

Seeking your input!

We are asking small business owners (companies with fewer than 100 employees) to complete our Small Business Survey. Please take three minutes to complete our small business survey – your insights will help us better understand challenges faced by Chamber member businesses and entrepreneurs, guiding the initiatives of the Chamber's newly established Small Business Council.

Responses are due by March 5!

As a token of appreciation for your participation, you will be entered to win one of three \$50 gift cards to member businesses.

To complete the survey, [click here](#).

SMALL BUSINESS SURVEY



EDC recognizes economic contributions

At the annual EDC Honors Lunch, the Chamber Economic Development Council (EDC) recognized 11 organizations for their contributions to the Overland Park economy.

Mayor Curt Skoog and Dr. Alan Verrill, [Advent-Health](#), joined the Chamber in presenting these awards:

Ben Craig Vision Award

- The Sunderland Foundation

NOVA Award

- Flight Schedule Pro
- Incisive Consultants
- [Playfair Data](#)

Commercial Development Award

- [Fusion Bank](#)
- [Johnson County Community College](#)
- Kompass Kapital Management
- [The Arts and Recreation Foundation of Overland Park](#) for the LongHouse Visitor Center at the Arboretum
- [UMB](#) Downtown Overland Park

Business Hall of Honor

- [EPC Real Estate Group](#)
- [The University of Kansas Health System](#)



On behalf of **The Sunderland Foundation**, Randy Vance, President & COO, accepted the Ben Craig Vision Award from Mayor Curt Skoog and Libbey Tucker, Chamber Senior Vice President of Economic Development.

See page 7 for photos of other award recipients.

Chamber Board

Board Officers:

Cindy Rock, Chair
C2FO

Josh Beck, Chair-Elect
MarksNelson LLC

Matt Sogard, 1st Vice Chair
Overland Park Regional Medical Center

Kim Winslow, 2nd Vice Chair
Evergy

Matt Sheets, Secretary
FNBO

Chris Wally, Treasurer
Wally & Co.

Joan Wells, Past Chair
Augeo

Board Members:

Rick Axthelm, Compass Minerals

Josh Bitterman, Goldfish Swim School

India Boulton, T-Mobile

Sterling Cramer, OWN

Tom Davies, Security Bank of Kansas City

David Freisner, Fortune Financial Advisors

Tracy Garry, Empower

Hyleme George, Black & Veatch

Scott Kautzi, Fiorella's

Pat Kellerman, Shamrock Trading Corporation

Courtney Kounkel, Monarch Build, LLC

Kristen Leathers-Gratton, Affinis Corp

Will Mann, Zurich North America

Ryan Matthews, Kansas City National Security
Campus

Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Blue Valley School District

Rich Muller, VanTrust Real Estate

Neelima Parasker, SnapIT Solutions, LLC

Ben Prell, MTC Holding Corporation

Dr. Alan Verrill, AdventHealth

Christian Weld-Brown, MBB

Jason Wright, JE Dunn Construction Company

Ex-Officio Board:

Jim Holland, Fisher Phillips LLP

Dr. Judy Korb, Johnson County Community College

Lori Curtis Luther, City of Overland Park

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, Chamber

Mayor Curt Skoog, City of Overland Park

Chamber staff

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, President & CEO

Courtney Cavlovic, Workforce Development Coordinator

Alex Cook, Director of Events & Member Services

David Dyer, Membership Director

Paula Fields, Director of Finance & Administration

Tim Holverson, IOM, Vice President, Economic
Development & Entrepreneurship

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

Hannah Melton, Member Services Coordinator

Libbey Tucker, CECD, Senior Vice President of Economic
Development

Tanya Rife, Executive Assistant

Natalie Vesta, Economic Development Project
Coordinator

Kevin Walker, IOM, Executive Vice President & Chief
Policy Officer

Andrew Weisberg, Director of Talent

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



Vision Metcalf becomes a reality

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe it's been 16 years since our community imagined and created a new strategy for our original commercial corridor.

When the Overland Park City Council adopted the Vision Metcalf Plan in 2008, its goal was to address the growing decline in retail centers along Metcalf – a key transportation spine for our community. The plan provided a framework by focusing on redevelopment nodes that would attract private investment and enhance connectivity, density, and commercial opportunities throughout the corridor.

