

Meridian development breaks ground at former Brookridge

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly and local officials helped [Curtin Property Company](#) break ground for the redevelopment of the former Brookridge at 103rd Street and Antioch Road.

The \$2 billion [Meridian development](#) is one of Kansas' largest and most ambitious mixed-use developments. The first development phase includes infrastructure work, two mixed-use residential/retail buildings, a grocery store, retail and restaurants, and usable green space.

Meridian is expected to include around 16,000 jobs in office and retail areas.



Business owners graduate from GAME program

Nine business owners graduated in the 2022-23 Growth through Action, Measurement and Engagement (GAME) program.

GAME provides growing companies the framework and tools to gain focus, set a growth agenda, make decisions and take action. Each session is led by subject matter experts. GAME is co-pre-

sented by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce and the [Small Business Development Center at Johnson County Community College](#).

Graduates were:

- [Architectural Craftsmen](#)
- Creative Displays, Inc.
- [Homewatch CareGivers](#)
- Jason Wright Electric
- Kansas City Aerial Arts

- [Kansas City Remodel and Handyman Allen](#)
- RK Contractors
- SMART Environmental Services
- [The American Theatre Guild](#)

Enrollment is now open for the 2023-2024 GAME program. For more information, [click here](#).



Graduation speaker was Diana Kander, author of "Go Big or Go Home."



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Chamber President

@traceylosborne



Our #1 asset

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Classrooms across the region are abuzz again.

Little ones are bright-eyed with wonder as the mysteries of reading and math unfold for them. Many make friends they'll keep for a lifetime. Teens – and adults, too – chart paths that will shape their life's work. Back-to-school season is a critical time for students entering the classroom, but it's also important for the rest of us.

Numerous communities nationally claim to have the "best" schools. In Johnson County, this isn't an idle boast. We've long known our K-12 districts are a critical ingredient in the secret sauce of Johnson County's success. No family moves, or stays, if a public school system doesn't provide the best opportunities for their children's future. Businesses locate in communities whose educational infrastructure supports the families they employ AND provide an educated workforce pipeline for their future.

Fortunately for us, we have this. But it's not due to luck. It's intentional.

For decades, our communities have invested in the infrastructure necessary to provide the best public education for our kids and future workforce. We've done that by electing thoughtful and visionary school

board representatives who then hired committed professional staff to handle the administration of our districts and the education of kids. (As a reminder, this is an election year. You can [learn more about the school board candidates for your district here.](#)) Our electorate also has approved bond issues necessary to invest in the capital infrastructure to support the growth of our community and provide the facilities, safety and technology needed for daily instruction of our students.

The beginning of the school year is the perfect time to assess your engagement with our schools. Our districts have numerous ways for businesses to partner. Each has an education foundation you can financially support to enhance resources for

our educators and their classrooms. You can also contact our Chamber's talent team if you'd like to pursue deeper connections through real-world learning opportunities. Andrew and

Courtney will make it easy for you to find an education partnership that will be rewarding for you and for the student you work with. Contact them at aweisberg@opchamber.org and ccavlovic@opchamber.org. You'll add significantly to the student's learning experience by sharing your expertise, and at the same time, you'll help students learn more about the great career opportunities our region offers. These students are our future – help us recruit them to stay!

For relevant statistics
about our public schools,
see page 11.

Upcoming events

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, September 13 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

[Gragg Advertising](#), 5200 Metcalf Avenue

Make connections, develop lasting business relationships and create new opportunities while seeing the new Overland Park offices of Gragg Advertising.

For nearly three decades, Gragg has been partnering with businesses to generate leads, build stronger brands and surpass goals. It is a results-driven, full-service advertising and marketing agency that will get you where you want to go. No matter what your needs or goals, Gragg can make it all happen.

To register, [click here](#).

Series Sponsor: [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)



SERIES SPONSOR



Ribbon cuttings

Sept. 6 – [Johnson County Museum Makerspace](#), 8788 Metcalf Avenue – 8:30 a.m.

