



Pro-business legislation advancing in Kansas



By the Numbers

Economic Development 2020 Statistics



1,455
NEW JOBS



1,406
RETAINED JOBS



\$70,946
AVERAGE WAGE



\$41.1M
CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Unemployment and eco devo programs among legislative issues

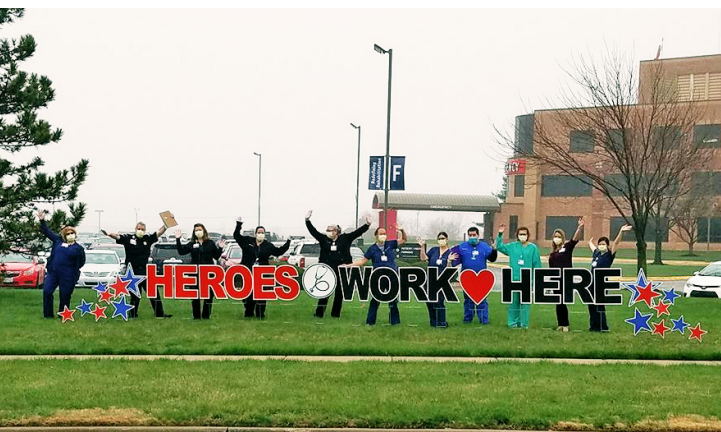
At the Statehouse, the legislature is quickly moving to its first adjournment. The focus is now reconciling differences between the House and Senate version of bills so they can advance them to the Governor's desk. Legislative action includes two issues of importance to the business community: unemployment and economic development tools.

Unemployment Update – The Senate and House approved their respective versions of HB 2196 on strong votes of 40-0 and 87-36 respectively. Many changes added by the Senate were met with the approval of stakeholders and served to improve the final product that ultimately will be worked out between the House and Senate. Changes were incorporated to ensure language in the bill complies with federal guidelines regulating unemployment compensation.

Even with amendments, the bill continues to call for \$450 million of federal funds to bolster the trust fund, strengthen fraud provisions and ensure the business community has a role in advising the Department of Labor on how the new unemployment system will function. Additionally, the proposed revisions to the rate tables provide more parity for unemployment charges that will have to be paid to replenish the state's trust fund. Altogether, these changes will save Kansas businesses millions of dollars annually.

Economic Development Tools – The Chamber has been working to pass extensions and improvements to three key economic development programs: the Angel Investor Tax Credit, the High-Performance Incentive Program (HPIP) and STAR Bonds. The trio of programs are used throughout the state to assist with job recruitment and retention efforts. The Angel Investor Tax Credit (SB 66) is on its way to Governor Kelly's desk as is the HPIP bill (SB 65). It is expected she will sign the bills. The STAR Bonds bill (SB 124) will require some additional work by Senate and House negotiators.

Stay up to date on legislative issues impacting your business with the Chamber's "This Week in Topeka" written each week by Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy. To receive this report in your e-mail inbox, contact Erin at emurray@opchamber.org.



Resilience

What a year we've traveled through together. Over the past few weeks, we've noted milestones we never imagined when the Covid-19 pandemic began. There were remembrances for lives lost. Memories of our collective experiences of remote life were shared such as learning to Zoom for work and school. For some, being on the front line took on a new level of meaning and we all became more grateful than ever for those in public safety, health care, restaurants, grocery, transportation and so many others who kept us safe and supplied this past year. We've never given so much thought to what being "essential" meant until we had to define who really was essential to our daily lives and our economy.

Last March is a line of demarcation. I'll never again take for granted meeting for lunch or shaking hands in greeting or looking around a room and seeing smiles unmasked or gathering my family around my dining table for the holidays.

We are forever changed. We know now that we can be more flexible than we ever imagined, finding new ways to work, deliver products and services, and learn. We can accomplish a lot virtually, even as many of us prefer to do so in person.

In some way, we were all on the front lines of something we had never experienced.