Fast forward to today. The Metcalf corridor's skyline is dramatically different from 15 years ago. South of 435 & Metcalf you see [Equity Bank](#) and [AdventHealth](#), with new apartments nearby augmenting the community's corporate hub. To the north, there's the new Staybridge and shimmering [Shamrock](#) towers. [Promontory. Avenues 80, 81](#) and [82](#) and a modern [UMB Bank. The Vue. InterUrban Lofts. Strang Hall](#) and many more.

At a recent [Downtown Overland Park Partnership](#) gathering at the Matt Ross

Community Center, Mayor Curt Skoog reminded the crowd of what the area was like before Vision Metcalf. Many people outside Overland Park weren't even aware we had a downtown. Now? He reports that he receives many enthusiastic comments about Downtown, the Farmers' Market, and the exciting things happening in our original commercial district. For me, the renovated Thompson Park is the cherry on top of the latest additions. Even when I don't have time to stop, I purposely drive by to see what's happening and the many people enjoying this gorgeous community gathering space.

Have you taken a really good look around Downtown lately? Public-private partnerships between the City of Overland Park and the development community have enhanced our Downtown as a living and working environment, encouraging additional retail investment throughout the district. With the increased density of people in the area because of work during the day and coming home evenings and weekends, foot traffic for retail and service businesses has grown exponentially. (And more than 1,000 parking spaces have been added!)

(continued on the next page)

Upcoming events

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, March 13

Strange Reserve, 8020 Marty Street

Make connections, develop lasting business relationships and create new opportunities, all while enjoying coffee and breakfast items and seeing the beautiful event space available at Strang Reserve in Downtown Overland Park. From weddings, corporate events, bridal/baby showers, chef dining experiences, philanthropic events and every celebration in between, Strang Reserve is an elegant space fit for any occasion.

Free for Chamber members, but please [register here](#).



SERIES SPONSOR



1 Million Cups

Wednesday, March 27 – 8:45-10:15

a.m. at the Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street

Join fellow entrepreneurs for Collisions, Connections and Collaborations – an opportunity to connect with an active and engaged community for conversations and viewing of the live 1 Million Cups pitch presentations.

Free to attend, but please [register here](#).



Ribbon cutting celebrations

Celebrate our members this month!

March 5 – [KC Spine and Sport](#), 8663 West 135th Street – 9:00 a.m.

March 7 – [Ellie Mental Health Stilwell-South Overland Park](#), 7500 West 160th Street, Suite 100 – 4:00 p.m.

State of the County Address & Luncheon

Tuesday, April 9 – 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Boulevard

Join hundreds of other business professionals from around Johnson County at a lunch to hear Johnson County Chairman Mike Kelly deliver his annual State of the County Address.

\$50 per person

\$550 for a Corporate Table of 10

To register, [click here](#).



President's Message continued . . .

Did you know there are more than 300 businesses in the area? Most are locally owned and operated, providing unique shopping and service experiences, a local focus, a fun vibe and strong sense of community. Sixteen new businesses opened in 2023 and 11 more are already slated this year!

So, wander through Downtown Overland Park on a third Friday to peruse local art; check out the spring produce on a Saturday (just one more month until the Farmers' Market opens!); expand your palate at one of the great local restaurants, or stroll through the park. Every day is a good day to hunt for a new treasure or everyday necessity from one of our local businesses.

What a difference a few years – a plan – and great partnerships make. Congratulations to all the investors along the corridor who've improved our community for generations. Thank you!

Provide your input on workforce issues!

The Chamber is hosting events this month with the opportunity to provide your input on workforce issues affecting your business.

On **March 5-7**, the Chamber is hosting a series of industry-specific focus groups centered on Overland Park's workforce strategy. These focus groups are part of the Chamber's Comprehensive Workforce Study that will be completed in August.

Focus groups are scheduled for these industries:

- Architecture/Engineering/Design
- Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & Hospitality
- Healthcare
- IT/Technology
- Non-Profit
- Professional Services (HR, Finance, Insurance, Marketing, etc.)
- Skilled Trades
- Small Business
- Training Providers

If your business has not registered to take part in this important piece of the study, please contact Andrew at aweisberg@opchamber.org for more information and focus group times.

Sponsorships available!

2024 Golf Tournament August 12, 2024

We have many opportunities to promote your company to the business professionals participating in the Chamber's popular annual Golf Tournament.

