

Companies creating jobs in Overland Park

Hundreds of new jobs will be available in Overland Park soon following recent expansion announcements by two companies – Charter Communications and NetPMD.

Charter Communications announced plans to open a customer retention center in Overland Park creating 510 new full-time jobs by the end of 2022. The expansion will invest \$18.9 million in the Overland Park community.

Charter serves more than 31 million customers in 41 states under the Spectrum brand of Internet®, TV, mobile and voice services. The new center will provide support for customers from across the country. It is expected to open in early 2022 and hiring is set to begin in late 2021.

"A diverse and talented workforce in Overland Park and surrounding areas, combined with our strong partnerships with the State of Kansas and the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, made expansion here an obvious choice," said

Dave Lampman, Group Vice President of Retention at Charter.

Local residents will benefit from these new, full-time, growth-opportunity roles, which offer competitive starting pay of at least \$18 an hour plus target commissions and lucrative incentives. Along with highly competitive wages, Charter provides comprehensive employee benefits.

NetPMD Solutions, a leading provider of professional services and network design solutions, will locate its corporate headquarters in Overland Park at Executive Hills Building 26 at 8500 West 110th Street. The company will create 100 jobs and is actively hiring highly driven individuals to join its new operations in a hybrid work model.

"We are extremely excited about the opportunities presented by locating our corporate headquarters in the Kansas City region," said David Seematter, CEO of NetPMD Solutions. "Our projects span across the U.S., so being based in the

Midwest provides easy access to our customers. In addition, the favorable business economics and deep well of talent to draw from in KC will further our growth."

"The company's focus on innovative technical solutions is a perfect fit amongst our community's strong presence of engineering talent and companies," said Overland Park Mayor Carl Gerlach.

"NetPMD had a number of options across the U.S. for its headquarters," said Andrew Greene, Cushman & Wakefield, which assisted with the company's office search.

Federal funding will enable 167th Street interchange

Last month, U.S. Representative Sharice Davids, the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Overland Park Chamber and other area leaders gathered to applaud passage of bi-partisan federal legislation that will fund nearly \$4 billion worth of much-needed infrastructure projects throughout Kansas.

City and State officials announced new funding designated for Kansas would allow Overland Park and State officials to add an improved 167th Street interchange to the already approved U.S. 69 project and make significant improvements to 167th Street in the vicinity of the modernized interchange. The changes will integrate seamlessly with the existing U.S. 69 modernization plans, provide more convenient access for travelers from the south and improve traffic flow for all motorists in the area.



Kevin Walker, Chamber Senior Vice President of Public Policy, participated in a news conference announcing federal funding for infrastructure projects.



2021: A Year in Review

A year ago we gathered for the Chamber Annual meeting Zoom-style, amazed the pandemic was still strong and unsure of what 2021 would bring. Little did we know, the challenges would be similar, but with a new twist.

It has been a privilege to serve as Chairman of the Board this year, helping this great organization pursue its core purpose to make Overland Park prosper. I am proud to carry on the legacy of so many incredible leaders including one of the Chamber's first chairmen and founders, Ben Craig, who led Metcalf Bank which became [Central Bank of the Midwest](#), where I proudly serve as President and CEO.

As our business community moved into 2021 still reeling from the pandemic, your Chamber was busy providing resources during the second wave of PPP loans, advocating for direct aid to small businesses, Medicaid expansion and for changes in the Kansas unemployment system. Highlights of the year continued as the Chamber advocated for improvements to our state's busiest highway corridor with the U.S. 69 Expansion and Modernization project. This was successful as the State of Kansas approved a \$300 million investment – as well as an expedited schedule for improving the 167th Street interchange. This project will include on/off-ramps to U.S. 69, and widening 167th to a four-lane street between Antioch Road and Metcalf Avenue.

The Chamber proactively partnered with the [Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City](#) to determine if and how changing demographics, economic growth and the pandemic may impact long-standing quality of life priorities and views on taxation. We surveyed 500 Overland Park voters, with results confirming that priorities remain consistent with what has made Overland Park strong: commitment to educational excellence, public safety, quality jobs, infrastructure and access to health care.

And as citizens throughout Johnson County prepared for pivotal elections, the Chamber was there, providing dedicated resources on [www.VoteJoCo.com](#), a non-partisan website maintained by our own Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy, to help voters register and educate themselves through candidate profiles as well as local, county and national video forums on relevant topics. With more than 16,000 views and more than a 70% increase over prior years, the site is fast becoming one of the best resources for Johnson County voters.