I want to thank all of you for the resilience you've demonstrated this year - for continuing to serve your customers in person or remotely through Zoom, for pivoting to a new business model, for reimagining your product to serve a virtual customer, for creating curbside or delivery options, adding an online store, or helping kids with remote school while running your business. And if your front line was providing health care, teaching, cleaning or delivering essential products and services - we are so very grateful to you.

The definition of resilience is to recover quickly from difficulties, or toughness. From what you all have shared with me and other members of the Chamber's team about this past year, "resilience" is absolutely the word that defines you.

Times of crisis require bold leaders. I saw so many bold leaders this past year helping those in need, making critical policy decisions, providing critical care and shifting to new business models to serve essential needs. Leaders were everywhere - in business, in the faith community, in neighborhoods, in government, in our families.

We need all of you for the challenges ahead. Some of our businesses are still struggling, particularly hotels and others in the hospitality sector. Some businesses have closed, leaving employees looking for new opportunities and families in need. Housing prices are rising, which is great news for sellers, but challenging for communities like ours that seek to provide attainable housing for their workforces. The Digital Divide remains but our need to provide access for remote work, learning and healthcare is here to stay. Solutions will come from all sectors working together, public and private, bringing the lessons we've learned over the past year to meet the needs of the future.

2020 taught us new lessons, brought us together and made us collectively stronger.

We'll take these lessons as we move boldly into the future focused on recovery and never forget we are far more resilient than we ever knew.



Tracey Osborne Oltjen
President & CEO
[@traceylosborne](https://twitter.com/traceylosborne)



Express toll lanes would manage U.S. 69 congestion long-term

GUEST COLUMN

U.S. 69 is the busiest four-lane highway in Kansas and the economic backbone of Overland Park's growth and quality of life. It has provided safe, easy access to affordable housing, community amenities and well-paying jobs in the metro's job-creation center.

The heavy congestion on the roadway during morning and evening rush hours, however, will only grow. That's why the U.S. 69 Modernization and Expansion Project is reviewing congestion-management alternatives to prevent future problems. It's looking at transit, technologies, adding more general-purpose lanes and other strategies, including whether a new express toll lane (ETL) in each direction between 103rd and 151st Streets could

better manage congestion and improve travel time reliability.

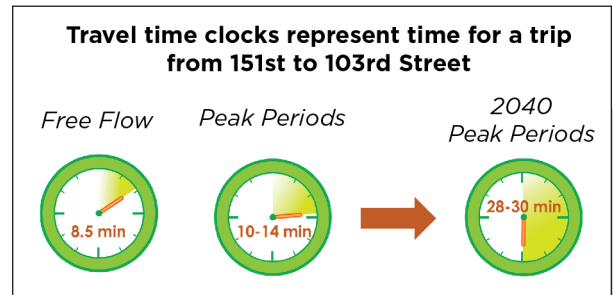
As a Project Advisory Group member, I've been asked why KDOT doesn't just add more untolled lanes. We've learned from other cities that more "free" capacity only briefly reduces congestion before traffic jams return. With more free lanes only, as Overland Park grows and expands, traffic would exceed previous levels, generating new demand for even more lanes.

ETLs are proven to manage congestion long term, significantly delaying – or eliminating – the need for more lanes. People willing to pay a small fee for a shorter commute can travel in the tolled lanes, better balancing traffic across all lanes and helping the whole corridor flow more smoothly. To repeat, ETLs are a choice – one people will choose when they want or need it.

Overland Park's success is built in part on how well and efficiently we move people and products throughout the region. ETLs give us a new tool in our toolkit to reduce congestion and make it easier to get to and from high-quality jobs, homes and amenities. That will help Overland Park continue to be a place where people and businesses come – and stay – to thrive.



John Skubal
Former Chair, Kansas Senate Transportation Subcommittee
Former Overland Park City Councilmember



Mark your calendar!

Wednesday Wake-up

Monthly networking event held virtually, 8:00-9:00 a.m. on the **2nd Wednesday of each month.**

Series sponsor: [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)

Executive Leadership Series

Tuesday, May 11 - 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Featuring Peter Mallouk, [Creative Planning](#)

Series sponsor: [FNBO](#)

Chamber Golf Tournament

Monday, August 16 - 11:00 a.m.

