

## Today is deadline to register! Annual Meeting to feature Joel Goldberg



For this year's Chamber Annual Meeting on December 7, we are pleased to have Kansas City Royals' Joel Goldberg as our keynote speaker. Joel isn't just about baseball – he'll deliver can't-miss tips to ramp up your company culture, teamwork and employee engagement. To register, [click here](#).

To watch a short preview message from Joel, [click here](#).



**Click here  
to watch!**

## Chamber endorses Blue Valley 2023 bond

The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has endorsed the [Blue Valley School District's](#) 2023 Bond proposal, a \$251,250,000 bond referendum that school district residents will vote on in a mail-in ballot election in January 2023.

The bond is focused on improving three areas – facilities, safety and technology – and will not increase the local tax rate. The district has a strong history of refinancing debt and pre-paying debt to save tax-

payers money. In September, the Board of Education approved a decrease in the overall mill rate, saving taxpayers money. And, in October, the Board of Education paid off \$10.8 million of debt early, saving taxpayers \$1 million in interest.

"Recognizing that companies select communities where there is significant investment in educational excellence, the Overland Park Chamber has made

*(continued on page 3)*

## Chamber Board

### Board Officers:

Tony Rupp, 2022 Chairman  
Foulston Siefkin LLP

Joan Wells, Chair-Elect  
Augeo

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:

Josh Bitterman, Goldfish Swim School

Ken Bowman, Shamrock Trading Corporation

Patrice Brown, Yellow

Sterling Cramer, Lambie Custom Homes Inc.

Dr. Nadine Franz, APEX Career Services

David Freisner, Fortune Financial Advisors

John Fuller, DLR Group

Tracy Garry, Empower Retirement

Hyleme George, Black & Veatch

Matt Gunter, SelectQuote

Dr. Michelle Hubbard, Shawnee Mission  
School District

Courtney Kounkel, Monarch Build LLC

Will Mann, Zurich North America

Neelima Parasker, SnapIT Solutions, LLC

Melody Rayl, Fisher Phillips LLP

India Boulton, 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

Jim Holland, Fisher Phillips LLP

Lori Curtis Luther, City of 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

Alex Cook, Executive Assistant

David Dyer, Membership Director

Corey Cohn, Economic Development Project  
Coordinator

Frank Ebling, CFO

Katelyn Gravley, Member Services Coordinator

Tim Holverson, IOM, Director, Workforce &  
Business Growth

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

Riley O'Dell, Director of Events & Member  
Services

Kevin Walker, IOM, Senior Vice President of  
Public Policy

Tony Rupp  
Partner in Charge, [Foulston Siefkin LLP](#)  
Chamber 2022 Chairman



## The Year in Review

### MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

**One moment I have brown hair and I'm in the Young Lawyers' section of the Bar Association. The next I have gray hair and I'm in the Senior Lawyers' section. Time passes, nothing remains as is, and planning is critical.**

To my observation, future planning has been a distinguishing characteristic of this community and this Chamber throughout, and this planning continues today. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the 2022 Chairman of the Board. We have a forward-looking board and staff. I'm encouraged by the planning I see in this community and among the Chamber's board and staff. This bodes well for a collective vision that we will continue to prosper even as the City and its infrastructure age and evolve.

The City has welcomed a new mayor and a new city manager and has kicked off "FrameworkOP," its comprehensive planning process to help define the City's future. The existing comprehensive plan was written more than 40 years ago when the city was young. Since then, the city has grown

its population, expanded its boundaries, become a commercial center and become much more diverse. Most current Overland Park residents weren't part of the planning process in the 1980s. There is still time for residents to have their input into FrameworkOP to have a say in the future and to ensure that the plan aligns with the goals of the community. The Chamber is actively playing its part and we hope for extensive community input.

The Chamber also is proud to have launched "Opportunity Now" in response to the most significant challenge faced by Chamber members – the need for workforce. Opportunity Now is a five-year community and economic development initiative to support talent, jobs, the economy and a pro-business environment. I'm pleased to recognize that the business community has enthusiastically stepped up to invest in this project because our business leaders recognize that now is no time for complacency.

Additionally, this year the Chamber has again actively supported positive economic development projects. We've engaged in

*(continued on page 4)*

# Upcoming events

## 2022 Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, December 7** – 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
**Overland Park Convention Center**, 6000 College Boulevard

Join us for our biggest event of the year as we reflect on the achievements of 2022 and look forward to a big year ahead. Our keynote speaker is Joel Goldberg, long-time local sports announcer who will share experiences and strategies highlighting values such as authenticity, work ethic, people, purpose and positivity to help leaders build a stronger culture with higher morale and better teamwork

To register, [click here](#).



