

## Vote Yes! for safer streets and improved infrastructure

For many months citizens appointed to the Infrastructure Advisory Group helped the City of Overland Park create [recommendations](#) and identify priorities for infrastructure needs across the city.

The group evaluated everything from trees and stormwater runoff to roads and traffic signals. In the end, their report recommended how our growing and aging city should implement a comprehensive infrastructure plan to support the City's needs for the next 10 to 15 years.

Of course, a plan to address these critical needs requires sufficient funding to implement the plan properly. In June, registered voters in Overland Park will receive mail ballots where they can vote on a dedicated 3/8th sales tax to support the recommended infrastructure plan. The tax, if approved, would begin

in April 2024, and would replace the current 1/8th cent sales tax that expires in March 2024.

Voters have approved similar dedicated taxes three times so the City has an established track record of delivering on its promise of executing a comprehensive infrastructure plan. This time, however, the proposed increase will allow the city to pursue longer-term solutions that will include improved traffic safety, better streets, sidewalks, storm sewers, and green infrastructure.

You must be registered to vote before June 1 to receive your mail ballot. If you are not registered, visit the [Johnson County Election Office](#) website.

More information is available through the City's [OP Moves](#) webpage. The Chamber soon will launch its webpage to support the campaign.



The Chamber held a victory celebration to announce \$3.2 million committed by 69 investors to the Opportunity NOW initiative. Celebrating with Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen were Allan Samson and India Boulton, [T-Mobile](#); Dana Streck, [WellSky Corporation](#); Neelima Parasker, [SnapIT Solutions](#); and Kim Winslow, [Evergy](#).

## Chamber Board

### Board Officers:

Joan Wells, Chair  
**Augeo**

Cindy Rock, Chair-Elect  
**C2FO**

Josh Beck, 1st Vice Chair  
**MarksNelson LLC**

Matt Sogard, 2nd Vice Chair  
**Overland Park Regional Medical Center**

Chris Wally, Treasurer  
**Wally & Co.**

Matt Sheets, Secretary  
**FNBO**

Tony Rupp, Past Chairman  
**Foulston Siefkin LLP**

### Board Members:

Rick Axthelm, **Compass Minerals**

Josh Bitterman, **Goldfish Swim School**

India Boulton, **T-Mobile**

Ken Bowman, **Shamrock Trading Corporation**

Sterling Cramer, **OWN**

Dr. Stuart Day, **The University of Kansas  
Edwards Campus**

Dr. Nadine Franz, **APEX Career Services**

David Freisner, **Fortune Financial Advisors**

Tracy Garry, **Empower Retirement**

Hyleme George, **Black & Veatch**

Matt Gunter, **SelectQuote**

Courtney Kounkel, **Monarch Build LLC**

Kristen Leathers-Gratton, **Affinis Corp**

Will Mann, **Zurich North America**

Rich Muller, **VanTrust Real Estate**

Neelima Parasker, **SnapIT Solutions, LLC**

Rick Schier, **CommunityAmerica Credit Union**

Dr. Alan Verrill, **AdventHealth South Overland  
Park**

Christian Weld-Brown, **MBB**

Kim Winslow, **Evergy**

Jason Wright, **JE Dunn Construction Company**

### Ex-Officio Board:

Jim Holland, **Fisher Phillips LLP**

Dr. Michelle Hubbard, **Shawnee Mission  
School District**

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

Corey Cohn, Economic Development Project  
Coordinator

Alex Cook, Director of Events & Member  
Services

David Dyer, Membership Director

Frank Ebling, CFO

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

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

Hannah Melton, Member Services Coordinator

Tanya Rife, Executive Assistant

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)



## Celebrating small business!

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**If someone has just one image in his or her mind of what a chamber of commerce does, it's the classic ribbon cutting.**

You can picture it. Smiling people gathered under a shiny new sign, proud owners front and center holding those giant scissors ready to snip the equally giant ribbon, commemorating their business opening with their staff team, family, friends and community. You see a number of these pictures on pages 8 and 9 in this newsletter. These represent dreams, hope, determination, sweat, grit, perseverance, and opportunities.

