Business Perspective



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Chamber celebrates Annual Meeting

More than 400 Chamber members came together for the Chamber's 2023 Annual Meeting. Leaders shared achievements of the past year and previewed the year ahead, the Rick Worrel Community Legacy Award was presented and a panel of industry leaders shared perspectives on the future of the workplace.

Presenting Sponsor





Vicki Lilly, executive director of <u>The Arts & Recreation</u>
<u>Foundation of Overland Park</u>, became the 2023 recipient of the Richard A. "Rick" Worrel Community Legacy Award presented by 2023 Chairman Joan Wells, <u>Augeo</u>; and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen.



2024 Chair Cindy Rock, C2FO; presented a plaque of appreciation to 2023 Chairman Joan Wells, Augeo.



Josh Beck, <u>MarksNelson</u>, led a panel discussion on "Our Economy & the Future of Work" featuring Courtney Kounkel, <u>Monarch Build</u>; Matt Masilionis, <u>Perspective Architecture + Design</u>; Martin Ryan, <u>Shamrock Trading Corporation</u>; and Karla Engel, <u>Oak Park Mall</u>.

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

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

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 South Overland Park

Christian Weld-Brown, MBB

Jason Wright, JE Dunn Construction Company

Ex-Officio Board:

Jim Holland, Fisher Phillips LLP 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 Dver, Membership Director

Paula Fields, Director of Finance & Administration

Tim Holverson, IOM, Director, Workforce & Business Growth

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

Hannah Melton, Member Services Coordinator

Libbey Tucker, CEcD, Senior Vice President of Econmoic Development

Tanva Rife. Executive Assistant

Natalie Vesta, Economic Development Project Coordinator

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

Andrew Weisberg, Director of Talent

Cindy Rock 2024 Chair of the Board C2FO



Looking to the year ahead

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I am honored to serve as Chairman of the Chamber Board for 2024.

I have lived and worked in Overland Park for decades. I raised my family here and have spent most of my professional career in Overland Park – currently leading sales at C2FO. I have always had challenging roles responsible for sales/revenue generating at Sprint (now T-Mobile) for 24 years and Dex Media (now Thryv) for 10 years.

So, why would I want to "Chamber" on top of that for the last decade? I love being involved in what is happening in the community. The relationships and people I have met are outstanding – it's a great way to get to know other community leaders. Really understanding our connection to local, state and federal governments and the issues has also been essential.

Some things to look forward to this year:

It's the second full year of implementation of Opportunity NOW, our strategic plan for community and economic development. This means we will:

- Super charge support for small businesses and entrepreneurs that make our community unique and critical to our economy. We'll:
 - Deploy our Small Business Council under the leadership of Neelima Parask-

- er of <u>SnaplT Solutions</u> to engage small businesses of all types to determine what's needed to optimize success. We'll also:
- Graduate our second cohort of second-stage businesses from the GAME program at <u>Johnson County Community College's</u> Small Business Development Center, where they learn how to take their businesses to the next level.
- Announce the results of a workforce study that pinpoints strengths and gaps in our talent pipeline. It will give us a solid roadmap of recommendations to attract, retain and align talent to accomplish your work.
- Amp up marketing of Overland Park as the location for business and top talent.
 Using comprehensive data, we'll invest in target industry sectors and the workers you need to be successful.
- Unveil dashboards on opchamber.org to provide small business resources, new economic data, and tools to help with talent recruitment and retention. Just as we curated the best resources for you during Covid, we will be your trusted resource for information.

In yet another election season, you can turn to VoteJoCo.com and know our team is unbiased, non-political and fair in representation of all candidates. That contributes to (continued on the next page)

Upcoming events

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, January 10 – 8:00-9:00 a.m. First Option Bank, 7300 West 159th Street

At this monthly networking event, make connections, develop lasting business relationships and create new opportunities, all while enjoying coffee and breakfast items.

This is a great opportunity to become acquainted with what First Option can do for you! With a history that began in Osawatomie in 1923, First Option Bank opened its first Johnson County location last year and now has nine full-service locations.

Free for Chamber members, but registration is requested here.



SERIES SPONSOR



1 Million Cups

Wednesday, January 24 - 8:45-10:15 a.m.