For details, contact Alex at (913) 766-7603 or acook@opchamber.org.

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Bach to Rock Leawood

David Hill, Owner
3630 West 135th Street
Leawood KS 66224
(913) 600-7824
leawood@bachtorock.com
www.bachtorock.com/leawood
Educational Services, Music Instruction

Body Fit Training

RC Hahn, General Manager
6285 West 135th Street
Overland Park KS 66223
(913) 391-7110
overlandparkgm@bodyfittraining.com
www.bodyfittraining.com
Health & Wellness, Fitness

Cenetric Network Services

Noah Fugate, Solutions
Engineer/Client Success
Manager
401 South Clairborne Road,
Suite 200
Olathe KS 66062
(913) 210-1950
Noah@Cenetric.com
www.cenetric.com
Computer Networking, Computer Software & Services

Farmers Insurance Group Federal Credit Union

Darren Jones, Lead Counselor
10551 South Ridgeview Road
Olathe KS 66061
(800) 877-2345
TeamOlathe@figfcu.org
www.figfcu.org
Credit Unions

Floor & Decor

Kevin Nolden
7601 East Frontage Road
Overland Park KS 66204
(913) 218-2276
www.flooranddecor.com
Floor Covering, Home Improvements

FUEL

Robert Glenski, Co-Founder
4812 West 149th Street
Leawood KS 66224
(913) 461-8154
robertglenski@fueltolead.com
www.fueltolead.com
Business Consultants

JP Contracting

Jorge Perez-Rivera, Owner
P.O. Box 26583
Overland Park KS 66225
(970) 515-8623
info@jpcontractingkc.com
www.jpcontractingkc.com
Remodeling & Repairing-Building Contractors, Maintenance Contractors

JRobinett Solutions

Jodi Robinett, President/CEO
14965 South Glen Eyrie Street
Olathe KS 66061
(913) 213-1181
jodi@jrobinettsolutions.com
www.jrobinettsolutions.com
Cloud Computing, Computer Software & Services

New Horizon Academy

Erin Rohne, Marketing
Manager
11920 Quivira Road
Overland Park KS 66213
(913) 254-3643
5003@nhacademy.net
www.newhorizonacademy.net
Child Care, Schools-Preschool & Kindergarten

Overland Park Hawaii Fluid Art

Teresa Narayan, Owner
7241 West 80th Street
Overland Park KS 66204
(913) 609-7404
teresa@hawaiiifluidart.com
www.hawaiiifluidart.com/overland-park
Entertainment, Event Services

Propio Language Services

Joe Samoszenko, CRO
10801 Mastin Street, #580
Overland Park KS 66210
(913) 381-3143
www.propio-ls.com
Translators & Interpreters

Resurrection Catholic School

Gregory Alejos, Director
425 North 15th Street
Kansas City KS 66102
(913) 371-8101
www.rcskck.org
Schools-Private

SEA-Strategy Execution Advisors

Tom Witty, Chief Strategy Adv.
12840 Haskins Street
Overland Park KS 66213
(816) 589-3638
info@strategy-sea.com
www.strategy-sea.com
Business Consultants

UrgentVet

Luisa Garcia, Marketing Mgr.
13713 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park KS 66223
(913) 348-7070
www.urgentvet.com
Veterinary Clinics & Hospitals

**Please support these businesses
investing in our community!**

Thanks for reinvesting!

MEMBER RENEWALS

50+ Years

Mize CPAs Inc.

40-49 Years

Embassy Suites Hotel
FNBO
Johnson County Community
College

20-39 Years

Agenda: USA
Commerce Bank
Hepler & Associates
Hilton Garden Inn Overland Park

Hyatt Place Kansas City/
Overland Park/Convention
Center
Johnson County Funeral Chapel
& Memorial Gardens
Rosati's Pizza
The Builders

10-19 Years

Academy Bank
Equity Bank
Leawood Family Dental, LLC
MidAmerica Rehabilitation
Hospital
PGAV Architects, Inc.
Quality Inn
Rodrock Homes, LLC

Stallard Technologies, Inc.
The Club at Indian Creek
The Sovereign at Overland Park