There are 33.2 million small businesses in the U.S., according to the Small Business Administration. Here are some fast facts:

- Almost 30% of Americans are self-employed.
- 21.4% of businesses are owned by women.
- 19.9% are minority-owned, with Hispanic-owned businesses growing over 8% from 2019 to 2020.
- 21.7% of business owners are immigrants. As of 2017, these businesses employed 8 million people.
- 56% of small businesses in the U.S. are considered micro-businesses, which employ four or fewer employees. Census data suggests that 5% of the U.S. labor force works for a micro business.
- Nearly half of all U.S. employees – 61.7 million workers – are employed by a small business.

Many businesses were hit hard by the challenges of the Covid pandemic, particularly our small businesses. According to nerdwallet, 32% of small business owners say inflation is their biggest challenge right now. Worker shortages and supply chain issues compound this challenge. I recently attended a meeting where U.S. Chamber CEO Suzanne Clark reminded us of the interconnectedness of our economic ecosystem. Large companies can help small businesses prosper by:

1. Speeding up payment processing
2. Including small business suppliers in your operations
3. Partnering with a small business on local, state and federal contracts
4. Helping small businesses adapt technology
5. Participating in mentorship programs

To learn more about investing in the small business ecosystem, [click here](#).

We're fortunate to have a diverse fabric of businesses in our region. May is a great opportunity to pause and celebrate the small businesses in your life. Let them know how much their services mean to you. Don't forget to spread the word – tag some of your favorite businesses in your social with the hashtags #SmallBusinessWeek and #WhyWeOPChamber.

And if you're a small business, THANK YOU for your investment in our economy. At the OP Chamber, we celebrate you not just in May, but every day.



# Upcoming events

## Wednesday Wake-up

**Wednesday, May 10** – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Hosted by [Occidental Management](#) at Overland Park Xchange (OPx), 6800 West 115th Street

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

With Class A office space, OPx offers spacious floor plans with private entrances, amenities including a Pure Café, on-site management, and convenient parking.

Free for Chamber members - [register here](#).



SERIES SPONSOR



## Young Professionals: CEOs Unplugged

**Wednesday, May 24** – 12:00-1:30 p.m.

**University of Kansas Edwards Campus**, 12600 Quivira Road

During this lunch program, Overland Park Young Professionals will hear from a diverse panel of executives about how they became successful leaders within their fields.

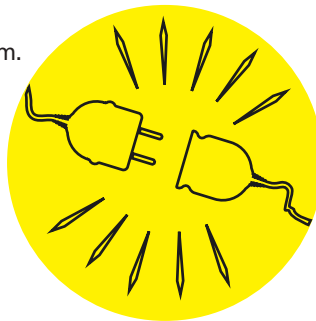
### Featured Panelists:

- Adam Fichman, [Lifted Logic](#)
- Suze Parker, [Parker Communications Group](#)
- Joan Wells, [Augeo](#)

Lunch is included.

To register, [click here](#).

Series Sponsor: [BHC](#)



SERIES SPONSOR



## LOP Project Fundraiser

## Wine for Signs

**Wednesday, June 7** – 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Bourgmont Winery, 20299 Quivira Road

The Leadership Overland Park Class is hosting a fundraising event with the [Overland Park Host Lions Club](#) to benefit visually impaired accessibility at Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead. Live music, appetizers, a tour and two complimentary glasses of wine are included in the general admission ticket. VIP tickets also are available and include a VIP wine tasting with Bourgmont's Director of Operations.

To register, [click here](#).



## Member Orientation

**Tuesday, May 23** – 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street

If your company is new to the Chamber or you are new to your organization, this quarterly event is for you.

During the informal orientation, you will meet Chamber staff, connect with others who are new to the Chamber and learn about valuable resources available to you and your business.

To register, [click here](#).

Series Sponsor: [Lettiann & Associates Real Estate Services](#)



SERIES SPONSOR



## Executive Leadership Series

Featuring Neelima Parasker, [SnapIT Solutions](#)

**Wednesday, May 24** – 7:30-9:00 a.m.

**Marriott Kansas City Overland Park**, 10800 Metcalf Avenue

Neelima Parasker, Founder, President and CEO at [SnapIT Solutions](#) will share her leadership path and lessons learned along the way.