### PRESENTING SPONSOR



### SILVER SPONSOR



### PRINT SPONSOR



### VIBE / DJ PARTNER



## Wednesday Wake-up

**Wednesday, December 14** – 8:00-9:00 a.m.  
**Aspiria NOW**, 6550 Sprint Parkway, Suite 200

At this monthly networking event, make connections, develop lasting business relationships and create new opportunities. This event is an opportunity to see the NextGen office workspaces now available on one of the nation's most technologically advanced office campuses. Aspiria NOW is a unique opportunity to bring your small business to a space with the advantages that larger national companies already have.

To register, [click here](#).



### SERIES SPONSOR



## Young Professionals Holiday Mix & Mingle

**Thursday, December 1** – 4:30-6:30 p.m.

**Bury the Hatchet**, 7105 West 105th Street

Socialize with other young professionals, try your hand at axe throwing and enjoy food courtesy of **Torchy's Tacos**.

To register, [click here](#).



## Ribbon cuttings & groundbreakings

**December 1** – **BRKTHROUGH**, 6403 West 135th Street – 3:00 p.m. – experience up to 40 challenge rooms at this immersive social gaming experience.

**December 7** – Groundbreaking for **Bluhawk Sports Park**, 7951 West 160th Street – 10:00 a.m.



### President's Message continued . . .

pro-business public policy at the federal, state and local levels. We've promoted democracy by hosting forums for political candidates. In conjunction with other Johnson County chambers, we've hosted [www.VoteJoco.com](http://www.VoteJoco.com), an outstanding resource to educate voters to make informed decisions in Johnson County elections.

We've also provided hundreds of opportunities to our members through Leadership Overland Park, executive leadership programs, fireside chats, ribbon cuttings, young professionals' outings, Wednesday Wake-ups and After Hours events, among others.

Thank you to the Chamber for the opportunity to serve you as chairman. I soon will pass the gavel to Joan Wells, an innovative entrepreneur with a love for this community and this Chamber. The Chamber is in great hands.

Let's make Overland Park prosper!

### Blue Valley bond continued . . .

support of schools a guiding philosophy since its beginning," said Tracey Osborne Oltjen, president and CEO of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. "The Chamber Board unanimously endorsed Bond 2023 to invest in the future of our next generation by making needed improvements in facilities, safety and technology."

All registered voters in the school district will receive a ballot in their mailbox in early January. January 1 is the last day for voter registration to automatically receive a mail-in ballot. Ballots must be received at the Johnson County Election Office by noon on January 31.

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



# Welcome to the Chamber!

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS

### ACCESS KC

Tyler Grieve, CEO  
5915 West 94th Street  
Overland Park KS 66207-2402  
(913) 787-4120  
tyler.grieve@compass.com  
*Real Estate - Residential*

### Anytime Fitness – Opening Soon!

Chris Youngdale, Owner  
8809 West 95th Street  
Overland Park KS 66212  
(913) 871-7461  
OverlandParkKS3@anytimefitness.com  
[www.anytimefitness.com](http://www.anytimefitness.com)  
*Fitness, Health & Wellness*

### BerganKDV

Monica Scott, Executive Administrator  
10401 Holmes Road, Suite 400  
Kansas City MO 64131  
(816) 525-9699  
[www.bergankdv.com](http://www.bergankdv.com)  
*Wealth Management, Accountants*

### Best Roofing Kansas City

Francisco Fuentes, General Manager  
12022 Blue Valley Parkway, Suite 528  
Overland Park KS 66213  
(913) 318-8097  
info@bestroofingkc.com  
[www.bestroofingkc.com](http://www.bestroofingkc.com)  
*Roofing*

### BRKTHROUGH

Caroline Irving, Co-Owner  
6403 West 135th Street, Suite E4  
Overland Park KS 66223  
(913) 948-5800  
info@brkthrough.com  
[www.brkthrough.com](http://www.brkthrough.com)  
*Entertainment, Recreation Centers*

### Challenge Island Johnson County

Kate Mahoney, Owner  
Johnson County KS  
(913) 303-0320  
kmahoney@challenge-island.com  
[www.challenge-island.com/southjoco](http://www.challenge-island.com/southjoco)  
*Educational Services, Youth Organizations and Centers*