Despite the many challenges this year, the Chamber partnered with the Economic Development Council as a changemaker for economic success in bringing 2,153 new jobs, retaining 231 and more than \$66.8 million in capital investment to our community.

I would like to thank you, our members, for adding your bold voice to ours, joining us in tough conversations that tackled big issues, advocating with us for action and growth, and partnering with us as we work hard every day to make Overland Park the best place to build a business, a career and a home. I would also like to thank Tracey Osborne Oltjen and the entire Chamber team for their hard work, unwavering commitment and for allowing me to be a small part of something bigger.

I look forward to continuing to work with my fellow board of directors, under the leadership of 2022 Chairman Tony Rupp, as the Chamber continues to be the resource, advocate, convener and changemaker that drives economic success forward in our city, county and state.



Bill Ferguson
[Central Bank of the Midwest](#)
2021 Chamber Chairman

Watch for photos from our 2021 Annual Meeting
in our January newsletter!



Annual Meeting

FEATURING MARY C. KELLY, PH.D.,
U.S. NAVY (RETIRED)

Presenting Sponsor



Leadership Patron



Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsors



Print Sponsor



Speaker Takeaway Sponsor



Vibe / DJ Partner



Hotel Accommodations



Bronze Sponsors



Corporate Table Sponsors



Upcoming events

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, December 8 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

[AdventHealth South Overland Park](#), 7820 West 165th Street

Join us for our monthly networking over coffee event and see the newly opened hospital building at AdventHealth South Overland Park in the BluHawk development.

To register, call (913) 491-3600.

Series sponsor: [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)



SERIES SPONSOR:



New faces at the Chamber office

The Chamber office has two new faces.

Corey Cohn has joined the Chamber staff as Economic Development Project Coordinator. In his role, Corey will provide research and marketing support for the Chamber's economic development and strategic goals.

Corey is a recent graduate of The University of Kansas with a degree in business analytics.

During his studies, Corey completed internships at [Energry](#), the University of Kansas Career Center and the Dickinson County Economic Development Corporation.



Corey Cohn

Cindy Green is working in the Chamber office on a temporary basis to help with special projects. Before retiring last year, Cindy had been involved in the Chamber for many years. She came out of retirement to assist with sponsorships and key upcoming events including the Annual Meeting.

If you would like to know more about marketing your company through a sponsorship with the Chamber, contact Cindy at cgreen@opchamber.org or (913) 766-7628.



Cindy Green



Mayor-Elect Curt Skoog, City Council Members John Thompson, Paul Lyons, Fred Spears and Chris Newlin, City Council Member-Elect Sam Passer and Chamber Senior Vice President Beth Johnson helped founder Dave Johnson and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the opening of **Chicken N Pickle - Overland Park**, 5901 West 135th Street in Prairiefire.

Chicken N Pickle is a chef-driven, casual eatery & bar with pickleball courts, a seasonal outdoor ice skating rink, shaded beer gardens, rooftop bar, lawn games and event spaces.

For more info: (913) 484-5676 or [click here](#).



Chamber Senior Vice President Beth Johnson joined Dr. Adam Alli, Amy Mehaffey, Dr. Kirk Hance, Barbara MacArthur, Dr. Romano Delcore and Angie West in celebrating the opening of **The University of Kansas Health System's** Center for Advanced Vascular Care at 10700 Nall Avenue on the health system's Indian Creek Campus.

The new center has the only program in the region offering comprehensive, complex vascular care with multiple specialties collocated in the same physical space. This new vascular center will have experts in several subspecialties.

For more info: (913) 588-1227 or [click here](#).

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR NOVEMBER NEW MEMBERS

Cowell Insurance Solutions

Lance Cowell, President & CEO
7450 West 130th Street, Suite 180
Overland Park KS 66213
(816) 214-4070

www.cisinsurancesolutions.com
Insurance

Geosyntec Consultants

Jessica Yeager, P.E., LSP
9300 West 110th Street, Suite 645
Overland Park KS 66210
(913) 224-1050
JYeager@Geosyntec.com

www.geosyntec.com
*Engineers, Environmental &
Ecological Consultants*

IBEW 124

Wade Kiefer, Business
Representative
301 East 103rd Terrace
Kansas City MO 64114
(816) 942-7500
jfuentes@ibewlocal124.org
www.ibew124.org
*Construction Management,
Non-Profit Organizations*

JDog Junk Removal & Hauling

Chad Hawkins
2404 Northeast 72nd Street
Kansas City MO 64118
(816) 372-5726
chawkins@jdog.com
www.jdog.com
Trash Removal

Team Thrift

Colleen Pelletier, Fundraiser
Specialist
8026 Wornall Road
Kansas City MO 64114
(816) 313-7510
colleenp@teamthrift.com
www.redracksthriftstores.com
*Charitable Organizations, Non-Profit
Organizations*

Thanks for reinvesting!