SnapIT Solutions is an innovative high tech information technology services and solutions company that seeks, trains and hires individuals in under-resourced communities.

With more than 20 years of IT experience, Neelima has been with Fortune 500 companies leading teams that perform enterprise transformations and promote innovation. She was a speaker at the 2020 World Economic Forum in Davos.

To register, [click here](#).

Series Sponsor: [FNBO](#)



SERIES SPONSOR



## Ribbon cuttings

**May 9** – [SSC CPAs + Tax Advisors](#), 8001 College Boulevard, Suite 200 – 3:00 p.m.

**May 11** – [KC Floorworx](#), 10514 West 103rd Street – 12:00 p.m.

**May 12** – [Senior Helpers](#), 7203 West 110th Street – 12:00 p.m.

**May 16** – [Sundance Ridge](#), 2465 176th Street – 3:30 p.m.

**May 27** – [Anytime Fitness](#), 8809 West 95th Street – 3:30 p.m.

**May 31** – [MarksNelson](#), 6800 West 115th Street, Suite 3511 – 3:00 p.m.



# Andrew Weisberg is new Director of Talent

## Andrew Weisberg is joining the Chamber team in the newly created position of Director of Talent.

The new position is part of the Chamber's **Opportunity NOW** initiative, creating the Workforce Department. Andrew will implement strategies to improve our region's competitiveness by helping employers attract and retain quality talent. He will collaborate with employers, education partners and regional stakeholders to build and strengthen the current and future talent pipeline.

"I am excited to be joining the Overland Park Chamber team and work in one of the most dynamic and fastest growing cities in the region," Andrew said.

"The Chamber's strategic priorities around workforce development demonstrate a clear focus on helping businesses meet a growing need.

Through my role, I hope to deliver impact on the program's key objectives and help create a strong workforce ecosystem within Overland Park and Johnson County that helps meet the talent needs of today and in the future," he said.

Andrew has served more than fourteen years in the public, non-profit, and private sectors. Previously he was a Strategic Partnership Manager at mySidewalk where he worked with partners around the country to drive at impact on issues related to public health, economic and workforce development and civic projects. Prior to that, Andrew was Director of Community Engagement at the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce where he focused on community outreach, entrepreneurship, criminal justice and public safety and workforce development. He led workforce efforts that

supported the promotion of skilled trades, real world learning, and second chance hiring.

Earlier in his career, Andrew worked for the Local Investment Commission, which helps with resources and programs for students, families and neighborhood residents. He also served as a regional planner for the Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission in west-central Missouri.

Andrew looks forward to engaging in the community to help drive economic prosperity. You can reach him at (913) 766-7608 or [aweisberg@opchamber.org](mailto:aweisberg@opchamber.org).

To learn more about the **Opportunity NOW** initiative, [click here](#).



Andrew Weisberg

Click below for more information.



## A Celebration of Growth

AT THE OVERLAND PARK ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDENS

### ENJOY

Wine with exclusive hand-painted wine glass  
Delicious food from local restaurants  
Live music and entertainment  
Sneak peek of LongHouse  
Fireworks and floral landscapes

JUNE 24, 2023 • 7-10 p.m.

Purchase your tickets or sponsorship package today!

Visit [stemssoiree.org](http://stemssoiree.org) or call 913.322.6467 for all ticket and event information.



PRESENTING SPONSOR  
& HONORARY CHAIR:  
**JANET LONG**

LEGACY SPONSORS:

Bank of Blue Valley  
in partnership with the  
Reggie Family Foundation

**frank**  
AGENCY

# Hannah Melton joins Chamber team

## Hannah Melton has joined the Chamber staff as Member Services Coordinator.

In her role, Hannah support membership activities including event coordination, recruitment/retention, service to members and guests at the Chamber office, and maintenance of the membership database. She also provides administrative support to staff, responding to member requests, managing front-of-house functions, including conference room rentals and website maintenance.

If you have questions about your membership or are interested in reserving a meeting room at the Chamber office, you can reach Hannah at (913) 766-7610 or [hmelton@opchamber.org](mailto:hmelton@opchamber.org).