Sept. 9 – [LongHouse Visitor Center](#) at the Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens – 10:00 a.m.

Sept. 14 – [Jennings Social Media & MarTech](#), 7304 133rd Street, Suite 310 – 4:00 p.m.



Good Morning, Overland Park!

Friday, October 20 – 7:30-9:00 a.m.

[Sheraton Overland Park Hotel](#), 6100 College Boulevard

Join us for a fun and upbeat breakfast program where you learn about exciting developments happening around Overland Park. Hear good news from representatives of Overland Park organizations!

Cost per person: \$35 for members; \$45 for non-members

Table of 10: \$350 for members; \$450 for non-members

To register, [click here](#).

Presenting Sponsor: [Humana](#)



Vote on November 7!

Be an informed voter!

Candidate Forums

September 5 – 4:00-5:00 p.m. at the Overland Park Chamber
City Council Ward 5 – Faris Farassati and Inas Younis

[Register here](#)

September 12 – 4:00-5:00 p.m. at the Overland Park Chamber
City Council Ward 2 – Jameia Haines and Drew Mitrisin

[Register here](#)

September 26 – 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the Overland Park Chamber
City Council Ward 3 – Richard Borlaza and Tom Carignan

[Register here](#)

Candidate Profiles

Visit www.VoteJoCo.com for candidate profiles:

- [Overland Park City Council](#)
- [Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees](#)
- [Johnson County Water District](#)
- [School Boards](#)

Johnson County Election Office [seeks election workers](#) for Election Day.

OP After Hours

Thursday, November 16 – 4:30-6:30 p.m.

[Lifted Logic](#), 7815 Floyd Street

Join us at OP After Hours for a fun evening of networking, delicious appetizers and drinks. This event is a great opportunity to see the creative space Lifted Logic calls home.

The creatives at Lifted Logic create things – experiences, feelings, engagements – that elevate brands. The agency takes on a small number of new projects each year to focus on long-term solutions and relationships.

This event is an exclusive benefit for Chamber members only.

Register by noon on November 14.

To register, [click here](#).

Series Sponsor: [SQUAD Medical Staffing](#)



SERIES SPONSOR



Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR AUGUST MEMBERS

Anytime Fitness of Downtown Overland Park

Brent Pitts, Owner
7620 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park KS 66204
(913) 648-9474
DowntownOverlandParkKS@
anytimefitness.com
www.anytimefitness.com
Fitness, Health & Wellness

Ashby Cleaning Service

Eric Jacob, Co-Owner
8655 College Boulevard
Overland Park KS 66210
(913) 634-6555
eric@ashbycleaningservice.com
www.ashbycleaningservice.com
Cleaning Services, Janitorial

Connect2Metrics

William Gladhart, CEO
10000 Marshall Drive, Suite L20
Lenexa KS 66215
(913) 242-7972
wgladhart@connect2metrics.com
www.connect2metrics.com
*Business Consultants, Management
Consultants*

Educational Therapy Center

Cathy Denesia, Director
171 English Landing Drive
Parkville MO 64152
(816) 584-8860
info@etctutoring.com
www.educationaltherapycenter.com
Educational Services

Gearhead Outfitters

Zach Arwood, Manager
11149 West 95th Street
Overland Park KS 66214
(913) 802-4327
info@gho.com
www.gho.com
Sporting Goods, Retail

HR-Rethought

Sandra De Stigter, Founder & CEO
9200 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 500
Overland Park KS 66210
(913) 424-3190
sandra.destigter@hr-rethought.com
www.hr-rethought.com
Human Resource Consultants

Nautical Bowls-BluHawk

Dave Rinker, Owner/Treasurer
Inside Cosentino's Market
8051 West 160th Street
Overland Park KS 66223
(913) 732-0416
overland103@nauticalbowls.com
www.nauticalbowls.com
Food Service, Restaurants

QuikTrip Kansas City Division

Caitlynn Helsper, Real Estate Project
Manager
5725 Foxridge Drive
Mission KS 66202-2401
www.quiktrip.com
Convenience Store, Gas Station

QuikTrip – Coming Soon!