NOVEMBER MEMBER RENEWALS INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

50+ Years

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission
Atmos Energy Corporation

40-49 Years

Crawford Sales Company

10-19 Years

Leawood Family Dental, LLC
nXio
Pete's Pest Control
Renewal by Andersen
Rodrock Homes, LLC

5-9 Years

Nifty Promotions
Hunt Midwest
Nothing Bundt Cakes Overland
Park
Netsmart Technologies
Oades Brothers Tire & Auto
Rotary Club of Overland Park
Westlake Ace Hardware - 151st
Street
Westlake Ace Hardware - College
& Quivira

1-4 Years

Active Family Chiropractic
Dairy Queen
KC Hemp Co.
Mariner Holdings
PrimeLending
Saint Paul School of Theology

2022 event sponsors

Gain visibility by partnering with the Chamber to sponsor or host events and programs in 2022. Sponsorships include individual events as well as year-long program series.

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



Dr. Michelle Hubbard, Superintendent for the [Shawnee Mission School District](#), sat down for a conversation with Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen at a recent **Fireside Chats Series** program.

To watch a recording of the program, [click here](#).

Thanks to our 2021 Fireside Chats Series sponsor: [BHC](#).



City Council Member Paul Lyons and Chamber Senior Vice President Kevin Walker helped Brian Quinn and his team (including Jake from State Farm) celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new offices of [Brian Quinn - State Farm](#), 5750 West 95th Street, Suite 250.

Give Brian a call to get free quotes on insurance for auto, home, renters, business, life and health in Kansas or Missouri.

For more info: (913) 389-7847.



City Council Member Fred Spears and the Chamber's Tim Holverson helped founder Bianca Sisillo, her family and friends celebrate a ribbon cutting for [INSPIRED Play Cafe](#), 6527 West 119th Street.

Inspired Play Café bridges the gap between your favorite coffee shop and an indoor play place. The ever-evolving play space rotates hand-selected toys monthly in order to ensure an engaging, educational experience for kids ages 0-6 years. The wellness café aspect of IPC encourages community among parents and caregivers while also enabling them to be present in their child's play learning journey. Inside the café are quality food and beverage, tech stations, arts and crafts stations and more, which are open to all ages.

For more info: (913) 749-6851 or [click here](#).



Ron Eidshaug, Vice President and Chief of Staff, Government Affairs at the U.S. Chamber, provided Overland Park business leaders "A View From the Hill" briefing with his insights into the political landscape for 2022.

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
C2FO

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, Adams Gabbert

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

Chamber staff

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, President & CEO

Corey Cohn, Economic Development Project Coordinator

Alex Cook, Member Services Coordinator

Frank Ebling, CFO

Celia Fritz-Watson, IOM, Director of Events & Member Services

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

Member news

[The University of Kansas Health System](#) has opened its [Center for Advanced Vascular Care](#), the only program in the region offering comprehensive, complex vascular care with multiple specialties collocated in the same physical space, at 10700 Nall Avenue on its Indian Creek campus.

[Cornerstones of Care](#) is helping give back with its [Pies for a Purpose campaign](#). Purchase a Tippin's pie and a portion of that will go back to the children and families that Cornerstones serves.

[Children's Mercy](#) has prepared a [FAQ](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine for parents and caregivers.

The [Overland Park Convention Center](#) is a donation site for the Toys for Tots drive. Drop off new, unwrapped toys to the convention center now through December 16.

[War Horses for Veterans](#) released a [new video](#) on its organization that gained national recognition.

[St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute](#) has been named a 2021 Guardian of Excellence Award Winner.

Five [Foulston Siefkin LLP](#) attorneys in Overland Park along with the firm were listed in Benchmark Litigation's latest rankings.

[Johnson County Community College](#) has been identified by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as having produced a high number of Gilman Scholarship recipients in the past 20 years.

[SelectQuote](#) has promoted Robert Grant to President.

HCA Midwest Health, which includes [Overland Park Regional Medical Center](#) and [Menorah Medical Center](#), has appointed Amber Boes as Division Chief Nursing Officer.

Jay Antle, [Johnson County Community College Center](#), has been honored with an Impact Award from the Climate + Energy Project in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Shane DeWald has been named executive director for [Blue Valley Recreation Commission](#).

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

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



City Council Member Holly Grummert and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen helped Carl Whitmer, Co-Founder and CEO, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the opening of [ArchWell Health](#), 9840 West 87th Street. It is one of the first ArchWell Health centers to open nationally in a multi-state rollout planned this fall.