Hannah Melton

# Welcome to the Chamber!

## INTRODUCING OUR APRIL NEW MEMBERS

### Basecamp Fitness Overland Park – Coming Soon!

Christie Cook, Owner  
8661 West 135th Street  
Overland Park KS 66223  
christie.cook@basecampfitness.com  
[www.basecampfitness.com](http://www.basecampfitness.com)  
*Fitness, Health and Fitness Program  
Consultants*

### Built Interior Construction

David Anderson, Partner  
8995 Bond Street  
Overland Park KS 66214  
[www.builtinterior.com](http://www.builtinterior.com)  
*Interior Construction & Design;  
Pre-Manufactured Interior Construction*

### Crown Dumpster

Charles Spaedy, Operations & Sales  
Manager  
(913) 686-6499  
[www.crowndumpster.com](http://www.crowndumpster.com)  
*Dumpster Rental, Trash Removal*

### Demand Stack

Webster Jorgensen, Founder  
(816) 735-0087  
wjorgensen@demandstack.io  
[www.demandstack.io](http://www.demandstack.io)  
*Internet Marketing & Advertising, Website  
Design*

### Ellie Mental Health– Overland Park– Coming Soon!

Thomas Nelson, Owner  
10881 Lowell Avenue, Suite 130  
Overland Park KS 66210  
(913) 386-6889  
[www.elliementalhealth.com](http://www.elliementalhealth.com)  
*Health & Wellness, Health Care*

### Great Plains Roofing & Sheet Metal

Wade Leachner  
2820 Roe Lane, Building O  
Kansas City KS 66103  
(913) 677-4769  
[www.westernspecialtycontractors.com/kansas-city](http://www.westernspecialtycontractors.com/kansas-city)  
*Roofing*

### JBL Enterprises Inc.

Beth Lillian  
(913) 486-8007  
*Accounting & Bookkeeping Systems*

### Johnson County Management, LLC.

#### *New EDC Investor!*

Leonard Corsi  
3705 West 95th Street  
Leawood KS 66206  
(913) 649-0123  
[www.jcmre.com/wp](http://www.jcmre.com/wp)

### KC Floorworx

Paulee Nou, Sales Representative  
10514 West 103rd Street  
Overland Park KS 66212  
(913) 318-6549  
PNou.kcfloorworx@gmail.com  
[www.kcfloorworx.com](http://www.kcfloorworx.com)  
*Home Improvements, Floor Covering*

### Marco's Pizza

Rakan AlDogum, Franchisee  
8930 West 95th Street  
Overland Park KS 66212  
(913) 871-5200  
raldogum@marcos.com  
[www.marcos.com](http://www.marcos.com)  
*Restaurants, Food Service*

### Planted Local Lending

Trish Reedy, Mortgage Broker  
8350 North St. Clair Avenue, Suite 225  
Kansas City MO 64151  
(913) 271-2368  
trish@plantedlocallending.com  
[www.plantedlocallending.com/treedy](http://www.plantedlocallending.com/treedy)  
*Real Estate, Mortgages*

### SLCKET

Lauren Robson, Director of Operations  
8101 College Boulevard, Suite 100  
Overland Park KS 66210  
[www.slcket.com](http://www.slcket.com)  
*Information Systems, Technology*

### Whataburger–95th Street

Candace Lolcoma, Field Marketing  
Coordinator  
9505 Metcalf Avenue  
Overland Park KS 66212  
(913) 439-4343  
clolcoma@wbhq.com  
[www.whataburger.com](http://www.whataburger.com)  
*Restaurants*

## Thanks for reinvesting!

## APRIL MEMBER RENEWALS

### 40–49 Years

Shawnee Mission School District

### 20–39 Years

Casa de Fuentes  
Heavy Constructors Association  
Overland Park Convention Center/Global  
Spectrum  
Rosana Square/Mark One Electric  
Turner Construction

### 10–19 Years

Delta Dental of Kansas  
Harmon Construction, Inc.  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Overland Park-West  
K<sup>2</sup> Landscapes  
Perspective Architecture + Design  
Quality Inn  
UnitedHealthcare

### 5–9 Years

Advice & Aid Pregnancy Centers  
Children's Lighthouse Overland Park  
Corner Bakery Cafe-Corbin Park  
Fully Promoted Overland Park  
Great Southern Bank  
Hampton Inn & Suites Overland Park South  
Kansas Christian College  
Mickey "The Cotton Candy Man"  
Midwest Tinting  
Scheels

### 1–4 Years

Allenbrand, Shirley  
Apartment Association of Kansas City  
CreativeOne Marketing, LLC  
Lifted Logic  
Netchex  
Netrality Data Centers  
OakStar Bank  
Service Enterprises, LLC  
Shawnee Mission Post and Blue Valley Post  
Whataburger - 135th Street  
Zarda Bar-B-Q of Lenexa, LLC

Please support these  
businesses that are  
investing in our community!