5-9 Years

Apartment Association of
Kansas City
Bambou Salons & Spas
Downtown Overland Park
Bambou Salons & Spas-Antioch
Edward Jones - Jim Easley
Metcalf 108
Oades Brothers Tire & Auto
Red Door Woodfired Grill
Riordan Clinic
Team Construction
Tower Properties Company

1-4 Years

Big O Tires
BRKTHROUGH
Club 27 Restaurant
Cross Law Firm, LLC
Cypress Realty LLC
Fastsigns Blue Valley
First State Bank of St. Charles
Life 88.5
Rhycom Advertising
Silver Lake Bank
TFI Family Services
Urban Air Adventure Park



Sponsorship Opportunities

GAIN VISIBILITY IN FRONT OF BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS AS AN EVENT SPONSOR!

Boost your brand and get in front of hundreds of business leaders as the presenting sponsor of one of our signature events in 2024.

Presenting sponsorships are available for these signature events:

- **Leadership Overland Park Graduation** – June 12
- **Chamber Golf Tournament** – August 12
- **Good Morning, Overland Park! breakfast** – October 11

For details, contact Alex Cook at acook@opchamber.org or (913) 766-7603.

Recent Events

MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS

Our members enjoyed networking at last month's Wednesday Wake-up hosted by **Delmar Gardens of Overland Park**.

Thank you to our 2024 Wednesday Wake-up Presenting Sponsor:



Spencer Fane assists clients in wide range of legal issues

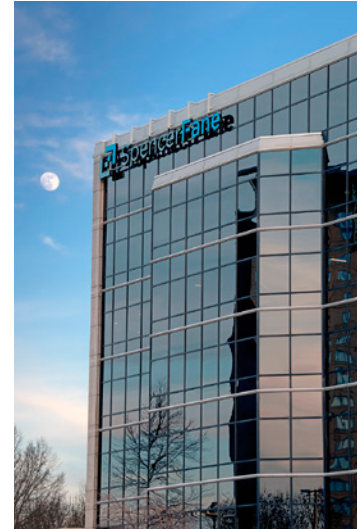
CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Spencer Fane is a full-service business law firm focused on providing results that move clients and their businesses forward.

With direct access to firm leadership and a different approach to client engagement, its attorneys instill confidence and certainty that the clients' interests are the firm's priority.

As a firm that offers services from 23 offices across the nation, Spencer Fane has caught the attention of *The American Lawyer*, which recently recognized its strategic growth into new markets that align with its clients' geographic and business needs. The firm's continued growth has reinforced its commitment to making a full range of legal services available to local and national clients in the markets where they do business.

With a team of more than 40 attorneys and other business professionals in Overland Park, the Spencer Fane team is equipped to assist clients on a wide range of legal issues including trial and appellate work in state, federal, and bankruptcy courts, matters involving governmental affairs, labor and employment, employee benefits, business



transactions, data privacy, banking and financial services, economic development incentives, real estate, tax and estate planning, health care, and environmental litigation, enforcement and compliance.

The firm has offices in Phoenix, Ariz.; San Jose (Silicon Valley) and Santa Monica (Los Angeles), Calif.; Denver, Colo.; Tampa, Fla.; Overland Park, Kan.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Cape Girardeau, Jefferson City, Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield, Mo.; Omaha, Neb.; Las Vegas, Nev.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Greenville, S.C.; Dakota Dunes, S.D.; Hendersonville and Nashville, Tenn.; and Austin, Dallas, Houston and Plano, Tex.

For more information, visit spencerfane.com or follow @spencerfane.

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

opcc@opchamber.org | www.opchamber.org

Recent Events

MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS

Our members enjoyed networking at last month's OP After Hours hosted by the [Arts & Recreation Foundation of Overland Park](#) at the stunning LongHouse Visitor Center.



Thank you to our
2024 OP After Hours
Presenting Sponsor:

EVERFAST
FIBER NETWORKS



LOP class learns about health care and development

In recent sessions, our Leadership Overland Park (LOP) received behind-the-scenes looks at health care, social issues and economic development in Overland Park.