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

### Compass Minerals

Rick Axthelm, Chief Public Affairs and  
Sustainability Officer  
9900 West 109th Street, Suite 100  
Overland Park KS 66210  
(913) 344-9100  
[www.compassminerals.com](http://www.compassminerals.com)  
*Minerals*

### Eat the Frog Fitness Overland Park

Vicky Sparks, Owner  
9296 Metcalf Avenue  
Overland Park KS 66212  
(913) 583-0716  
overlandpark@etffitness.com  
[www.eatthefrogfitness.ubpages.com/  
overland-park](http://www.eatthefrogfitness.ubpages.com/overland-park)  
*Fitness, Health & Wellness*

### Fundalogic Robotics

Bonnie Walker, President / Roboticist  
7883 West 157th Terrace  
Overland Park KS 66223  
(913) 226-7677  
bonnie@fundalogic.com  
[www.fundalogic.com](http://www.fundalogic.com)  
*Technology*

### GFI Digital, Inc.

Jesse Bray  
1212 Cambridge Circle  
Kansas City KS 66103  
(913) 766-7414  
jbray@gfidigital.com  
[www.gfidigital.com](http://www.gfidigital.com)  
*Copiers & Supplies, Technology*

### Homewood Suites

Lotus Hospitality Management  
10556 Marty Street  
Overland Park KS 66212-2551  
(913) 341-5576  
info@lotusgroupinc.com  
[www.homewood-suites.com](http://www.homewood-suites.com)  
*Hotels*  
*Referred by Peter Naik, [Quality Inn](#)*

### Masters of Oil

Delanio Florez, CEO/Owner  
8101 College Boulevard, Suite 1  
Overland Park KS 66210  
(913) 333-2135  
dflorez@mastersofoil.com  
[www.mastersofoil.com](http://www.mastersofoil.com)  
*Auto Repair & Service*

### Silver Lake Bank

John Geiger, Market President  
7206 College Boulevard  
Overland Park KS 66210  
(785) 914-4002  
JJGeiger@silverlake  
[www.silverlakebank.com](http://www.silverlakebank.com)  
*Banks, Loans*

### The Golden Scoop

Amber Schreiber, Co-Founder  
9540 Nall Avenue  
Overland Park KS 66207  
(913) 283-8044  
info@thegoldenscoop.org  
[www.thegoldenscoop.org](http://www.thegoldenscoop.org)  
*Ice Cream & Frozen Desserts, Retail*

### TrueFix Physical Therapy

Eric Vargas, Co-Owner, Physical  
Therapist  
10561 Barkley Street, Suite 104  
Overland Park KS 66212  
(913) 391-7288  
eric@truefixpt.com  
[www.truefixphysicaltherapy.com](http://www.truefixphysicaltherapy.com)  
*Health & Wellness, Physical Therapists*

**Do you know a business  
that should be a Chamber  
member?**

**Refer a member prospect  
to David Dyer, Membership  
Director, at [ddyer@  
opchamber.org](mailto:ddyer@opchamber.org) and receive  
a credit when the company  
becomes a Chamber  
member.**

## 2023 sponsorships available

The Chamber has numerous opportunities for your company to co-brand with the Chamber in 2023.

Major event and program sponsorships are available. For details, [click here](#), or contact Riley at [rodell@opchamber.org](mailto:rodell@opchamber.org) or (913) 766-7603.

Welcome business professionals into your business as the host of a Chamber networking event in 2023. We have opportunities for your company to host a **Wednesday Wake-up** at your business. For more information, contact Katelyn at [kgravley@opchamber.org](mailto:kgravley@opchamber.org) or (913) 491-3600.

## Thanks for reinvesting!

### NOVEMBER MEMBER RENEWALS

#### 50+ Years

Payne & Jones, Chartered

#### 40-49 Years

Yellow

#### 10-19 Years

Buffalo State Pizza Co.  
Talk of the Town Grill & Bar-Leawood

#### 5-9 Years

Bambou Salons & Spas Downtown Overland Park  
Farmers Insurance - The Wertzberger Agency  
Honeywell FM&T  
Hunt Midwest  
OneDigital | Retirement and Wealth  
Red Door Woodfired Grill  
Rotary Club of Overland Park  
TITLE Boxing Club 119th  
Tower Properties

#### 1-4 Years

Bambou Salons & Spas-Antioch & College  
Canterbury Academy at Small Beginnings  
Geosyntec Consultants  
Fiorella's  
Likens & Haines, P.A.  
Maxwell Psychological Services, L.L.C.  
The Tailored Closet & Premier Garage  
Zillow

## Four join Chamber board

The Chamber Board of Directors gained four new members with the addition of three business leaders filling vacant positions and City Manager Lori Curtis Luther joining the Board.