Click below for more information.

**Wine FOR SIGNS,**  
A NIGHT AT BOURGMONT

**to benefit Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**JUNE 7 2023**

**BOURGMONT WINERY** Featuring Live Music, Food, Drinks and Raffle Items

**TICKET**

Tickets start at \$50. VIP tickets are also available which include a VIP wine tasting with Bourgmont's Director of Operations. Be on the lookout for tickets to go on sale soon.

All proceeds of the event will be used towards replacing the exhibit signage around the park as well as other improvements to make the park more inclusive and accessible by the visually impaired. Live music, appetizers, a tour and two complimentary glasses of wine are included in the general admission ticket.

## Leadership OP

### Educate & Elevate Scholarship

May 22 is the deadline to apply for the 2023 Leadership Overland Park (LOP) Educate & Elevate Scholarship.

Created by the 2020 LOP class, the scholarship is intended to help in-need residents of Johnson County, gain a professional or technical career by pursuing a degree or technical certificate. The award for 2023 is \$750.

For application details, [click here](#).

You can donate to this fund to help those most in need achieve successful careers. For details, [click here](#).

## LOP class studies eco devo and county government

**Recently the Leadership Overland Park (LOP) class held sessions on economic development and Johnson County Government.**

On Economic Development Day held at Aspiria NOW, Tim Holverson, Chamber Director of Workforce and Business Growth, provided an economic development overview and then the class heard from community representatives about real estate, continuing education and workforce development, entrepreneurial resources, planning and development at the City of Overland Park, tourism and Kansas City Area Development Council's talent attraction efforts.

Johnson County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Mike Kelly provided a welcome and overview for County Government Day, a joint session with other Johnson County leadership programs at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center. The class heard from Johnson County Manager Penny Post oak Ferguson, Johnson County District Attorney Steve Howe, Johnson County Airport Commission Interim Director Larry Peet, United Community Services of Johnson County Executive Director Julie Brewer, Johnson County Park & Recreation District Executive Director Jeff Stewart and Johnson County Medical Examiner's Office Chief Medical Investigator Alya McClain. The Coffee Sponsor for the session was [Scooter's Coffee](#).

**2023 LOP Sponsor:**



Tim Holverson, Chamber Director of Workforce & Business Growth, facilitated a panel discussion featuring real estate professionals.



Class members toured the Johnson County Museum.





City Council President Jim Kite joined the Chamber to help owners Melissa and Bryan Marcus and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Scenthound](#), 6519 West 119th Street. Scenthound offers a variety of grooming services. For more information, [click here](#).



Last month the Chamber hosted a panel discussion on protecting Kansas health care workers presented by the Kansas Hospital Association and its partners. This topic is especially important as the state faces challenges in recruiting and retaining health care professionals in the Kansas City metro area.

The health care field has experienced an increase in workplace violence. In some situations, patients, visitors and family members have attacked health care staff and jeopardized the workforce's ability to provide care.

To watch a YouTube video of the panel discussion, [click here](#).



Business leaders filled the Aspiria Auditorium last month to hear Mayor Curt Skoog present his annual State of the City Address in a program presented by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. [Saint Luke's Health System](#) was the Presenting Sponsor.

During his address, the Mayor reflected on successes over the last year that have continued to make Overland Park a nationally recognized place to live and work. He also discussed the City's plans to address challenges and opportunities to ensure our city continues to be a top choice for the next generation.

The presentation featured videos in which Skoog interviewed business and community leaders about what they see as needs for office space, walkability, public transit and amenities that make the city attractive to young workers.