The innovative new centers are designed to deliver an improved level of primary care for medically underserved seniors. Centers focus on the health care needs of seniors, a member group whose medical needs are typically multi-faceted and complex.

ArchWell Health centers provide not just total care, but also free transportation to and from appointments, 24-hour service and same-day appointments, imaging, social workers, nutritionists, and other services.

For more info: (913) 224-2113 or [click here](#).



The Chamber's volunteer Diplomats recently met for a business exploration at [War Horses for Veterans](#). Through exceptional horsemanship, the organization provides combat veterans and first responders the tools for growth personally and professionally. Our goal is to help veterans and first responders who experienced life-disrupting trauma to recover from their limitations, to repurpose their talents and abilities to a successful life, and to reintegrate into their families, workplaces, and communities.

2020 Census shows 14% increase in Overland Park's population since 2010

According to the United States Census Bureau, Overland Park's 2020 population was 197,238.

That's a nearly 14 percent increase from the 2010 total of 173,372.

The new numbers come from the Census' redistricting data, which it released to the public this fall.

The growth in population is also marked by greater racial diversity.

This includes an increased percentage of Asian and African-American residents, and an increased percentage of residents of two or more races.

To keep up with Overland Park's growing population is a growing number of housing units. According to the Census, the city's number of housing units increased from 76,000 in 2010 to 87,000 in 2020. Ninety-four percent of the housing units were occupied in the most recent Census.

The Census expects to release additional demographics in 2022, including a wider array of age, sex, race and housing data.

For a full look at the data currently available, visit the United States Census Bureau's profile of Overland Park – [click here](#).



[Black & Veatch](#) received the 2021 Governor's Exporter of the Year award. Joining Clint Robinson as he accepted the award on behalf of his company were (left to right): Kansas Lieutenant Governor David Toland, Rep. Mari-Lyn Poskin, Governor Laura Kelly and Chamber Senior Vice Presidents Beth Johnson and Kevin Walker.

The award program recognizes companies committed to expanding sales in international markets and showcases those exporters to other Kansas companies seeking similar success. For more than 30 years, the state of Kansas has recognized exceptional export performance.

Driving Economic Success

Unemployment			
	Oct. 2021	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020
Overland Park	2.6%	2.9%	3.6%
Johnson County	2.6%	2.9%	3.6%
Kansas City Metro MSA	3.0%	3.5%	4.2%
State of Kansas	3.3%	3.5%	4.1%

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

Submit a guest column for this newsletter

Chamber members are invited to share industry knowledge by authoring a guest column in this monthly newsletter. Columns should provide general information beneficial to a wide range of business professionals, and be commercial-free and not promotional in nature. They might focus on best practices and ideally would be a timely topic addressing current business environment or issues.

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

This newsletter is distributed 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



Corporate Sponsors

[Affinis Corp](#)

[CommunityAmerica
Credit Union](#)

[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](#)

[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.

Meet Tony Rupp, our 2022 Chairman

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

"I'm honored to serve an organization that has, as its core purpose, making Overland Park prosper," said Tony Rupp, the 2022 chair of the Overland Park Chamber Board. "It is a privilege to work with such a great group of leaders who care about this community."

Tony's parents proudly displayed a chamber of commerce decal at their retail store on Main Street in Hays. The decal symbolized care for their community. Similarly, Tony proudly wears his Overland Park Chamber of Commerce lapel pin for the same reason. Tony and his wife, Mary Jane, moved to Overland Park when he graduated from law school in 1983 and he has practiced law in Overland Park since 1985. He participated in Leadership Overland Park in 1997. Tony has chaired the Chamber's Public Policy and Advocacy committee and served on the Chamber Board of Directors, as well as the executive committees of the Chamber Board and the Economic Development Council. He is proud that

the Chamber serves as the "bold voice for business" as Overland Park prepares to meet the challenges of a maturing community in the modern era – work-force, housing, education, health and well-being, and transportation.

[Foulston Siefkin LLP](#)

is the largest Kansas-based law firm, with offices here and in Topeka and Wichita. Tony serves as partner-in-charge of the firm's local office which has grown to 21 attorneys and 10 staff members. His clients include large and small businesses, colleges, universities and municipalities. He sees continued growth ahead. "The continued growth of Overland Park and Johnson County fuels an optimistic outlook for local businesses, including our own firm," he said.

The Rupps are parents of two grown children. They celebrated 40 years of marriage in 2021.



Tony Rupp



Members networking at our November Wednesday Wake-up event at the Chamber office.