**India Boulton** is Senior Vice President, Legal Affairs at [T-Mobile](#) where she provides legal counsel to senior executive management and others on customer facing matters. Prior to her current role, India spent more than 16 years at Sprint, where she rose from counsel to Vice-President-Law/Marketing Practices. She received her Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Kansas prior to attending Washburn University School of Law where she received her Juris Doctor Degree in 1999. India has been actively involved in many legal and community organizations. She served as the first president for the Kansas Bar Association Corporate Counsel Section from 2005-2007. She currently serves on the board of the Greater Kansas City Urban League.



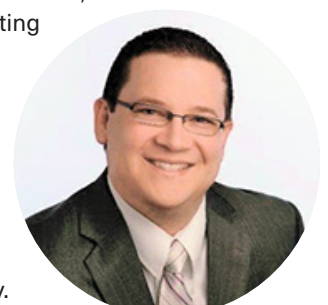
India Boulton

**Hyleme George** leads the Solutions & Innovation team in [Black & Veatch's](#) Strategic Growth organization with a focus on development of new solutions and enhancing and scaling core solutions to enable growth and meet the changing needs of clients. The team also drives merger, acquisition, divestiture, and partnering activities in support of the company's active portfolio management strategy. Prior to Black & Veatch, Hyleme held leadership positions in financial services, industrial equipment and management consulting industries. He holds a Bachelor in Business Administration from the University of Kansas. He graduated from Leadership Overland Park in 2018.



Hyleme George

**Will Mann** is Underwriting Manager at [Zurich North America](#). He has 15 years of insurance industry experience. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Kansas State University. He graduated from Leadership Overland Park in 2022.



Will Mann

**Lori Curtis Luther** became [Overland Park's](#) sixth city manager earlier this year. After serving in government administration roles elsewhere, she returned to Overland Park where she had been assistant city manager from 2001 to 2005. Her city and county administration work has focused on budgeting and financial management, modern organizational leadership, strategic planning, and economic development to support neighborhood revitalization and redevelopment. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Kansas, a Bachelor of Arts degree from Baker University.



Lori Curtis Luther



# Black & Veatch contributes to social and economic well-being of our region

## CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

For more than a century, [Black & Veatch](#) has delivered the world's most critical infrastructure solutions, ensuring reliable and sustainable power, telecommunications, water and so much more. In the Kansas City region, Black & Veatch's employee-owners continue delivering for those in need.

True to its credo of "Building a World of Difference," Black & Veatch recently announced its commitment to three organizations combatting human trafficking – the scourge that Black & Veatch Chairman and CEO Mario Azar calls "modern-day slavery."

To Azar, the investment in Kansas City, Ks.-based Veronica's Voice, Center for Combating Human Trafficking of Wichita, Ks., and the International Justice Mission in Washington, D.C., recognizes "the great work they do in combating this hideous crime and fundamental human rights issue."

Elsewhere, the company's collaboration with Operation Breakthrough – an advocacy and education nonprofit for vulnerable Kansas City children and their families – includes a

renewable energy lab named after Steve Edwards, retired Black & Veatch chairman and CEO.

That lab – with half of its power derived from renewable energy from rooftop solar panels and stored in batteries – plays a vital role in teaching students about generating, storing and deploying renewable energy.

Looking to expedite the pipeline of tomorrow's problem-solvers in power transmission, the Black & Veatch Foundation is underwriting targeted scholarships to engineering students at [Johnson County Community College](#) and Metropolitan Community College in Kansas City, Mo., as well as at Pittsburg State University and the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg.

After its latest charity golf tournament, Black & Veatch in September donated funds to [Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas City](#), bringing contributions to the hospital to more than \$4.8 million.

Black & Veatch and its employee-owners also touch the lives of many other community efforts and contribute to the economic well-being of the region.



Longtime community leader Greg Musil, [Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C.](#), was featured at last month's Executive Leadership Series breakfast program sponsored by [FNBO](#).



City Council President Paul Lyons joined the Chamber to help Brad Vaden and Drew Vaden, Franchisees, and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Tacos 4 Life](#), 12180 Blue Valley Parkway.