Enjoy networking and a fun afternoon on the golf course at [Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate.](#)

To promote your business as an event sponsor, contact Celia at cfritzwatson@opchamber.org.

Presented by [AdventHealth](#)

Register at www.opchamber.org

SAVE THE DATE
Virtual Public Meeting

[69 EXPRESS](#) April 20, 2021
www.69Express.org

Learn more about the 69 Express project at the next virtual public meeting on **April 20.**

For project details: www.69Express.org



#WhyWeOPChamber

"It's enjoyable to be part of a large organization that is full of fun, engaging and committed people who care about our community and helping others."

– Matt Masilionis, AIA & NCARB
Perspective Architecture + Design



2020 Leadership class establishes scholarship for in-need residents

GUEST COLUMN

The Leadership Overland Park (LOP) Educate & Elevate Scholarship is designed to help in-need residents of Overland Park and Johnson County gain a professional or technical career through scholastic giving.

The LOP Class of 2020 started its program prior to the pandemic commencing. I believe the session where we learned about impoverished residents of Overland Park and Johnson County really struck a chord with the entire class. It was truly an eye-opening experience. Once the pandemic hit and our class was forced to complete our courses virtually, we had many lengthy discussions about how this pandemic was adversely affecting our class. These conversations quickly moved on to how the pandemic would undoubtedly negatively affect those in need of assistance

throughout our city and country. This was where the Educate & Elevate Scholarship was born.

The 2021 \$500 scholarship recipient will be recognized at the LOP graduation ceremony held on June 18, 2021 (subject to change). In recognition of the devastating economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, in the first year of the scholarship, preference will be given to an individual who can best demonstrate that their financial well-being was adversely impacted by this pandemic.

My fellow classmates and I would love for our legacy to be one of respect and perseverance for all those persons who were able to navigate a pandemic such as the one that occurred during 2020 while realizing their dreams and goals.

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



Brady Myers
Project Manager
[JE Dunn Construction Company](#)

Brady was a member of the 2020 LOP class.



Click advertisement below for more information.



JCPRD.com/Rentals

8788 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park KS 66212

2021 Leadership class learns about community

Our 2021 Leadership Overland Park class had recent sessions on state government and health and social issues.

State Government Day, a joint session with the leadership classes of the Olathe and Shawnee chambers, featured virtual presentations by Johnson County legislators, state leaders including Governor Laura Kelly, and a panel discussion by lobbyists.

On Health & Social Issues Day, the class heard from social services representatives, enjoyed hands-on demonstrations for a healthy lifestyle and had an overview of the current health care climate.

Upcoming sessions will focus on city and county government, education and regionalism.



Learning methods for business professionals to maintain healthy lifestyles.

Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome these new members since January:

- Aubrey Vineyards
- Blue Nose Aerial Imaging of Overland Park
- Budget Blinds of Overland Park
- Chiefs Fit
- Clean2TheKore LLC
- Clemons Real Estate
- Colliers International
- Davis Heating, A/C, and Home
- Fajita Pete's
- Fastsigns Blue Valley
- Gigstad Law Office LLC
- HR Mavis, LLC
- iFocus Marketing
- Impact Health and Performance
- Jennifer Werr Agency-Farmers Insurance
- Kansas City Monarchs Baseball
- Kendall Bank*
- Kore Lab Solutions
- LEVELUP Esports Arena
- Marla Williams Agency
- NCRI - National Catastrophe Restoration, Inc.
- Novel Place Senior Living*
- OakStar Bank
- Olathe Health Family Medicine - Antioch
- Overland Park Auto Clinic
- Overland Park Veterinary Emergency and Specialty
- Pet Wants Greater Kansas City
- Print & Ship KC
- Santa Fe Liquors
- School of Rock Overland Park
- SHC Roofing, Inc.*
- Sonesta Simply Suites
- Sporting Kansas City
- Summer Moon Coffee
- Urban Air Adventure Park

*also an EDC Investor

Baron Contracting is also a new EDC Investor

Chamber's advocacy essential for business success

Why does the Overland Park Chamber engage in advocacy? Because the success of our economy and our community are directly impacted by the rules, regulations, ordinances and laws our elected officials enact. Every day, policymakers are making decisions that directly impact how we run our businesses and the quality of life we seek in Overland Park.

