



Chamber earns 5 Star Accreditation with perfect scores in nearly every category

The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce has earned the distinction of Accredited with 5 Stars – the top designation – from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The Overland Park Chamber has earned Five Stars each time since the U.S. Chamber first began bestowing stars as part of its accreditation process. The designation is received by fewer than 1% of the nation's chambers of commerce.

"This reaccreditation affirms the dedication and valuable work our Chamber does on behalf of its members and the

community," said 2022 Chamber Chairman Tony Rupp, [Foulston Siefkin LLP](#). "Overland Park is consistently ranked among the best American cities and it's only fitting our chamber should also be among the best in the nation."

The U.S. Chamber's Accreditation program facilitates continuing excellence in the industry and fosters a pro-business environment across America. In order to receive Accreditation, a chamber must meet minimum standards in its operations and programs. This extensive self-review can take 6-9 months to complete.

The Overland Park Chamber achieved perfect scores in the Finance, Human Resources, Government Affairs, Program Development, Technology, Communications, Facilities, and Benchmarking sections of the application.

"This accomplishment is an acknowledgement of truly excellent work," said Raymond P. Towle, U.S. Chamber Vice President, Federation Relations and IOM.

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:

Aaron Attebery, Black & Veatch

Josh Bitterman, Goldfish Swim School

Ken Bowman, Shamrock Trading Corporation

Patrice Brown, Yellow

Sterling Cramer, Olsson

Dr. Nadine Franz, APEX Career Services

David Freisner, Fortune Financial Advisors

John Fuller, DLR Group

Tracy Garry, Empower Retirement

Matt Gunter, SelectQuote

Dr. Michelle Hubbard, Shawnee Mission
School District

Angela Hurt, Veracity Consulting, Inc.

Neelima Parasker, SnapIT Solutions, LLC

Melody Rayl, Fisher Phillips LLP

Allan Samson, T-Mobile

Rick Schier, CommunityAmerica Credit Union

Dr. Alan Verrill, AdventHealth South Overland
Park

Kim Winslow, Evergy

Jason Wright, JE Dunn Construction Company

Ex-Officio Board:

Dr. Stuart Day, The University of Kansas
Edwards Campus

Jim Holland, Fisher Phillips LLP

Dana Markel, Visit Overland Park

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, Chamber

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

Mayor Curt Skoog, City of Overland Park

Chamber staff

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, President & CEO

Kathy Buso Healy, Executive Assistant

Corey Cohn, Economic Development Project
Coordinator

Alex Cook, Member Services Coordinator

Frank Ebling, CFO

Tim Holverson, IOM, Director, Workforce &
Business Growth

Beth Johnson, CECD, Senior Vice President of
Economic Development

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

Riley O'Dell, Director of Events & Member
Services

Kevin Walker, IOM, Senior Vice President of
Public Policy

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE
Chamber President & CEO
[@traceylosborne](#)



Be the change

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I love to read recipes. Recipe magazines, cookbooks, stacks of recipe cards, you name it.

I collect (my husband says “hoard”) recipes, far too many to try. Despite numerous variations available, I often make the same dishes the same way, sticking to traditional family favorites. They’re easy and I know how they’ll turn out. Holidays aren’t complete without sour cream coffee cake or cranberry chutney. Family staying overnight get testy if there’s no banana bread for breakfast.

But I’ve learned that serving an unexpected twist, even on a traditional favorite, is appreciated because it requires special attention and thought. I enjoy learning new things and adding new “favorites” to our list. Sometimes just one ingredient provides a little zing to change “green beans again” to fabulous status.

We’ve long heard that change is inevitable. Resistance to change can either be part of our DNA, or we can be open to opportunities that broaden our perspective or improve outcomes. Sometimes I feel that everything is changing, particularly as we’ve just marked two-years since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. That inevitability of change has become a constant, making us yearn for predictability as

we face challenges with workforce, supply chain, inflation, and global instability.

These are issues over which we have no control, though we must plan strategically for our responses. Closer to home, city leaders are planning for the future and your voice is needed. Our 40-year-old Comprehensive Plan has been tweaked over the years and we’re ready now for a complete update. The plan is a policy guide that describes the City’s intentions for future land development. It covers issues like population, housing and economic trends that could influence development. The new plan also will consider social and environmental issues as well as our other community plans like ForwardOP, Vision Metcalf and the Johnson County Housing Study.