When you buy a taco, bowl, salad, quesadilla, or nachos you provide a meal to a child in need.

For more info: (913) 731-0422 or [click here](#).



City Council President Paul Lyons joined the Chamber to help Dr. Sam Taylon, Neurosurgeon; Matt Sogard, CEO; and other representatives with [Overland Park Regional Medical Center](#), Midwest Neuroscience Institute and Neuroscience Associates of Kansas City celebrate a ribbon cutting for a new neurosurgery clinic space at the hospital. This new space provides expanded, leading-edge neuroscience and neurosurgery services.

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







Lettiann Southerland, [Lettiann & Associates Real Estate Services, LLC](#), the sponsor of our Member Orientation Series, addressed attendees at our recent orientation for new Chamber members.

## Driving Economic Success

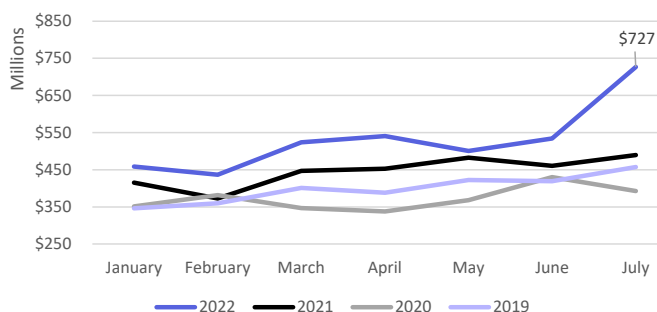
### Unemployment

	Oct. 2022	Sept. 2022	Oct. 2021
<b>Overland Park</b>	2.2%	2.5%	2.6%
<b>Johnson County</b>	2.4%	2.1%	2.6%
<b>Kansas City Metro MSA</b>	2.6%	3.9%	3.0%
<b>State of Kansas</b>	2.7%	2.5%	3.3%

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



### Overland Park Retail Sales Comparisons 2019–2022



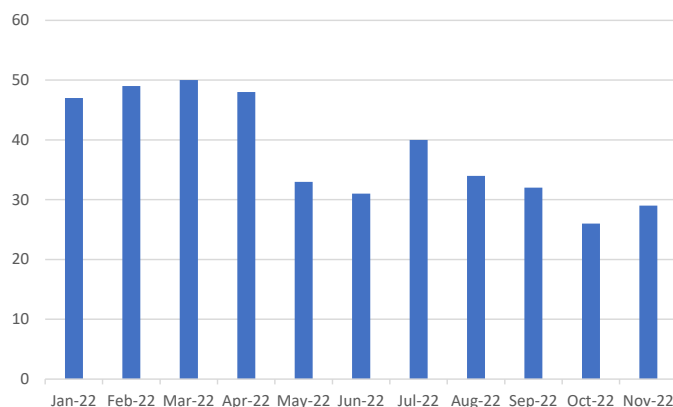
July 2022 marks a three-year high in monthly retail sales. With over 726 million dollars spent on retail in Overland Park, this indicates a 48.5% increase in retail sales from last year's monthly total (July 2021). To date there has been a 19.3% increase in yearly total retail sales.

Source: Johnson County Economic Indicators, County Research Institute (CERI).



Members enjoyed connecting over coffee and danishes at last month's Wednesday Wake-up hosted by [AdventHealth South Overland Park](#), 7820 West 165th Street, and sponsored by [Fortune Financial Advisors](#).

### Overland Park Commercial Permits



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](mailto:opcc@opchamber.org) | [www.opchamber.org](http://www.opchamber.org)

## Corporate Partners



## Corporate Sponsors

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Credit Union](#)

[Empower Retirement](#)

[Evergy](#)

[FNBO](#)

[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,  
contact Tracey Osborne Oltjen  
at (913) 491-3600 or  
[tosborne@opchamber.org](mailto:tosborne@opchamber.org).

## Recent Events

### MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS



Chamber members enjoyed networking, delicious food and drinks at last month's OP After Hours hosted by [Edison District](#) in [Strang Hall](#) in Downtown Overland Park.



Overland Park Young Professionals heard from a panel of executives at a CEO Unplugged program last month. Facilitated by Josh Beck, [MarksNelson LLC](#); the panel discussion featured Dr. Nadine Franz, [APEX Career Services](#); Bill Ferguson, [Central Bank of the Midwest](#); and Neelima Parasker, [SnapIT Solutions](#).