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.



Chairman's Message continued . . .

the high participation rate of candidates of all parties in surveys and forums, which allows you to learn as much as possible about the candidates. Know that you can share votejoco as a trusted website with your employees and friends without bias.

I'm especially excited about a new project of the Chamber Foundation this year: The National Civics Bee. We're sponsoring this project because we believe an understanding of civics is foundational to our democracy and our ability to conduct our business in a civil society. Engaging middle schoolers and their parents is a perfect place to start. January 8 is the deadline for entries.

I am proud to be associated with, involved, and assisting in the leadership of this organization. We're working every day to ensure that Overland Park and our region are the best places for business investment and quality of life.

Natalie Vesta joins Chamber team

Natalie Vesta has joined the Chamber staff as Economic Development Project Coordinator.

Natalie will provide research, marketing, communication and administrative support for strategic goals and initiatives to promote economic development in Overland Park.

A graduate of Kansas State University, Natalie, has digital marketing experience and interned for the Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation.



Natalie Vesta

Natalie begins January 4 when you can reach her at nvesta@opchamber.org or (913) 766-7605.



During our Annual Meeting, Chairman Joan Wells, <u>Augeo</u>; and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen recognized leaders retiring from the board: Matt Gunter, <u>SelectQuote</u>; Dr. Nadine Franz, <u>APEX Career Services</u>; Rick Schier, <u>CommunityAmerica Credit Union</u>; Tony Rupp, <u>Foulston Siefkin LLP</u>; and Ken Bowman, <u>Shamrock Trading Corporation</u>. Also retiring are Dr. Stuart Day, <u>The University of Kansas Edwards Campus</u>; and Dr. Michelle Hubbard, <u>Shawnee Mission School District</u>.

Welcome to our newest Corporate Sponsor!

We are pleased to have Spencer Fane LLP, join the ranks of our Corporate Sponsors in 2024! Corporate Partners and Corporate Sponsors (shown on page 8) receive added value, visibility and access with their membership.



Spencer Fane

If you're interested in these perks, contact Tracey Osborne Oltjen at tosborne@opchamber.org.

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Advus

Sam Smith 12501 Antioch Road, Suite 103 Overland Park KS66213 (913) 940-7725 Accounting & Bookkeeping Systems, Tax Return Preparation

Chicago Title

Kristina Belshe, Residential Sales Executive 6700 College Boulevard, Suite 300 Overland Park KS 66211 (913) 253-8414 Kristina.Belshe@ctt.com www.ctickc.com Title Companies

Chick-fil-A 135th & 69 Highway

Kylie Oberweather, Owner 7500 West 135th Street Overland Park KS 66223-1202 (913) 814-0222 cfaoverlandpark@gmail.com www.chick-fil-a.com Restaurants, Caterers

Continental Siding

Casey Johnson 13714 East 42nd Terrace South Independence MO 64055 (816) 737-2700 www.continentalsiding.com Home Improvements

GameDay Men's Health

Jerry Wettengel, Franchise Administrator 8500 West 110th Street, Suite 525 Overland Park KS 66210 (785) 380-6623 jerryw@gamedaymenshealth.com www.gamedaymenshealth.com Health & Wellness, Weight Control Services

HOTWORX-CityPlace

Chad Leslie, Owner 11160 Switzer Road Overland Park KS 66210 (913) 382-3656

www.hotworx.net

Fitness, Health & Wellness

Lemondrop Home

Rebecca Dickinson, Owner 7001 West 76th Street Overland Park KS 66204 (816) 309-4985 info@lemondrophome.com www.lemondrophome.com Interior Design

Midwest Trust Company

Benjamin Prell, General Counsel 5901 College Boulevard, Suite 100 Overland Park KS 66211 (913) 319-0300

www.midwesttrust.com

Trust Services

Re-Bath Kansas City

Brandon York, Owner/President 695 North Lindenwood Drive Olathe KS 66062 (913) 675-2545 brandon.york@rebath.com

www.rebath.com

Remodeling & Repairing - Building Contractors

Walmart-119th & Metcalf

James Bradshaw, Store Manager 11701 Metcalf Avenue Overland Park KS 66210 (913) 338-2202

www.walmart.com

Grocers, Department Stores

Walmart-77th & Frontage Road

Reyna Lawson, Store Manager 7701 East Frontage Road Overland Park KS 66204 (913) 648-5885

www.walmart.com

Department Stores

Help us welcome these businesses investing in our community and please support them!