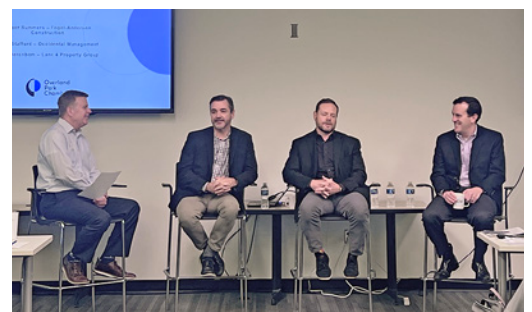
The class heard from nearly a dozen providers of health and social services and had a hospital tour.

Chamber and City staff provided overviews of economic development processes, a panel of industry professionals discussed real estate issues, panelists talked about continuing education and workforce development, and the day wrapped up with a presentation on resources for entrepreneurs.

Thank you to these Lunch Sponsors:

- [Chick-fil-A 135th & U.S. 69 Highway](#)
- [Torchy's Tacos](#)

Thank you to our 2024
Presenting Sponsor:



Congratulations to our 2024 EDC Honors Award recipients!

The Chamber EDC recently presented these annual EDC Honors awards:

- **Commercial Development Award** recognizing significant investment and reinvestment in the Overland Park economy
- **Business Hall of Honor** recognizing long-standing significant investments
- **Ben Craig Vision Award** recognizing those who have exemplified the work and dedication to our community of banker and longtime leader Ben Craig
- **NOVA Award** recognizing fast-growing companies



Toby Cook, [The University of Kansas Health System](#), served as the event emcee.

Business Hall of Honor Awards



[EPC Real Estate Group](#) accepted by Natalie Gordon, Vice President of Asset Management; and Jill Sansone, Asset Manager



[The University of Kansas Health System](#) accepted by Shawn Long, Vice President of Philanthropy and Corporate & Community Outreach.

Commercial Development Awards



[Fusion Bank](#) accepted by Leigh Briggs, Senior Vice President.



[Johnson County Community College](#) accepted by Tom Hall, Associate VP of Campus Services and Facility Planning; and Dr. Mary Wisgirda, Dean of Mathematics and Science.



[Kompass Kapital Management](#) accepted by Alok Srivastava, COO.



[The Arts & Recreation Foundation of Overland Park](#) accepted by Vicki Lilly, Executive Director, and Phil Bressler, Board President.



[UMB Downtown Overland Park](#) accepted by Travis Lavender, Senior Vice President of Properties.

NOVA Awards



[Incisive Consultants](#) accepted by Chris Blackerby, Co-founder & CEO; John Freeman, Co-founder & Managing Director; and Adrian Calderon, Partner & Managing Director.



[Playfair Data](#) accepted by Ryan Sleeper, Founder and Principal.

Not pictured: [Flight Schedule Pro](#)

Corporate Partners



Corporate Sponsors

[Affinis Corp](#)

[Empower](#)

[Evergy](#)

[FNBO](#)

[Foulston Siefkin LLP](#)

[JE Dunn Construction Company](#)

[Johnson County Community College](#)

[Kansas Gas Service](#)

[McCownGordon Construction](#)

[Spencer Fane LLP](#)

[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.



City Councilmember Scott Mosher joined the Chamber to help Julie Jegen, Directory, and her team at [New Horizon Academy](#) open at 11920 Quivira Road.

The teachers and staff at New Horizon Academy Overland Park are thrilled to provide Johnson County families with high-quality childcare and research-based early childhood education that will help their children thrive in kindergarten and beyond.
For more info: (913) 254-3643.



City Councilmember Sam Passer and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen joined Doug Gaston, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; and other representatives of [The University of Kansas Health System](#) celebrate a ribbon cutting for MyHealth at Home, 6357 West 119th Street. MyHealth at Home specializes in home medical equipment.
For more info: (913) 942-6100 or [click here](#).



City Councilmember Richard Borlaza joined the Chamber to help Jerry and Juniper Wettengel and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Gameday Men's Health](#), 8500 West 110th Street. Gameday helps men (and women, too) feel their best in life, be their best at home, and perform their best at work.
For more info: (913) 800-2710 or [click here](#).



City Councilmember Sam Passer joined the Chamber to help Shawn Jackson, General Manager, and his team celebrate completing the renovation of the [Residence Inn by Marriott Kansas City Overland Park](#), 12010 Blue Valley Parkway. Residence Inn offers all-suite lodging with a fully-equipped kitchen, free breakfast and Wifi and an indoor swimming pool.
For more info: (913) 491-4444 or [click here](#).