Mayor Skoog's address will be available to watch online at [www.opkansas.org](http://www.opkansas.org).



# A commitment to community

## CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

**Empower** is a financial services company on a mission to empower financial freedom for all.

Empower is the second-largest retirement services provider in the U.S.,<sup>1</sup> with more than 17.8 million customers and 69,000 different organizations<sup>2</sup> that trust it with their financial futures every day. In the last handful of years, organic growth and strategic acquisitions have bolstered public awareness of what Empower does and positioned it to transform the financial services industry.

Employing more than 12,000 associates worldwide<sup>3</sup> – and more than 600 in the Overland Park area – Empower is also committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive workplace and striving to enrich the communities where its associates live and work. Its specialized Business Resource Groups rally around various interests, experiences, and identities to champion diverse ideas and build better solutions for all. Through the Associates. Community. Together. program (A.C.T.), it encourages associates to support causes closest to their hearts through volunteer service and financial contributions. Empower amplifies the charitable impact by matching donations, funding volunteer time, and supporting collaborative philanthropy.

For more information, visit:

[www.empower.com](http://www.empower.com) / [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [TikTok](#) / [LinkedIn](#)

<sup>1</sup>Pensions & Investments Defined Contribution Survey Ranking as of April 2020.

<sup>2</sup>As of December 31, 2022. Information refers to all retirement business of Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America (EAICA) and its subsidiaries, including Empower Retirement, LLC; Empower Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York (ELAINY); and Empower Annuity Insurance Company (EAIC), marketed under the Empower brand. EAICA's consolidated total assets under administration (AUA) were \$1,324.8B. AUA is a non-GAAP measure and does not reflect the financial stability or strength of a company. EAICA's statutory assets total \$75.3B and liabilities total \$71.8B. ELAINY's statutory assets total \$7.2B and liabilities total \$6.9B. EAIC's statutory assets total \$83.4B and liabilities total \$81.9B.

<sup>3</sup>As of December 31, 2022



This is the eighth year Empower is the presenting sponsor for the American Lung Association's Fight For Air Climb.



City Council Member Tom Carignan joined the Chamber to help Trish Reedy celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Planted Local Lending](#). Trish has been a mortgage lender since 2010 and is a Chamber Diplomat.



City Council President Jim Kite joined the Chamber in helping Joe and Cindy Shelton and their team celebrate the 8th anniversary and new location of [Nifty Promotions](#). Nifty Promotions is a full-service promotional products distributor extraordinaire and the Sheltons have been active in the Chamber since the day they started their business. As they like to say . . . get Nifty and get noticed! For more info: (913) 278-1300.



Mayor Curt Skoog and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen helped Matt Sogard, CEO, and Physician Jessica Parrott celebrate the opening of Midwest Perinatal Associates' new space at [Overland Park Regional Medical Center](#). The new space provides state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging services, comprehensive genetic testing, management of complications of pregnancy including maternal medical conditions, high-risk labor and delivery and counseling services. For more information, [click here](#).



# Future Forward at JCCC

## CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

### Win-Win: Promising Future and Free Tuition

[Johnson County Community College](#) (JCCC) is one of more than two dozen schools awarding the [Kansas Promise Scholarship Act](#). This no-cost financial assistance provides free tuition to eligible students enrolled in select two-year associate degree or career and technical education programs. The statewide initiative is building the Kansas workforce and providing students a path to high-demand, high-value jobs.

### Keep the Momentum Rolling: CDL Program Expansion

The growing demand of [students seeking a commercial driver's license](#) (CDL) was the catalyst for JCCC's Board of Trustees to approve a land purchase for a commercial driving range. A full-time 4-week and a 9-week weekend course are offered. JCCC can also privately train for businesses, city municipalities, food distribution and others. [Funding options](#) are available.

### Business Buzz: Customized Training Works

JCCC has supplied 2,335 companies with customized training. [Training programs](#) range from business development and technical trades to computer technology, transportation and custom topics. JCCC's Workforce Development and Continuing Education team is eager to discuss any organization's talent development needs, pain points, values, and desired outcomes for training.

### Career Ready . . . In Just 2 Years

From [construction management to dental hygiene](#), whatever the goals, JCCC can chart a course toward achievement and earning potential from \$60,000 to \$97,000 in the KC area. More than 50 programs prepare students for in-demand careers in two years (or less).