35 selected for 2024 LOP class

The Chamber Foundation has selected 35 business professionals to participate in its 2024 Leadership Overland Park (LOP) program.

During ten full-day sessions beginning this month, 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 2024 Leadership Overland Park class:

- Toni Anderson, <u>Security Bank of Kansas City</u>
- · Braden Beamer, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- · Carly Beckett, AdventHealth South Overland Park
- Mike Berg, Empower
- · Thomas Bledsoe, City of Overland Park
- Taylor Bryer, Saint Luke's South Hospital
- · Justin Calhoun, Turner Construction
- · Andrew Edwards, FNBO
- Travis Gatewood, <u>Shawnee Mission School District</u>
- Tommy Gentry, Newmark Zimmer
- · Jay Green, OWN, Inc.
- Jessic Hoffman, <u>Growing Futures Early Education</u> Center
- Justin Hubbard, <u>Tiger-Rock Martial Arts of Overland</u>
 <u>Park</u>
- Shayna Hurst, Overland Park Fire Department
- Valerie Jennings, Jennings Social Media and Martech
- Bryan Johnson, Johnson County Government
- Tracy King, JE Dunn Construction Company
- · Alex Kupfer, Zurich North America Commercial
- Jose M. Leon, Jr., <u>Johnson County Wastewater</u>
- · Mary Anne Matos, Johnson County Community College
- · Deanna McClellan, Black & Veatch
- · Zach Moreland, Maxus Properties
- Colette Panchot, Overland Park Neighborhood Executive Committee
- Sophia Piatczyc, DLR Group
- Ethan Price, Olsson
- Patrick Rafferty, Overland Park Regional Medical Center
- Bridgett Rodriguez, <u>Central Bank of the Midwest</u>
- Stefanie Shaver, OakStar Bank
- · Sam Smith, Advus
- · Angela Stewart, Country Club Bank, N.A.
- Zach Sumada, BRR Architecture
- · Jim Sutterby, City of Overland Park
- · Libbey Tucker, Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
- · Jake Turner, Payne & Jones, Chtd.
- Madison Vining, McCownGordon Construction

Six leaders join Chamber Board in 2024

We are pleased to welcome the following leaders to the Chamber Board of Directors in 2024.



Tom Davies Security Bank of Kansas City

Tom Davies is Executive Vice President, Chief Retail Officer at Security Bank of Kansas City. He graduated in the second Leadership Overland Park class in 1985. Tom's banking career began in 1973 and he has been with Security Bank since 2011. He has served many civic organizations including the Board of the Eagle Project and the boards of numerous health care organizations.

Scott Kautzi is Director of Business Development and Key Partnerships for <u>Fiorella's</u>. With more than 25 years in the food, sales and hospitality industries, he is passionate about provid-



Scott Kautzi Fiorella's

ing experiences that create memories that last a lifetime. He serves on multiple boards and committees that focus on building community. He loves contributing to the growth that makes his hometown of Kansas City one of the best places to live, work, eat and play. He was in the 2023 Leadership Overland Park class.



Pat Kellerman Shamrock Trading Corporation

Pat Kellerman is senior vice president of risk management at Shamrock Trading Corporation. He started his career in the banking industry before joining Shamrock in 2008. He has been primarily focused on risk mitigation, research, analysis and loan and fraud loss prevention. Pat earned his undergraduate degree from Benedictine College and earned a graduate degree from Rockhurst University.

Ryan Matthews is Chief Business Officer at Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies (FM&T), which manages and operates the Department of Energy's <u>Kansas City</u> <u>National Security Campus</u>. He



Ryan Matthews Kansas City National Security Campus

has held that position since May 2022 and is a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Previously, he was Chief Financial Officer for 13 years. Prior to joining the KCNSC, Ryan served in financial capacities for companies. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Kansas State University and a Master of Business Administration from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. He is active in his community including the Boys & Girls Club of Kansas City.