9731 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park KS 66212
Convenience Store, Gas Station

QuikTrip – Coming Soon!

11100 Antioch Road
Overland Park KS 66210
Convenience Store, Gas Station

Sleep Outfitters Outlet

Bobby Hauser
7015 West 75th Street
Overland Park KS 66204
(816) 885-3512
bobby.hauser@sleepoutfitters.com
www.SleepOutfittersOutlet.com
Mattresses, Retail

SOAR Special Needs

Doc Hunsley, Executive Director/
Founder
12201 West 88th Street
Lenexa KS 66215
(816) 782-7627
development@soarspecialneeds.org
www.soarspecialneeds.org
*Non-Profit Organizations, Social Service &
Welfare Organizations*

Superior Moving

Landon Busch, Commercial Business
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Affinis Corp
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Division
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Blue Valley Education
Association
DLR Group
Downtown Overland Park
Partnership, Inc.
Garden Terrace at Overland
Park
HDR Engineering, Inc.

High Touch of Kansas City
Jalapenos Mexican Restaurant
Lund, George W.
McCownGordon Construction
Olathe Public Schools USD
233
Safehome, Inc.

10-19 Years

Clarus Group
Dentons US LLP
Fortune Financial Advisors,
LLC
Kansas State University Olathe
Mirabile M.D. Beauty, Health &
Wellness
Overland Park Host Lions Club
Tri-Land Properties, Inc.

5-9 Years

Block Real Estate Services,
LLC
Burnt End BBQ
Contract Furnishings
Core Bank
Curtin Property Company
Farmers Insurance - The
Wertzberger Agency

Jason's Deli
Rehabilitation Hospital of
Overland Park
SERVPRO® of Leawood/
Overland Park
Summit Lawn and Landscape,
Inc.
Sunflower Bank
Topgolf
Wally & Co.

1-4 Years

AlphaGraphics | South Kansas
City
BOARDynamics, LLC
Elite Martial Arts
Jazzercise of Overland Park
Mastermind Escape Games of
KC LLC
Maxwell Psychological
Services
Paths Law Firm
PREVAIL
Serendipity Labs
SQUAD Medical Staffing
The Venue in Leawood
We Got Your Back Apparel



City Council President Jim Kite joined the Chamber to help Oscar Romero and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [AR's Breakfast & Brunch](#), 8021 Metcalf Avenue in Downtown Overland Park.

AR's serves traditional and Mexican breakfast and brunch items topped off with cocktails, including AR's famous giant mimosa.

For more info: (913) 258-5703 or [click here](#).



City Council President Jim Kite joined the Chamber to help Christie and Brian Cook celebrate opening Kansas City's first [Basecamp Fitness](#), 8661 West 135th Street.

Basecamp offers group interval training classes where each session lasts 35 minutes and includes a combination of cardio and weight training.

For more info: (913) 232-9770 or [click here](#).



City Council President Jim Kite joined the Chamber to help Mark and Crystal White and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Foundation King](#), 4901 West 136th Street.

Foundation King is a family-owned and operated company dedicated to quality, superior customer service.

For more info: (913) 909-5464 or [click here](#).

Increase your visibility next year as a Chamber sponsor!

Gain visibility in front of business professionals by sponsoring a Chamber event or program in 2024!

Branding your company's name with the Chamber can:

- Increase your brand awareness and visibility
- Highly target advertising placement across a variety of print and digital media
- Access new business relationships and potential customers
- Enhance credibility with new connections
- Align your business with the Chamber's core purpose: To make Overland Park prosper

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Alex at acook@opchamber.org or (913) 491-3600.

Now Accepting Nominations!

Rick Worrel Community Legacy Award

The Overland Park Chamber seeks nominations for the 2023 recipient(s) of the Rick Worrel Community Legacy Award.