You can learn more at the **Mayor’s State of the City** event on **April 12**. At Mayor Curt Skoog’s request, we’ve cooked up a new format. Meet us at 4:00 p.m. at **Johnson County Community College’s** Yardley Hall for Mayor Skoog’s address, then we’ll adjourn to the lobby for appetizers, beverages and connecting with business and community leaders.

We’re looking forward to learning more about the City’s plans and how the business community can engage. Change will happen. Join us to make sure your voice is heard.

To register, [click here](#).

Kounkel joins Chamber board

Courtney Kounkel, founder and owner of [Monarch Build](#), has joined the Chamber Board of Directors.

Courtney is a construction industry executive and entrepreneur who has founded, grown and successfully sold several companies. Currently she is the Founder + Owner of **Monarch Build**, a commercial construction company with headquarters in downtown Overland Park.



We are pleased to add Courtney's entrepreneurial and business leadership acumen to our board.

Accepting apps for scholarship

Applications for the 2022 Leadership Overland Park (LOP) Educate & Elevate Scholarship are due by April 20.

The scholarship is intended to help in-need Johnson County residents gain a professional or technical career and the award for 2022 is \$500. The winner of the scholarship will be recognized at the Leadership Overland Park graduation. The scholarship was established by the 2020 LOP Class.

Contributions to this scholarship program also are welcomed. Your contribution will impact someone's life and help support his or her path out of poverty, improve adult literacy, and create a consistent source of funding to help those most in need achieve successful careers. The Overland Park Chamber Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; all donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

For information on applying for the scholarship or contributing to the program, [click here](#).

Upcoming events

Mayor's State of the City

Tuesday, April 12 – 4:00-5:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Curt Skoog presents the annual State of the City Address in an afternoon program followed by a reception. The Mayor will highlight Overland Park successes and focus on priorities for the future including updating the Comprehensive Plan.

\$15 per person for members; \$20 per person for non-members.

To register, [click here](#).

Presenting Sponsor



Silver Sponsors



Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, April 13 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

[Fusion Bank](#), 7800 College Boulevard

Join us for networking over coffee and breakfast foods and see the renovations at Fusion Bank, an independent, locally-owned and managed, full-service Kansas state-chartered commercial bank with a 125-year history.

Free for Chamber members.

2022 Series Sponsor: [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)

To register, [click here](#).



Legislative Update Luncheon

Thursday, April 14 – 12:00-1:30 p.m.

[DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas City Overland Park](#), 10100 College Boulevard

Johnson County legislators will discuss issues and offer updates from the Statehouse at a luncheon sponsored by the Johnson County Public Policy Council.

\$40 per person for members; \$45 per person for non-members.

To register, [click here](#).



Upcoming ribbon cuttings

April 28 – [Marriott Hotel Kansas City-Overland Park](#), 10800 Metcalf Avenue – 4:00 p.m.

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Allenbrand, Shirley

(913) 579-8206
shirleyallenbrand@gmail.com
Individual

Arista Recovery

Gina Hacker, Director of
Business Development
9401 Reeds Road, Suite 101
Overland Park KS 66207
(877) 910-0312
www.aristarecovery.com
Health Care

Fantastic Sams Cut & Color

Tammy Eickhoff
9633 West 87th Street
Overland Park KS 66212
(913) 831-1007
ikoff2@gmail.com
[www.fantasticsams.com/
overland-park-ks](http://www.fantasticsams.com/overland-park-ks)
Beauty Services, Spa - Day

Fleming Advisors, LLC

Michelle Moody, Marketing
Coordinator
4851 West 134th Street
Leawood KS 66209
(855) 877-9807
www.fleming-advisors.com
*Accountants, Accounting &
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Hustle & Ground

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14708 West 50th Street
Shawnee KS 66216
(913) 708-1476
jbroils@hustleandground.com
www.hustleandground.com
Retail

Midwest Business Technology, LLC

Nhut Bui
16156 Fontana Street
Overland Park KS 66085
(913) 259-6688
bui.nhut@yahoo.com
www.MidwestBit.com
Information Systems

Neighbors Realtors

Mark Neighbors
P.O. Box 24334
Overland Park KS 66283
(913) 915-9477
MarkNeighbors@
ReeceNichols.com
www.markneighbors.com
reecenichols.com
*Real Estate, Real Estate -
Residential*
*Referred by Tony Rupp, Foulston
Siefkin LLP*