The Chamber's advocacy team spoke up for businesses as the County debated what to do with relief money provided by the federal government. Our advocacy for cash assistance for businesses led to the Johnson County CARES Small Business Grant Program. Because of our effort, the County set aside \$13.5 million in federal CARES funding to create \$10,000 grants for COVID-impacted businesses.

The Chamber's advocacy team has been working for months with state lawmakers to overhaul the state's problem-plagued unemployment system. While the legislation is not yet finalized, the provisions we're fighting for will be a game-changer for the business community. Without the changes we are supporting, your unemployment payments to the state will skyrocket. Additionally, we're fighting on your behalf to have \$450 million of federal relief funding dedicated to replenishing the unemployment trust fund. This act alone will save employers thousands of dollars that otherwise would come directly from your bottom line.

We're also pushing to create an oversight council – including representatives from the business community – to overhaul the state's antiquated system to provide employers and employees with more efficient access to the Department of Labor. And, because fraud is diverting employer-provided contributions away from our employees who need assistance, we're working to include tough anti-fraud provisions in the new system to protect the money businesses contribute to the state's unemployment system.

These are just a few examples of why our advocacy efforts are essential. With or without the pandemic, our advocacy team also regularly supports the business community with individual case work. Our team connects business owners with elected officials to assist in finding solutions to problems. Our relationships with elected officials at all levels of government help ensure policymakers understand the impact their decisions have on the business community.

We are honored you trust the Chamber to help magnify your voice as public policy is developed. We are a call or e-mail away to discuss challenges you face and how our advocacy team can lend a hand.



Michael Hockley

Mike Hockley is an environmental and energy law partner with [Spencer Fane](#). He also is the civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army for Kansas (East). He serves in leadership roles in a variety of civic and professional organizations and is the current Chair of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce Public Policy and Advocacy Committee.



Overland
Park
Chamber.

#WhyWeOPChamber

"The Chamber serves as a convener of resources to assist businesses in navigating difficult issues, developing business strategies and staying informed."

– Melody Rayl
Fisher Phillips LLP



Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS FROM MARCH

Ascentist Plastic Surgery

Jenny Tuggle, Marketing & Social Media
14340 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66222
(913) 721-3387
jennifer@entofgkc.com
www.ascentist.com
Health Care

Ascentist-Leawood

4801 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66211
(913) 721-3387
www.ascentist.com
Health Care

Ascentist Ear, Nose & Throat

5701 West 119th Street, Suite 425
Overland Park, KS 66211
(913) 721-3387
www.ascentist.com
Health Care

Ascentist Surgery Center

6815 East Frontage Road
Merriam, KS 66204
(913) 318-3800
www.ascentist.com
Health Care

Aubrey Vineyards

Karine Hellwig, Winemaker & General Manager
16350 Kenneth Road
Overland Park KS 66085
(913) 909-2926
khellwig@aubreyvineyards.com
www.aubreyvineyards.com
Beverages, Wine-Direct/Retail
Referred by Lettiann Southerland

Blue Nose Aerial Imaging of Overland Park

Matthew Clark, Franchisee
9308 Sturgeon Drive
Overland Park, KS 66212
(515) 418-0658
matt.clark@bluenoseaerial.com
www.bluenoseaerial.com
Photography

Budget Blinds of Overland Park

Courtney Laufketter, Vice President of Marketing
7250 West 151st Street
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 402-1600
Cstoddard@budgetblinds.com
www.budgetblinds.com/overlandpark
Window Blinds, Coverings & Shutters

Clean2TheKore LLC

Kevin Ross, Chief Operating Officer
8787 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66212
(800) 717-9819
kevin.ross@clean2thekore.com
www.clean2kore.com
Cleaning Services, Janitorial

Clemons Real Estate

Monica Enloe, Commercial & Investment Sales
1 East Armour Boulevard, Suite 201
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 774-4250
www.clemonsrealty.com
Real Estate-Commercial & Industrial, Real Estate-Management