### Proud Partners

JCCC Foundation accepted a generous \$10,000 donation from McCarthy Auto Group to fund scholarships for Automotive Technology students.

"Partnerships like this are a win-win," said Joy Ginsburg, Foundation Executive Director. "Our students feel supported and JCCC provides skilled labor in an area of great need."

### Student Agency at Work for You

Set up a meeting with JCCC's Student Agency if your business needs help with website creation, graphic design, photography or video production. Let our talented students work for you! Questions? Email [studentagency@jccc.edu](mailto:studentagency@jccc.edu).



City Council Member Paul Lyons joined Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen to help Jim Lewis, CEO/President; Tom Davies, Executive Vice President and Chief Retail Officer; Cathy Keeling, Senior Vice President and Product Manager; and other bank officials to break ground on a new [Security Bank of Kansas City](#) banking center at 10300 Mastin Street.



City Council President Jim Kite joined the Chamber to help Matt Sogard, CEO; Dr. Steven Marso, Chief Medical Officer for HCA Midwest Health Cardiovascular Services; and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for a 10-bed Cardiovascular ICU and 26-bed Cardiovascular Specialty Unit at [Overland Park Regional Medical Center](#). These new units are staffed by internationally recognized, highly specialized teams of cardiac experts.



The Chamber joined Mayor Curt Skoog, Johnson County Park and Recreation District representatives, [Johnson County Museum](#) Director Mary McMurray and her team, and Northeast Johnson County Chamber President Deb Settle to celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new trolley play feature in KidScape. With the new trolley feature, kids can sell tickets, load luggage, drive the trolley and more. The design is based on the first car on the historic Strang Line railroad the carried commuters between Johnson County and Kansas City.



## Recent Events

### MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS

Chamber members enjoyed coffee and breakfast items while networking at last month's **Wednesday Wake-up** event hosted by [Fusion Bank](#).

Thank you to our **Series Sponsor: [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)**!



Johnson County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Mike Kelly joined the Chamber's Tracey Osborne Oltjen and Kevin Walker for a visit with Johnson County lawmakers during a recent visit to Topeka. The County and Chamber have a long history of working together and our leaders used the opportunity to discuss how legislation under consideration impacts our city and county. To view the Chamber's 2023 State Legislative Platform, [click here](#).







Six Johnson County legislators participated in a First Adjournment panel discussion presented last month by the chambers of commerce that comprise the Johnson County Public Policy Council.

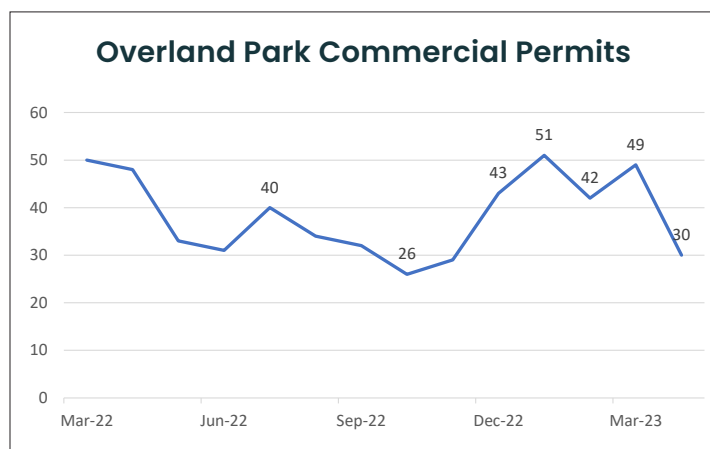
## Driving Economic Success

### We salute small businesses!

May is National Small Business Month and we want to give a shout out to the many small businesses that contribute so much to our local economy!

Did you know:

- Approximately 601,550 Kansas residents work for small businesses. That's 50% of all employees in the state.
- More than 250,000 small businesses call Kansas home.
- Downtown Overland Park has grown into a modern and vast array of nearly 300 locally owned and operated businesses.



Chamber members enjoyed drinks and food from [Tacos 4 Life](#) while networking at [OP After Hours](#) hosted last month by [GRID Collaborative Workspaces](#).