The deadline for nominations is September 1 and the recipient will be recognized at the Annual Meeting on December 6.

The award was established in 2019 to honor longtime community leader Rick Worrel and to recognize individuals who exemplify Worrel's legacy of lifetime service to the community.



Worrel, 2012 Chairman of the Chamber and a co-founder of [Affinis Corp](#), was passionate about building infrastructure, our community, his profession's standards and public education.

Previous recipients include:

- Former Sen. John Skubal
- Former City Manager Bill Ebel
- Former County Chairman Ed Eilert

For a nomination form, [click here](#).

Nominations for LOP due by September 15

The Overland Park Chamber Foundation is accepting nominations for the 2024 Leadership Overland Park (LOP) class. Nominations are due at the Chamber by September 15.

LOP educates participants about critical issues facing our community and provides opportunities to engage in organizations that resolve these issues. It focuses on information, education and discussion of local and regional assets, challenges and opportunities. It is a six-month program, with 10 full-day sessions beginning in January.

Founded in 1983, LOP has graduated more than 1,000 alumni.

For a nomination form, [click here](#).

Chamber assists impacted Yellow employees

Last month, the Chamber hosted a Yellow Re-employment Resources Workshop in which impacted Yellow employees heard from industry experts on topics including resume writing and interviewing, health insurance, job training and degree programs, and financial planning.

Resources at the workshop were provided by:

- [Workforce Partnership](#)
- [Johnson County Community College](#)
- [OMNI Human Resource Management](#)
- [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)

On September 7, a job fair at Johnson County Community College will bring together job seekers and employers looking to hire. For more information, [click here](#).



Mayor Curt Skoog and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen joined Josh Beck, Managing Partner; and other company officials to celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new offices of [MarksNelson](#), 6800 West 115th Street. The new space is reflective of the vibrancy of a healthy and growing firm that is Kansas City's largest locally owned accounting firm.

For more info: (816) 743-7700 or [click here](#).

Business Journal recognizes Women Who Mean Business



Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen was recognized by the Kansas City Business Journal as one of 25 honorees in the 2023 Women Who Mean Business program.

Tracey joins 575 top-ranking women who have been honored for taking an active role in the community and inspiring others.

To read Tracey's profile, [click here](#).

Other Chamber member honorees included:

- Kelli Alldredge, [Chicken N Pickle](#)
- India Webb Boulton, [T-Mobile](#)
- Laura Crowley, [Crowley Furniture](#)
- Emily Tilgner, [McCownGordon Construction](#)
- Julia Vander Weele, [Spencer Fane LLP](#)

FastTrac program is for aspiring entrepreneurs

The Chamber seeks participants for the **FAST-TRAC® Aspiring Entrepreneur Program**.

Kauffman FastTrac® is an immersive, 10-week program that equips aspiring entrepreneurs with the business skills and insights, tools, resources, and peer networks necessary to start and grow successful businesses.

Classes are 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Thursdays, September 14-November 16.

The cost is \$149 per person.

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

Chamber to serve as 1 Million Cups satellite location

The Overland Park Chamber will be a satellite location for 1 Million Cups presentations.

While 1 Million Cups continues to hold weekly in-person meetings at Plexpod in Westport, as well as online viewing, our Chamber will provide online streaming of the event, along with networking for business owners and entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs from throughout Johnson County are encouraged to attend the fourth Wednesday of each month for networking and virtual viewing of the pitches.

Join us for the next event, 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, **September 20**.

For more information: Tim at tholverson@opchamber.org.

Add your thoughts to Talent Council

The Talent Council is digging in to the objectives of Opportunity NOW and wants your voice!

The Talent Council has developed three distinct subcommittees and each working group will undertake a specific issue.

Subcommittees are open to all Chamber members. If someone from your company wants to participate in either the monthly Talent Council or subcommittee meetings, contact Andrew at aweisberg@opchamber.org.