Nunez Roofing LLC

Luis Serrano, Sales Executive
121 South 74th Street
Kansas City KS 66111
luis@nunezroofingwaste.com
(913) 940-6166
www.Nunezroofingwaste.com
Roofing, Windows-Replacement
*Referred by Carlos Gomez,
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*

Office Furniture Kansas City

Chet Shellenberger, Sales
Account Executive
1535 Atlantic Street
North Kansas City MO 64116
(816) 945-9111
cshellenberger@stlwarehouse.
com
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Overland Park KS 66212
toms@quickmobilerepair.com
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www.quickmobilerepair.com
*Computer Service & Repair,
Electronics-Retail*

Shack Shine

Richard Moritz
2615 West 145th Street
Leawood KS 66224
(913) 593-6574
richard.moritz@shackshine.com
www.shackshine.com
*Cleaning Services, Home
Improvements*

Sunrise Assisted Living of Overland Park

Rhiannon Clark, Executive Dir.
12500 West 135th Street
Overland Park KS 66221-9323
(913) 685-3340
OverlandPark.ED@
sunriseseniorliving.com
www.sunriseseniorliving.com
*Assisted Living Facility, Senior
Citizens Services*

Union Broadcasting

Chad Cory, Vice President,
General Sales Manager
6721 West 121st Street
Overland Park KS 66209
(913) 344-1500
ccory@unionbroadcasting.com
www.810WHB.com
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Overland Park KS 66204
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Cleaning Services, Lighting

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



Last month our Leadership Overland Park (LOP) class went to Topeka for State Day in which they heard from numerous state leaders and a panel of lobbyists. During sessions this month, the class will focus on education, city and county government and public safety.

Three questions organizations must answer

GUEST COLUMN

“You must answer me these questions three.”

Recognize that? If you don't, close your door and consult YouTube. Monty Python and The Holy Grail can occasionally be a good source for business advice.

From hiring to setting business strategy, I have my own “questions three” to drive better decisions and create better trajectories:

- What must we do?
- What could we do?
- What should we do?

Determine what must be done.

Many executives like to look past the basics and start dreaming. The basics may not be exciting, but they keep the lights on. These are minimum criticals, things you simply must do to exist. To be blunt, organizations fail when the “must dos” don't get done.

Dream what could be done.

This one is fun and that's why organizations often leave the “must do” step early. The people doing the work likely have ideas on how to do it better. The problem is they are rarely asked. Good contributors become great ones when they are encouraged to share their ideas. Hire smart people and consistently inspire them to be smart.

Commit to what should be done.

This is that seminal moment when a stake is planted and commitments are made. It's a little risky to take a stand, but courageous, passionate recommendations are necessary to move any organization forward.

Without the balance of must do/could do/should do, trouble is soon to come. Organizations overly focused on the “must do” are factories: efficient at cranking things out but get passed by eventually. Organizations that shortcut to the “could

do” collapse because they leave important tasks un-done. And organizations void of the courage to make decisions and create change are doomed to stagnation.

Must do, could do, should do. How successful companies cross the bridge to a better place.



Tom Tholen

Tom Tholen is president of InQuest Marketing, a brand elevation agency. With client partners, InQuest builds and transforms business through a proprietary IQ toolkit designed to uncover insights, inspire breakthrough creative, and deliver measurable results.

Young Professionals Learning@Lunch

Thursday, April 21 – 12:00-1:30 p.m.
Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street

At this professional development program, Elisa Waldman will highlight professional readiness and the dos and don'ts of being a young professional.

Elisa brings her past experience as an attorney, retail store

owner, small business consultant, and grant administrator to her current position as Vice President of Workforce Development &

Continuing Education at [Johnson County Community College](#).

\$10 per person for members; \$15 per person for non-members (box lunch included).

To register, [click here](#).



Elisa Waldman

Thanks for reinvesting!