Davis Heating, A/C, and Home

Eric Davis, Owner
2710 South 63rd Street
Kansas City KS 66106
(913) 283-5004
info@davishvachome.com
www.davishvachome.com
Heating and Air Conditioning

Jennifer Werr Agency-Farmers Insurance

Jennifer Werr
8665 West 135th Street
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 717-7117
jturner3@farmersagent.com
www.facebook.com/JenniferWerrAgency/
Insurance

Kansas City Monarchs Baseball

Suzi Hallas, Mgr. Special Events & Community Engagement
1800 Village West Parkway
Kansas City, KS 66111
(913) 328-5618
info@monarchsbaseball.com
www.monarchsbaseball.com
Baseball Clubs, Entertainment

Kendall Bank – EDC Investor

Mark Emley, CEO
11225 College Boulevard, Suite 150
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 839-3700
info@kendallbank.com
www.kendallbank.com
Banks

LEVELUP Esports Arena

Ryan Hughes and Joshua Garr, Founding Team
7300 West 119th Street
Overland Park KS 66213
hello@lvluparena.com
www.leveluparena.gg
Event Services, Event Space

Novel Place Senior Living – EDC Investor

Shelly DeWoskin, Executive Director
9651 Barkley Street
Overland Park, KS 66212
(913) 521-9600
www.novelplaceseniorliving.com
Senior Care & Living

OakStar Bank – EDC Investor

Charles R. Wooten, Bank President, Kansas City
6285 West 135th Street, Suite 330
Overland Park, KS 66223
(816) 805-9090
cwooten@oakstarbank.com
www.oakstarbank.com
Banks

Overland Park Auto Clinic – Opening Soon

Steve Flones, Co-owner
9001 West 95th Street
Overland Park, KS 66212
www.olatheaclinic.com
Auto Repair & Service

Pet Wants Greater Kansas City

Scott Turner, Owner
605 SW US Hwy 40, #276
Blue Springs, MO 64014
(913) 274-9071
sturner@petwants.com
www.petwants.com/GreaterKC
Retail, Pet Services & Supplies

SHC Roofing, Inc. – EDC Investor

Jim Reeves, Owner
5000 Mackey Street, Suite G
Overland Park, KS 66206
(913) 489-7890
jim@shrcommercial.com
www.shrcommercial.com
Roofing, Facility Services

Whom would you like to refer to the Chamber?

Connect them to Stacey at scowan@opchamber.org and receive a credit when they join.

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

opcc@opchamber.org | www.opchamber.org





City Council Members Fred Spears and Stacie Gram joined the Chamber to help owner Cara Neill, her family and team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Deka Lash**, 11780 West 135th Street.

Deka Lash specializes in eyelash extension services and products to make you look and feel your best. Club members receive discounts on services and lash aftercare products.

For more information: (913) 439-4288 or www.dekalash.com



City Council President Curt Skoog joined Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen and Chamber Diplomats to help Wynde and Kevin Ross and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Kore Lab Solutions**, 8787 Metcalf Avenue.

Kore Lab Solutions offers drive-through rapid COVID-19 testing with results in about an hour. It offers an ideal solution for organizations looking to accurately test quickly at a low cost.

For more information: (913) 499-6956 or www.korelabsolutions.com

Thanks for reinvesting!

MARCH MEMBER RENEWALS INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

40-49 Years

Ashok B. Bavishi, C.P.A.
Wells Fargo Advisors

20-39 Years

Casa de Fuentes
COBLE MCCUNE Wealth Management
Discover Vision Centers
Fingerprint Marketing & Advertising
Saint Luke's Health System
Turner Construction

10-19 Years

Chick-fil-A 135th & 69 Highway
Fisher Phillips LLP
Home Association Solutions LLC
Hinkle Law Firm LLC
Kansas City Chiefs Football Club & Arrowhead Events
K² Landscapes
Landworks, Inc.
MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital
Scott Rice Office Works