### Unemployment

	Feb. 2023	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022
Overland Park	2.9%	2.5%	2.1%
Johnson County	2.9%	2.5%	2.1%
Kansas City Metro MSA	2.9%	2.9%	2.6%
State of Kansas	2.9%	2.7%	3.7%

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

This newsletter is distributed monthly by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, 9001 West 110th Street, Suite 150, Overland Park, KS 66210.

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## Corporate Partners



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

## Member News & Events

[LaunchCode](#) will convene top tech talent, thought leaders and fellow workforce developers to cover the recruiting, hiring and skilling landscape of the tech industry at its third annual [Shift Tech Transformation Summit](#), a free half-day morning summit on **May 4**.

The [United Way of Greater Kansas City](#) is hosting [CommUNITY Fest](#) harnessing the power of volunteers to serve with more than a dozen local organizations on **May 5**.

Zephyr Kitchen & Bourbon Bar at the [Marriott Kansas City Overland Park](#) presents [Big Hats, Bowties & Bourbon](#), a Kentucky Derby benefitting Give Kids the World, 3-5:30 p.m. on **May 6**.

[HopeKids](#) presents a fun and festive [Kentucky Derby Party](#), 3-7 p.m. on **May 6** at The Rockhill Grille.

[The Single Mom KC](#) presents a [Mother's Day Soiree](#) featuring an afternoon of fun and fancy including an outdoor tea party, a mini-photo shoot, cookie decorating, Disney princesses, bounce house, and shopping on **May 7**.

[Bridging the Capital Gap: Kansas SBDC Lending Summit](#) will connect and support small businesses, entrepreneurs, bankers, and non-traditional lending partners on **May 11** at [Johnson County Community College](#).

[Edward Jones-Alessandra Graber](#) presents an [informative session](#) on Medicare, 6-8 p.m. on **May 11** at Charleston's Restaurant.

[American Cancer Society](#) presents [Shave to Save](#), an evening of food, beverages, and supporters shaving their heads in solidarity with cancer patients, 6-9 p.m. on **May 12** at Union Station.

The Spring Parade of Homes presented by the [Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City](#) features 340 homes in eight counties across the metro continues **through May 14**.

Support your Johnson County favorites and you could win \$500! Visit [www.BestofJoCo.com](http://www.BestofJoCo.com) and nominate your favorite local people, places and businesses for your chance at a drawing for \$500 with the [Shawnee Mission Post](#) and Blue Valley Post. Nominations are open through **May 31**.

Of 261 [Kansas Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Scholars](#) named by the Kansas State Department of Education, [Olathe Public Schools](#) had the most CTE scholars of any district in the state – 206 or about 79% of the state total.

[BHC](#) has acquired long-time Kansas firm Savoy Company, P.A.

The Kansas Rural Water Association recently judged [WaterOne](#) "[Best Tasting Water In Kansas-2023](#)" at its annual conference in Wichita.

[AdventHealth](#) has been recognized by Becker's Hospital Review as one of the [Top 150 Places To Work in Healthcare](#).

[Agenda: USA](#) has hired Ryan Smith as operations manager and Francisca del Villar as operations coordinator.

Charlie Hunt, former deputy director of the [Johnson County Department of Health and Environment](#), was named its [new director](#).

The [Johnson County Community College Foundation](#) selected Roy A. Jensen, M.D., as the [2023 Johnson Countian of the Year](#). Dr. Jensen will be recognized at Some Enchanted Evening, the Foundation's annual fund-raising gala, on November 11.

Kelly Loneker has joined [Silver Lake Bank](#) as Regional Business Development Associate.

[Cleveland University-Kansas City](#) has launched [SmartChoiceCE.com](#), a new online continuing education website developed as a premier online educational content hub for doctors of chiropractic and health sciences professionals seeking continuing education units (CEUs) for state licensing and ongoing professional education.

HCA Midwest Health recently made a comprehensive [\\$34.5 million investment](#) in Research College of Nursing to support expansion plans, including the development and building of an innovative Center for Clinical Advancement, on the campus of Research Medical Center.

[LaunchCode](#) has opened applications for its free web development training.

To submit your member news and events, [click here](#).