MARCH MEMBER RENEWALS INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

50+ Years

Evergy
Security Bank of Kansas City
Suburban Lawn & Garden

40-49 Years

Alaskan Fur
Johnson County Community College
Overland Park Racquet Club
Shawnee Mission School District

20-39 Years

Casa de Fuentes
COBLE MCCUNE Wealth Management
Commerce Bank
CommunityAmerica Credit Union
Copaken Brooks
Hampton Inn Kansas City / Overland Park
Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City
Hyatt Place Overland Park / Convention Center
Lathrop GPM LLP
Marriott Kansas City Overland Park
Residence Inn by Marriott
Saint Thomas Aquinas High School
Show-Me Live Event Production
United Community Services of Johnson County

Zurich North America Commercial

10-19 Years

Blue Valley Insurance Agency, Inc.
Cleveland University-Kansas City
K² Landscapes
MetroMedia, Inc.
MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital
Overland Park Wealth Management
Quality Inn
Scott Rice Office Works

5-9 Years

Arcadia at Overland Park
Cosentino's Market – Blue Valley
Cosentino's Price Chopper
Midwest Tinting
Oliver Insurance Agency Inc.
REAL Property Group
Sunflower Bank

1-4 Years

Apartment Association of KC
Aubrey Vineyards
Blue Nose Aerial Imaging of OP
Comfort Keepers of Overland Park
Edward Jones
Flury-Hinderks Insurance
Great Plains SPCA
Heartland Business Capital
Jennings Social Media & Martech
Keller Williams - Maureen Mitchell
Markley Strategies
Mercer-Zimmerman Inc.
Novel Place Senior Living
OakStar Bank
Shamrock Trading Corporation
SHC Roofing, Inc.
Sonesta Simply Suites
The INN at Meadowbrook
Worldwide Recording, Inc.

EDC honors companies and business leaders



On behalf of **Lula**, Barbara Lais, Director of Provider Success, accepted a NOVA Award.



Chris Pesce, CFO, accepted a NOVA Award on behalf of **Propio Language Services**.



Accepting a NOVA Award on behalf of **Storewise** was Chris Greco, CEO.



On behalf of the **Edison District**, Andy Smith and Heather Venable accepted a Commercial Development Award.

The Chamber Economic Development council recognized several companies for their contributions to the Overland Park economy at our annual EDC Honors Luncheon at **Johnson County Community College**.

NOVA awards recognize fast-growing companies in Overland Park.

This year's awards were presented to Lula LLC, Propio Language Services and Storewise. Presenting the awards were Chamber Chairman Tony Rupp, **Foulston Siefkin LLP**; and Beth Johson, Senior Vice President of Economic Development.

Lula, LLC, is an on-demand property management platform that streamlines the process for property managers and tenants to find maintenance contractors. Last year, Lula expanded from Kansas City to eight more cities and has plans to add up to 16 more cities this year.

Founded in 1998, **Propio Language Services** leverages technology to provide interpretation services for remote and in-person clients. Despite the pandemic, the company saw its revenue and employee base nearly double in 2020. With recent acquisitions, it now has 6,000 interpreters in more than 200 languages serving primarily the health care market but also business, government and education clients. Plans for 2022 include doubling corporate employee count to about 200.

Formerly known as Retail Software Solutions, **Storewise** offers software tools to help independent grocery stores compete.

The processes it moves to a dashboard free up store staff to be on the floor helping customers – a key consideration in the tightening job market. Local partnerships include Cosentino's and the Associated Wholesale Grocers cooperative.

Commercial Development Awards recognize significant investment and reinvestment in the Overland Park economy.

Honored this year were Edison District, Shamrock Tower and Regency Park. They were recognized with plaques from Mayor Curt Skoog and Beth Johson, Senior Vice President of Economic Development.

The **Edison District** in **Downtown Overland Park** is anchored by a five-story building with 10,000 square feet of retail space and more than 100,000 square feet of office space where more than 300 people already work. It also includes covered parking for general downtown usage. A highlight of the development is Strang Hall, a unique dining experience with six chefs providing a variety of authentic cuisines, along with a full-service bar.

Shamrock Trading Corporation's new eight-story Shamrock Tower is home to 700 of the company's 1,500 employees with room to double that number. It was designed with company growth in mind.



Matt Huderski, Vice President of Real Estate and Procurement at **Shamrock Trading Corporation**, accepted a Commercial Development Award on behalf of the Shamrock Tower project.



P.J. Ventola, Managing Director at Mission Peak Capital, accepted a Commercial Development Award on behalf of **Regency Park Shopping Center**.