Adam Fichman, owner and founder of [Lifted Logic](#), shared his fascinating career journey and its challenges plus the leadership lessons he has learned along the way during a recent Executive Leadership Series breakfast sponsored by [FNBO](#).



City Councilmember Paul Lyons and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen helped Darryl Mattox, CEO, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new offices of [Gragg Advertising](#), 5200 Metcalf Avenue. Founded by Greg Gragg in 1992, Gragg produces creative work that moves the needle. The creative professionals at Gragg execute digitally, think critically, aggregate masterfully and measure tenaciously. For more info: (816) 931-0050 or [click here](#).



Representative Sharice Davids, City Councilmember Fred Spears and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen helped Bernie Hansen, Chairman; and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the national administrative office of [Better Fed Foods](#), 4801 West 110th Street. BetterFedFoods addresses the need for better-fed land, animals and people in a seamless and sustainable food value chain that connects producers and consumers. For more info: (833) 708-8880.

2023 Golf Tournament

August 14, 2023



Congratulations to these tournament winners:

Longest Drive (Women): Morgan Schulte, FNBO

Longest Drive (Men): Alex Rohde

Closest to Pin: Rob Canent, Everfast Fiber Networks

Longest Putt: Pat Fletcher, USI



Flight A, 1st Place: Black & Veatch
Derek Cambridge, Erick Lowe, David Nelson, Jeff Selby



Flight B, 1st Place: Black & Veatch
Justin Hauser, Greg Shelton, Andrew Petz, Carl Petz



Flight A, 2nd Place: MidAmerican Credit Union / USI
Ryan Balsley, Andy Serrano, Tom Laufter, Anthony Vaughan



Flight B, 2nd Place: Empower / JE Dunn Construction
BJ Fox, Austin Brooks, Daniel Rezin, Harrison Mulvihill



Flight A, 3rd Place: SSC CPAs + Tax Advisors
Adam Michel, Scott Martin, Brian Dick, Brent Fry



Flight B, 3rd Place: The University of Kansas Health System
Jeff Anderson, Jason Glasrud, Collin Cooper, Russ Rein



Thanks to everyone who helped make the golf tournament a great success!

Awards Reception Sponsors



Soft Drinks Sponsor



Door prize and swag bag donors:

- AdventHealth Shawnee Mission
- Alzheimers Association
- Andy's Frozen Custard
- ARC General Contracting
- Arts & Recreation Foundation of Overland Park
- Association Insurance Services, Inc.
- Basecamp Fitness
- Beef-A-Roo
- Best Roofing Kansas City
- BetterFedFoods
- Black & Veatch
- Brian Quinn State Farm Agency
- Chicken N Pickle
- Chick-fil-a 97th & Metcalf
- Coco Bolos Mexican Grill & Cantina
- Compass Minerals
- Core Bank
- Foulston Siefkin LLP
- Hustle & Ground
- Johnson County Community College
- Kansas State University Olathe
- Marco's Pizza
- McAuley & Crandall
- MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital
- Nifty Promotions
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Rock and Brews
- TFI Family Services

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Treat at the Turn Sponsor



Par Sponsors



Hole Sponsors

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- [Budget Blinds of Overland Park](#)
- [Edward Jones](#)
- [Farmers Insurance-The Wertzberger Agency](#)
- [Flury-Hinderks Insurance Agency](#)
- [Fogel-Anderson Construction](#)
- [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)
- [KC Floorworx](#)
- [Marriott Kansas City Overland Park & Zephyr Kitchen + Bourbon Bar](#)
- [Nifty Promotions](#)
- [OMNI Human Resource Management](#)
- [Phoenix Home Care & Hospice](#)
- [Scheels](#)
- [Turner Construction](#)
- [Worlds of Fun](#)

Volunteers:

- Toni Anderson, [Security Bank of Kansas City](#)
- Laura Blatter, [Alzheimer's Association](#)
- Joy Broils, [Hustle & Ground](#)
- Angie Gavin, Distinctive Quality Painting
- Cindy Green
- Brandy Kimble, [FNBO](#)
- Kelly Loneker, [Silver Lake Bank](#)
- Mark Naster, [Hillcrest Transitional Housing of Kansas](#)
- Christa Pointer, [Foundation King](#)
- Cindy Shelton, [Nifty Promotions](#)
- Derek Sommerer, [Mazuma Credit Union](#)



Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen joined City of Overland and Johnson County Government officials to celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new Route 487 offered by Johnson County Transit's RideKC services. Route 487 is a critical link serving the 87th Street corridor between Lenexa City Center and the Mission Transit Center, via downtown Overland Park. For more informaton, [click here](#).



Last month **Overland Park Regional Medical Center** celebrated the opening of its third Electrophysiology laboratory. OPRMC is the only hospital in the U.S. to offer more than one advanced robotic heart care system for use in minimally invasive cardiac ablation procedures to treat patients with heart rhythm disorders.

Recent Events

MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS



The Chamber helped Drew Lericos celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Gatsby Glass of Johnson County**, 6500 West 110th Street. Gatsby Glass is your luxury glass provider and expert from design to install and repair of all interior glass with both commercial and resident solutions and an emphasis on shower doors, mirrors and more. For more info: (913) 513-3609 or [click here](#).



Members networking over delicious breakfast treats at Wednesday Wake-up hosted by **Jason's Deli**.



City Council President Jim Kite joined the Chamber to help Charlie Alexander, Director; Casey Graham, Territory Manager; and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Big O Tires**, 7953 West 151st Street. For more info: (913) 624-9051 or [click here](#).

McCownGordon named ESOP of the Year; unveils LongHouse at Arboretum

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Recently named Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) of the Year by the Heart of America Chapter of the ESOP Association, [McCownGordon](#) is proud to be 100% employee owned.

The company's goal for every project is to deliver the best building experience and enhance the journey for their associates, clients, partners and community.

For McCownGordon, a key component of enhancing the journey includes making a positive impact and contributing to the communities in which our associates live, work, and play. One of those communities is Overland Park, where McCownGordon has successfully completed more than 100 projects, 14 of those contracted directly with the City.

The company recently completed the new visitors center at the Overland Park Arboretum. Inspired by nature, the new LongHouse Visitors Center functions as a multipurpose building by hosting community meetings and large social events such as weddings, receptions and exhibits. Additional amenities include a community room, gift shop, café Celeste, outdoor patio and the waterside terrace.

The 21,000 square-foot space blends nature and architecture seamlessly, while offering panoramic views to the outdoor areas of the Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. The design elements tell a story and are a testament to the brilliance of the design. For instance, the idea to combine heavy steel and timber for the center's frame was inspired by and modeled after structures in nature. This innovative design allows for floor to ceiling windows, letting in an abundance of natural daylight and offering a picturesque setting.

After many years of developing and envisioning this project, the City of Overland Park celebrates the grand opening of the LongHouse Visitor Center in September 2023.

Approaching its 25th anniversary, McCownGordon Construction is recognized as one of the nation's largest construction managers serving the Midwest and South-Central regions from four offices – Kansas City, Mo.; Dallas-Fort Worth; Wichita and Manhattan, Kan. The construction firm offers robust services for new construction, renovations and additions for a diverse market mix including civic, corporate, science and technology, healthcare, higher education, K-12 education, and manufacturing.



LongHouse Visitor Center at the Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.