Dr. Tonya Merrigan is a skilled educational leader with more than 30 years in education beginning as a math teacher. She assumed the role of Blue



Dr. Tonya MerriganBlue Valley Schools

Valley Schools Superintendent in 2020 as the first female superintendent in district history. Since joining Blue Valley in 1999 as a high school counselor, she has held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility. Dr. Merrigan earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of South Dakota, and a doctorate degree from Saint Louis University.



Ben Prell
MTC Holding Corporation

Ben Prell is General Counsel for MTC Holding Corporation, which includes Midwest Trust Company and its affiliates. Prior to joining MTC, Ben was in private practice with the law firm Geiger Prell, LLC. He earned his law degree from American University's Washington College of Law, and has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Northwest Missouri State University. Ben is serving as President of the Johnson County Bar Association in 2024, and has been a member of its Board of Directors since 2019. He was also recently appointed to Johnson County's Civil Service Board. He was in the 2023 Leadership Overland Park class.



Our young professionals heard from a panel of CEOs about their career journeys at the recent CEOs Unplugged. Panelists included Krista Jackson, <u>Johnson County Rehabilitation Hospital</u>; Suze Parker, <u>Parker Communications Group</u>; Kevin Honomichl, <u>BHC</u>; and Josh Beck, <u>MarksNelson</u>. Our thanks to our CEOs Unplugged Series Sponsor: <u>BHC</u>!



Chamber Diplomats gathered last month for their annual holiday party. Serving as a volunteer Diplomat is a great way to get involved in our community and help support your fellow business representatives. If you're interested in learning more, contact Dave Dyer at ddyer@opchamber.org or (913) 766-7604.



Our members enjoyed networking and breakfast foods amid the festive trappings of the <u>Sheraton Overland Park Hotel</u> at last month's Wednesday Wake-up event. Our thanks to the Wednesday Wake-up Series Sponsor: <u>Fortune Financial Advisors!</u>

Students survey peers on perceptions of our city

As part of its efforts to develop workforce development strategies, the Chamber partnered with students at Shawnee Mission West on a client-connected project to help the Chamber understand youth perceptions of Overland Park and the metro region.

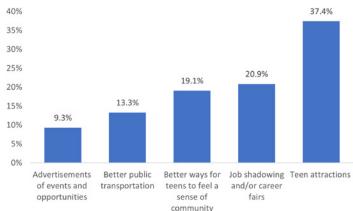
A survey completed by 676 students provides an understanding of student perceptions of Overland Park and whether they envision their futures and career plans in the area.

Here are some results from the survey:

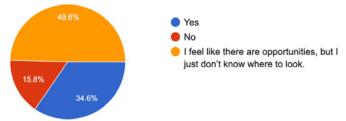
What do you plan to do after high school?

31%
27%
17%
12%
6%
2%
2%
2%

What should Overland Park focus on to retain more youth and young adults to stay and establish a career and an adult life?



Do you think Overland Park will have job opportunities for you?



The research is essential in developing guidance on how best to market both the region and city to youth. This initial project year will serve as a baseline measure for future, year-over-year analysis and tracking.

To learn more about engaging with youth on client-connected projects for your business, contact Courtney at ccavlovic@opchamber.org.

Member News & Events

For the first time in the College Baseball Foundation's history, its annual recognition of college baseball's top athletes will be held in Overland Park, presented by Prairiefire and hosted by Visit Overland Park. The Night of Champions will feature the induction of the 2023 College Baseball Hall of Fame class on February 15 at the Marriott Kansas City-Overland Park.

On January 1, <u>Saint Luke's Health System</u> joined BJC Health System and now has a combined 24 hospitals and workforce of more than 44,000 professionals. The system will have distinct brands in each region: BJC HealthCare serving the St. Louis region and southern Illinois; and Saint Luke's serving Kansas City, northwest Missouri and eastern Kansas.

The Alzheimer's Association-Heart of America
Chapter office has moved to 8001 Conser Street in
Downtown Overland Park. It continues to serve 65
counties in Kansas and Missouri, providing education
and support for those with Alzheimer's or other
dementia and their families and care partners.