After an extraordinary \$32 million transformation in 2016, [Regency Park Shopping Center](#) has flourished at the intersection of Metcalf and 93rd street as evidenced by the nearly 30% occupancy rate increase from six years prior. Featuring Chiefs Fit, a 37,000-square-foot fitness facility, the redevelopment is thriving with several other commercial tenants.

2022 Business Hall of Honor inductees were AdventHealth and Fiorella's Jack Stack. Plaques were presented to the honorees by Mayor Curt Skoog and Beth Johnson, Senior Vice President of Economic Development.

When [AdventHealth](#) expanded its South Overland Park campus last year, it opened the first new full-service hospital in the Kansas City metro in 15 years. Nearly 60 years after its founding, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission continues to expand and draws patients from throughout the region.

A Kansas City tradition since 1957, [Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue](#) is now in its fourth generation of family ownership



On behalf of [AdventHealth](#), Sam Huenergardt, CEO, accepted a Business Hall of Honor Award.



On behalf of [Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue](#), Taylor Dorman, Director of Operations, accepted a Business Hall of Honor Award.

and has evolved into the largest wood-fired cookery in the country. Along with six area restaurants, Jack Stack operates a full-service catering business, nationwide shipping engine and an event venue in Overland Park.

Former Overland Park Mayor Gerlach received this year's **Ben Craig Vision Award**. Before retiring in December, Gerlach served as mayor for 16 years and was at the helm as leaders worked to redevelop areas such as the Metcalf Avenue corridor and Downtown Overland Park, and more than 50,000 jobs were added in Overland Park. Prior to becoming mayor, Gerlach served on the Overland Park City Council for 10 years. This award was established in 2008 to recognize outstanding leadership in honor of the decades of community service by the late Ben Craig, longtime banker and civic leader credited with helping build the nationally-recognized community we know today.



Former Mayor Carl Gerlach received the 2022 Ben Craig Vision Award from Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen and Beth Johnson, Senior Vice President of Economic Development.



Chamber Chairman Tony Rupp, Foulston Siefkin LLP, recognized Roger Summers, [Fogel-Anderson Construction Company](#), for his leadership as 2020 EDC Chairman.

JCCC has strategic ideas for future planning

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

[Johnson County Community College \(JCCC\)](#) has a long history of innovation.

With new strategic goals, your affordable hometown college choice is well-positioned to tackle today's economic and societal challenges. JCCC's front door on College Boulevard and Quivira swings wide for everyone.

NCircle & JCCC Transform Lives

A [collaborative partnership](#) between JCCC, NCircle and the Johnson County Department of Corrections provides skills training for formerly incarcerated citizens in high-demand fields – welding, construction, food service and information technology. Stats of 114 completers show an overwhelmingly positive impact – only an 8% revocation rate after 90 days.

Honor Vets / Support Students

With [a mission to honor and empower veterans](#), the Heart of America Patriot Foundation (HOAPF) envisions a nation where dependents of 100% disabled and deceased veterans can attain a debt-free college education. HOAPF and the JCCC Foundation entered into a multiyear agreement to help deserving students stay in school and graduate with minimum debt.

(continued on the next page)



Signing of the Kansas Promise Scholarship.

Corporate Partners



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[McCownGordon Construction](#)

[STAFFVIRTUAL](#)

[The University of Kansas Edwards Campus](#)

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

Recent Events

MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS



Overland Park young professionals enjoyed a Mix & Mingle last month hosted by [Wine Bunker](#).

Sponsor spotlight continued . . .

Local Business Commitment

[Black & Veatch](#) is awarding scholarships to hard-working JCCC students. Content in core power electrical courses is aligned to accommodate Black & Veatch's transmission business.

Saving Energy & Money

JCCC has finalized a 10-year agreement with [Kansas City Power & Light](#) that allows the College to offset its current energy production purchases with [higher levels of wind energy](#) use. JCCC may save between \$30,000 and \$40,000 each year, while becoming a nearly 100% renewable-energy institution.

Promising Future

JCCC is one of more than two dozen schools awarding the [Kansas Promise Scholarship Act](#), which provides no-cost financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in select two-year associate degree or career and technical education programs. This statewide initiative supports efforts to build the Kansas workforce and provide students a path to high-demand, high-value jobs. For more info: www.jccc.edu.



Members enjoyed networking at the March Wednesday Wak-up hosted by [Lettiann & Associates Real Estate Services](#).

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
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