5-9 Years

Coco Bolos Mexican Grill & Cantina
Corner Bakery Cafe-Corbin Park
Golden Oak Lending
Oades Brothers Tire & Auto
Overland Park Wealth Management

REAL Property Group
Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C.
The Ranch at Prairie Trace

1-4 Years

ACA Business Club
Alfred Benesch & Company
American Century Investments
Ball Conference Center
Baron Contracting
Brain Balance
Candlewood Suites - Lenexa & Overland Park
Children's Lighthouse Overland Park
Deer Creek Golf Club
Edward Jones - Jim Easley
Falafel Express
Flury-Hinderks Insurance
Harvesters-The Community Food Network
Heartland Business Capital
Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation
My Place Hotel
Planet Fitness-114th & Metcalf
Planet Fitness-93rd & Quivira
Rasmussen Law, LLC
Shamrock Trading Corporation
The Vue
Tiger-Rock Martial Arts of Overland Park
True Peace Financial Solutions, LLC
Zarda Bar-B-Q & Catering Co.

Recorded events



You'll find recordings of recent events such as the Mayor's 2021 State of the City Address and the most recent Powerful Voices program on our website – [click here](#).

Be a white belt at something

GUEST COLUMN

I came across those inspiring words recently. White belts are issued to new karate students and signify a new beginning. Trying new things has always been at the very heart of what makes me happiest. Is the same true for you?

Professionally, I never want to be anything but a black belt. Perhaps, like me, you feel that whatever you do should be done with excellence? We're not alone! Ten minutes spent scrolling LinkedIn will produce a half dozen posts about using your 'superpowers,' and likely at least one person calling himself a 'ninja' of something. We all respect achievements and excellence.

But personally? In our personal lives being a beginner of something is equally important. Life should be full of new experiences which means always being willing to put on that white belt. And if you never reach the pinnacle, does it matter? Not to me. I feel no shame that my discarded tries litter my path. I'm too busy pondering my next one.

I'm a white belt bowler. I'm terrible. That 10-pound ball is more likely to veer off into the gutter than knock

down pins, but I never regret the joy from having played with friends.

I'm a white belt Chinese student. I've been teaching myself and so far can only answer basic questions. But I wouldn't give up the look on the waiter's face when I order hot tea and ask for chopsticks at a Chinese restaurant while speaking Mandarin. Surprise!

I'm a black belt baker with a sadly mismatched white belt in cake decorating. I've scraped more frosting off cakes than I care to admit, but in the end the finished product is always delicious. (Zig-zags taste the same as flowers do, and when it doubt . . . chocolate ganache to the rescue!)

I took my gardening belt off and burned it. I discovered I really do not enjoy mucking about in the dirt. My musician belt also was long ago discarded in favor of appreciating the talents of others.

Next on my list? Hand lettering calligraphy.

What if you gave yourself permission to try something without the pressure of achieving mastery? Let's bring back some healthy curiosity!



Dawn Crouch
Life, Disability & Long
Term Care
[Oliver Insurance Agency, Inc.](#)

*Dawn is chair of the
Chamber Diplomats.*

Marketing opportunities

The Chamber offers numerous ways to promote your company including:

Newsletter advertising

- Printed quarterly newsletter
- Digital monthly newsletter
- Member News weekly e-newsletter - free listings of events, promotions and company news and paid banner ads

Website

- Enhanced listing in member directory
- Banner advertising

Social media

- Facebook shares and Twitter retweets

Mailing list

- Rent the Chamber mailing list for a one-time mailing to promote your event, product or service

Sponsorships

- Co-branding with events and programs

For more information on these opportunities, contact Stan at slawson@opchamber.org

FAIRWAY CREAMERY

coffee

donuts



ice

cream

5938

5938

WITH BUSINESS, BIG AND SMALL.

Business is the engine that makes our communities thrive. That's why we're with you, providing more for you. So you can earn more, save more, and do more. With seven FNBO locations in the area and three new locations coming soon, we're here for your business needs, both big and small.