Driving Economic Success

Unemployment			
	June 2023	May 2023	July 2022
Overland Park	2.8%	2.8%	3.0%
Johnson County	2.8%	2.5%	2.9%
KC Metro MSA	2.9%	2.8%	3.2%
State of Kansas	2.7%	2.9%	2.4%

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

Public School Rankings

#9 – [2023 Cities with the Best Public Schools in America](#) – Niche

[Public school rankings in Kansas:](#)

- #1 – Blue Valley School District
- #3 – Olathe Public Schools
- #6 – Shawnee Mission School District

#10 – [Most Educated Cities in the U.S.](#) — ConsumerAdvocate.org

#9 – [2016 Most Educated Mid-Sized Cities in America](#) — mySidewalk.com

Overland Park Public Schools			
	Blue Valley	Olathe	Shawnee Mission
Enrollment	21,795	29,043	26,371
Employees	3,305	4,743	3,409
Schools	35	51	45
Attendance rate	95.50%	94.00%	93.80%
Graduation rate	97.50%	94.60%	90%
Average ACT score	23.7	22.2	23.6
National Merit finalists	49	16	16
Teachers with Master's degree or higher	74%	74%	78%
Advanced Placement (AP) classes offered	27	23	22

Sources: Kansas State Department of Education, CERl, Blue Valley School District, Olathe School District, Shawnee Mission School District.

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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Corporate Partners



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[Kansas Gas Service](#)

[McCownGordon Construction](#)

[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.



Some of our newest members had the chance to connect and learn more about the Chamber at our recent Member Orientation sponsored by [Lettiann & Associates Real Estate Services](#).

Member News & Events

The Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City presents its [Fall Parade of Homes, September 23-October 8](#), featuring 337 homes in eight counties built by 100 of the area's finest builders.

Marriott Kansas City Overland Park is hosting [Maker's Mark Wax Dip & Whiskey Sip](#), 4:30-7:30 p.m. on **September 21** at Zephyr Kitchen and Bourbon Bar.

Eleven Chamber members were in the top 30 Kansas companies named by Forbes Magazine in its list of "[America's Best Employers by State](#)." They included The University of Kansas Health System, Kansas State University, Olathe Public Schools, Blue Valley Schools, Marriott International, Shawnee Mission School District, T-Mobile, Netsmart, UnitedHealth Group, BNSF Railway and University of Kansas.

Johnson County Election Office [seeks election workers](#) for Election Day.

[Nautical Bowls has opened](#) inside Cosentino's Market at Bluhawk.

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission Birth Center has opened an [Obstetrical Emergency Department](#) to serve the nearly 5,000 expecting mothers who deliver at the hospital each year.

[Jennings Social Media & MarTech \(JSMM\)](#) is celebrating 20 years in business. JSMM is a growth marketing agency and digital martech leader serving clients in the automotive industry, transportation logistics, healthcare, beauty, financial services, travel and hospitality, technology, home services and more. It celebrates its new Overland Park office with a [ribbon cutting](#) on **September 14**.

Kansas State University Olathe has [launched a blog](#) to keep current and future students, alumni and area professionals informed.

The [Overland Park Host Lions Club](#) presented \$500 college scholarships to three seniors graduating from Overland Park high schools.

Johnson County Community College is offering [new classes, programs and updated student spaces](#) in Fall 2023.

Mazuma Credit Union is accepting applicants for its [2024 Mazuma Foundation Grant](#).

Leawood Family Care has joined the AdventHealth Medical Group network. The nine-provider practice, now called [AdventHealth Medical Group Primary Care at College Boulevard](#), is open seven days per week and offers walk-in care daily.

Leslie Karr, formerly Manager of Current Planning at the City of Overland Park, has been [promoted to Director of Planning and Development Services](#). She replaces Jack Messer who was promoted to assistant city manager.

WaterOne has selected Shaun Pietig as its [new general manager](#). Shaun joined WaterOne in 2007 and has served in many roles.

Kristy Baughman, formerly Director of Education and Planning at United Community Services of Johnson County, is [now Executive Director](#).

Bryan Johnson, A.A.E., is the [new executive director](#) of the Johnson County Airport Commission. He has nearly 30 years experience in the aviation and aerospace industry along with business development expertise.

Tripp Walsworth [has joined Walsworth](#), a national family-owned commercial printing company founded by his great-grandfather in Marceline, Mo.

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To submit member news and events, log into your Member Info Hub – [click here](#).