In the 2024 edition of the Benchmark Litigation USA rankings, Foulston Siefkin LLP, is listed as one of three "highly recommended" firms in Kansas. Three Kansas City-based attorneys were ranked in the publication's Kansas jurisdiction: Scott C. Nehrbass, Litigation Star; Tony F. Rupp, Litigation Star; and Tara Eberline, Labor and Employment Star.

<u>Hyatt Place Overland Park Convention Center</u> is undergoing renovations through March, offering guests a new look and feel through the hotel.

Matt Mentzer has joined Foulston Siefkin LLP's
Overland Park office. His has 15 years of accounting
and legal experience encompasses trusts, estates,
probate, and tax matters.

Melissa Vancrum, Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C., recently moderated a panel discussion at the annual Wildlife & Permitting Symposium hosted by Burns & McDonnell Engineering.

Marsha Woodward, Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes P.C., was recognized with the 2023 Conference Award at the annual Midwest Apprenticeship and Training Coordinators Conference.

Early bird registration is open for full-day STEAM Summer Camps 2024 offered by Club SciKidz Kansas City. Choose from a variety of topics, including mini medical school, little robot engineer and more.

To submit member news, log into your Member Info Hub at www.opchamber.org or contact Hannah at https://mww.opchamber.org or contact Hannah at https://www.opchamber.org or contact Hannah at https://www.opchamber.org or contact Hannah



City Council President Jim Kite joined the Chamber to help Brian Roche, Executive Director, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for Charles River's mission, excellent science and strong sense of purpose guides its professionals as they work to improve the health and well-being of many across the globe.



City Council President Jim Kite and City Councilmember Scott Mosher joined the Chamber to help owners Dave and Jan Rinker celebrate the opening of their second location of Nautical Bowls, 11648 West 135th Street. Nautical Bowls offers healthy, fresh superfood bowls packed with essential vitamins and nutrients to fuel your healthy lifestyle.

For more info: (913) 732-0416 or <u>click here</u>.



Last month's Pints & Pundits mixer featured Ron Eidshaug, Vice President & Chief of Staff, Government Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Brad Cooper, Sunflower State Journal; and the The Kansas City Star's Katie Bernard.

Corporate Partners







A Division of The Central Trust Bank





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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.

AdventHealth South Overland Park earns top hospital award

CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Highlighting its nationally recognized achievements in patient safety and quality, AdventHealth South Overland Park was named a Top General Hospital by The Leapfrog Group.

The Leapfrog Top Hospital award is widely acknowledged as one of the most competitive awards American hospitals can receive. The Top Hospital designation is bestowed by The Leapfrog Group, a national watchdog organization of employers and other purchasers known as the toughest standard-setters for health care safety and quality.

"Our top priority is to always provide high-quality and safe care to patients. This designation validates the important work our exceptional team of physicians, nurses and caregivers do every day. This award is because of them, and I am very proud of this team," said Alan Verrill, MD, president and CEO of AdventHealth South Overland Park.

More than 2,100 hospitals were considered for the award.
Among the 132 hospitals that were selected in categories such as general, children's, rural and teaching hospitals, Advent-Health South Overland Park received one of 35 Top General Hospital distinctions in the country, making it the only hospital in the Kansas City metropolitan area and Johnson County, Kan., to receive the 2023 Top Hospital award.

The quality of patient care across many areas of hospital performance is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including infection rates, practices for safer surgery, maternity care, and the hospital's capacity to prevent medication errors. To qualify for the Top Hospital distinction, hospitals must rank top among peers on the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, which assesses hospital performance on the highest standards for quality and patient safety and achieve top performance in their category. To see the full list of institutions honored as 2023 Top Hospitals, visit www. leapfroggroup.org/tophospitals.

Thanks for reinvesting!

DECEMBER MEMBER RENEWALS

50+ Years

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission

40-49 Years

Black & Veatch

20-39 Years

Grandma's Office Catering Sandler Trainint

10-19 Years

Chick-fil-A at Oak Park Plaza Netsmart Technologies Talk of the Town Grill & Bar-Leawood The University of Kansas Health System

5-9 Years

ACA Business Club American Cancer Society Dairy Queen YaYa's Euro Bistro

1-4 Years

Community National Bank Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Markley Strategies Olathe Health Family Medicine - Antioch Security Equipment Inc. SpringHill Suites Overland Park Leawood



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

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