- Overland Park, KS | 8800 W 135th St | 7901 W 159th St | 4650 College Blvd | 9700 Metcalf
- 13518 S Alden | Olathe, KS | 828 Shawnee Mission Pkwy | Fairway, KS
- 6301 Pflumm | Shawnee, KS



OPENING SPRING 2021
Three new FNBO locations in Overland Park and Lenexa



The great big small bank

fnbo.com/smallbusiness



SERVICE · SOLUTIONS · SUPPORT

over 160 YEARS

Chamber Board

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Central Bank of the Midwest
Tony Rupp, Chairman-Elect
Foulston Siefkin LLP

Joan Wells, 1st Vice Chairman
Wellington

Cindy Rock, 2nd Vice Chairman

Josh Beck, Secretary
MarksNelson

Chris Wally, Treasurer
Wally & Co.

Bobby Olm-Shipman, Immediate Past Chairman
Saint Luke's South Hospital

Mike Hess, Past Chairman
HNTB Corporation

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Sean Barnard, Bambou Salons & Spas

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John Fuller, DLR Group

Tracy Garry, Empower Retirement

Matt Gunter, SelectQuote

Tom Herzog, Netsmart Technologies

Brenner Holland, Hunt Midwest

Angela Hurt, Veracity Consulting, Inc.

Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Blue Valley School District

Melody Rayl, Fisher Phillips LLP

Stacy Rose, AdamsGabbert

Allan Samson, T-Mobile

Rick Schier, CommunityAmerica Credit Union

Matt Sheets, FNBO-First National Bank of Omaha

Matt Sogard, Overland Park Regional Medical Center

Steve Troester, PGAV Architects, Inc.

Kim Winslow, Evergy

Jason Wright, JE Dunn Construction Company

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Dr. Andy Bowne, Johnson County Community College

Bill Ebel, City of Overland Park

Mayor Carl Gerlach, City of Overland Park

Dana Markel, Visit Overland Park

Matt Masilionis, Perspective Architecture + Design

[2021 Chairman of Chamber Economic Development Council]

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, Chamber

Greg Wolf, Dentons

Chamber staff

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, President & CEO

Drew Aggus, Member Services Coordinator

Stacey Cowan, Membership Director

Frank Ebling, CFO

Celia Fritz-Watson, IOM, Director of Events & Member Services

Tim Holverson, IOM, Director, Workforce & Business Growth

Chris Jackson, Research Analyst

Beth Johnson, CEcD, Senior Vice President of Economic Development

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

Erin Murray, Executive Assistant

Kevin Walker, IOM, Senior Vice President of Public Policy

Member news

BHC RHODES has shortened its name to **BHC**.

Overland Park Regional Medical Center performed the first Shockwave intravascular lithotripsy (IVL) technology procedure in Kansas.

The **Kansas City Monarchs Baseball Club** announced the inaugural season for the team will take place with 50% capacity of Legends Field allowed on opening day on May 18.

KU Edwards Campus reported 2021 spring enrollment

increased 13.8% from spring 2020.

AdventHealth South Overland Park has named Monica Powers its new chief nursing officer.

Johnson County Community College has announced Mike Neal as its new executive vice president and chief operating officer.

Black & Veatch was named a top employer for entry-level professionals by CollegeGrad.com.

Valbridge Property Advisors | Kansas City announced the firm's next-generation leadership team: Daniel Kann, MAI, MSRE, and Jason Roos, MAI, will succeed Laird Goldsborough, MAI, MRE, to lead as senior managing directors, together with Joanne Montgomery as president.

HCA Midwest Health and Heartland Soccer Association have renewed an exclusive partnership, helping to improve the health and wellness of the players of the nation's largest soccer organization.

Looking your best in a professional portrait

GUEST COLUMN

Have you ever heard, "Oh, you don't look anything like your business card image"? It's time for an update! Well done photography is a quick way to stand out in today's crowded marketplace.

Here are some tips to look your best, even if it's a selfie or using a friend's phone!

