overland Park.

Stuart Day, Ph.D., is dean of the [University of Kansas Edwards Campus](#) (KUEC) and dean of the KU School of Professional Studies. He also is a Spanish professor in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Day has extensive experience as both a faculty member and



Dr. Stuart Day
The University of Kansas
Edwards Campus

administrator at KU. Before joining KUEC in 2019 as associate vice chancellor, he served as senior vice provost for Academic Affairs, director of faculty programs in the Office of International Affairs, chair of the Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Committees, and associate chair and chair of the Department of Spanish & Portuguese.

Dr. Nadine E. Franz, EdD, MS, PHR, CPRW, CPCC, SHRM-CP, is founder of [APEX Career Services](#), which assists professionals seeking to enhance or change career paths. She also provides HR, outplacement, and diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) consulting



Dr. Nadine Franz
APEX Career Services

services. A native of Jamaica, Dr. Franz is committed to cross-cultural collaborations in support of advancing individuals and organizations. Her background and passion make her an excellent resource for anyone seeking career development or for corporations committed to fairness and equity for all employees. Dr. Franz is a scholarly-practitioner who conducts research and publishes in the area of workplace ageism. She is a 2021 graduate of Leadership Overland Park (LOP).



David Freisner
Fortune Financial Advisors

David Freisner, CPA, is a Principal and Wealth Advisor with [Fortune Financial Advisors](#). His area of expertise is in comprehensive financial planning and wealth management with an emphasis on alternative investments for individuals alongside advising 401(k) plans. He has a unique proficiency with 401(k) plans that hold company stock that can result in significant tax savings by utilizing little known strategies upon retirement. Prior to joining the Wealth Management industry, David served as Vice President of Finance for a public company and previously held CFO and COO positions with a focus

on strategic acquisitions for private businesses. David has been active with the Chamber since 2009 as a Diplomat and has chaired the group of volunteers.



Jim Holland
Fisher Phillips LLP

Jim Holland is managing partner of [Fisher Phillip LLP's](#) Kansas City office. He works with clients to obtain practical, business solutions to employment problems and lawsuits and help them navigate employment issues with as little disruption to operations as possible. Jim counsels employers about how to avoid workplace issues before they become lawsuits. Jim has litigated cases in federal and state courts across the country. He also represents clients across the country in collective bargaining negotiations with various different unions. He served as Chamber Chairman in 2014. Jim joins the Chamber Board as an ex-officio member and legal counsel.

Dr. Michelle Hubbard is superintendent of the [Shawnee Mission School District](#) (SMSD). Prior to this role, she was associate superintendent for leadership and learning for six years at SMSD. Before that, Dr.

Hubbard was superintendent of Turner School District for seven years. She also served as an elementary and high school principal, and assistant high school principal, a special education teacher and a special education paraprofessional. Her work has been in communities with significant numbers of both high-performing and at-risk stu-



Dr. Michelle Hubbard
Shawnee Mission School District

dents, including students living in households where English is not the primary language. She has served as a mentor for numerous aspiring principals and superintendents.

Neelima Parasker is President and Chief Executive Officer of [SnapIT Solutions® LLC](#). She has developed a patent-pending business model that encompasses four primary lines of business to seek, train and hire individuals in under-resourced communities. Neelima has held leadership positions with Fortune 500 companies. She serves on the KansasWorks State Workforce Board and the Community Development Advisory Council at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and is an inaugural Innovator in Residence with



Neelima Parasker
SnapIT Solutions

the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. She was a speaker at the 2020 World Economic Forum in Davos and at the 2019 Global Entrepreneurship Summit. She is the recipient of numerous awards and SnapIT was named "Outstanding Minority Business of the Year" in 2019 by the Kansas Department of Commerce.



Mayor Curt Skoog
City of Overland Park

Mayor Curt Skoog joins the board as an ex-officio member. He was elected mayor of Overland Park in November 2021. Prior to that, he has served on the City Council since 2005. He became City Council president in January 2021. Mayor Skoog's focus has been the implementation of policies and the ap-

proval of projects that support strong neighborhoods, which are the bedrock of Overland Park. This focus is demonstrated by the passage of Vision Metcalf, 95th and Antioch redevelopment, and the resurgence of downtown Overland Park. Since 2005, Skoog has been one of the City of Overland Park's appointed members to the Mid-America Regional Council Board of Directors where he recently completed a term as board chair.

Alan Verrill, MD, is CEO of [AdventHealth South Overland Park](#). The South Overland Park campus opened in 2017 and recently completed construction of the third AdventHealth hospital in Kansas. Alan previously served as Chief Medical Officer for Littleton Adventist Hospital in Littleton, Colo. He is a Board-certified internist with 25 years of experience in a hospital setting, leading in all aspects from patient care to governance and regulatory compliance. Dr. Verrill served as a major in the United States Air Force Medical Corps.



Dr. Alan Verrill
AdventHealth South Overland Park

Corporate Partners



Chamber Diplomats recently gathered for their annual holiday party. Participants were, left to right: Adam Doran, [PREVAIL](#); Joy Broils, [KuSHH, LLC](#); Maureen Mitchell, [Keller Williams](#); Laura Blatter, [Alzheimer's Association](#); Liz Ferrigno, [Mills Farm Living](#); [N2 Publishing](#); Elizabeth Cowan, [Aflac](#); Erin Moffett, [Worlds of Fun](#); Alessandra Graber, [Edward Jones](#); Trish Reedy, [Trusted Lending Center](#); Cindy Shelton, [Nifty Promotions](#); Sidra Connell, [Jason's Deli](#); Sabrina Thompson, [Foulston Siefkin LLP](#); Blake Lopez-Bierwirth, [Mutual of Omaha](#); Toni Anderson, [Security Bank of Kansas City](#); and Frank Ebling, Chamber CFO.

If you would like to know more about becoming a Diplomat volunteer, contact us at opcc@opchamber.org or call (913) 491-3600.

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The University of Kansas
Edwards Campus

The University of Kansas
Health System

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

Chamber releases 2022 legislative platforms

The Overland Park Chamber has released documents outlining the Chamber's positions on issues that impact the business community that may become public policy at the Federal, state and local levels in 2022.

Some of the issues included in the platforms include:

- Annual and decennial census/reapportionment
- Education and workforce development
- Emergency response preparedness
- Energy and environment
- Entrepreneurship
- Government/fiscal management
- Health care
- International trade
- Public/private partnerships
- Regulatory reform
- Social security reform
- Taxes
- Technology, telecommunications and cybersecurity
- Transportation
- Workplace and labor

Read our public policy agendas here:

[2022 Federal Public Policy Platform](#)

[2022 State Legislative Platform](#)

[2021-2022 Local Public Policy Platform](#)