- 1. Dress professionally.** Select form-fitting outfits in solid colors that flatter you. People want to see you, not your cute patterned top.
 - 2. Environment.** Consider the background of the image and what it says. It's best to set up somewhere that is clean and professional or in a portrait studio. Either choice says you are a professional.
 - 3. Body language.** Are you someone in management at a corporation, or a business owner that relies on getting to know your clients on a personal level? Consider whether your body language
- is closed (crossed arms) or whether you've got an open, inviting stance that encourages people to chat with you.
- 4. Lighting.** Blotchy light across your face, fluorescent lighting, or sunshine rarely looks professional. A good choice is an office with filtered natural light coming through the windows. Stand along the window and turn your face into the light.
 - 5. Long term use.** What are you using it for? Is it only for a LinkedIn profile image? Will it work for your upcoming social media branding campaign? Will you be able to use the images over time, allowing you to pop up in a potential customer's newsfeed? Having a plan will allow you to get enough variety in your images to help your business in the long run.
 - 6. Don't forget to smile!** Eyes fully open and a smile on your face projects trust . . . and who doesn't want that?



Kaela Braswell
Owner/Portrait Artist
[Strauss Peyton](#)

Kaela and Jonathan Braswell take time to learn why clients decided now was the perfect time to create their portraits, which helps to create images that work perfectly for the client. Kaela and Jonathan own Strauss Peyton, the oldest portrait studio in America, open since 1900.

Your community's college – training the next essential workers

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

As a pillar of our community, **Johnson County Community College (JCCC)** strives to provide the best education, experiences and unwavering support to their students, employees and the community.

Throughout this unprecedented year, JCCC's commitment to its mission has remained strong: to inspire learning to transform lives and strengthen the community.

From healthcare workers and first responders to truck drivers and educators, JCCC is proud to train local superheroes who work on the front lines every day. Here are a few essential workers who started their journey as Cavaliers:

- Brad Mason, Deputy Chief of Johnson County MED-ACT, says JCCC prepared him for his role battling COVID-19 as a first responder. "My education at JCCC established the foundation for me to serve in a variety of capacities in my organization."
- At the onset of 2020, brand-new respiratory therapist Stephanie Ghilino didn't anticipate playing a vital role in a pandemic. She's currently employed by The University of Kansas Health System and credits JCCC with making her life-saving career a reality.
- As Food Services Director at Overland Park Place Senior Living, Jesse Vega credits JCCC in prepping him for his role as an essential chef. "My time in the hospitality management, chef apprenticeship and dietary manager programs has been invaluable to me throughout my career."
- After being awarded funds from a JCCC Continuing Education scholarship, Todd Sitcler was able to earn his CDL-A license from JCCC's Transportation program. He now delivers essential goods to all corners of the country as an over-the-road driver for DOT Transportation, Inc.

JCCC's students and alumni bring the College's mission to life! The work they do strengthens Overland Park – and all of Johnson County – every day.

To read more inspiring JCCC stories, [click here](#).



Left to right: Todd Sitcler, Stephanie Ghilino, Brad Mason and Jesse Vega.

Driving Economic Success

Unemployment

	Feb. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021
Overland Park	2.6%	4.8%	3.6%
Johnson County	2.7%	4.9%	3.7%
Kansas City Metro MSA	3.4%	4.9%	N/A
State of Kansas	3.2%	3.4%	3.2%

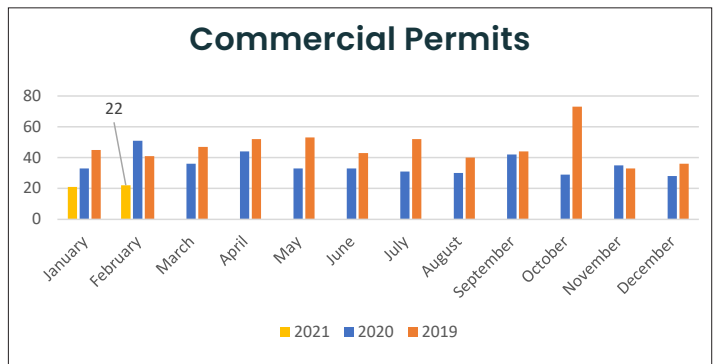
(These percentages are not seasonally adjusted)
– Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC)
– U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Building Permits

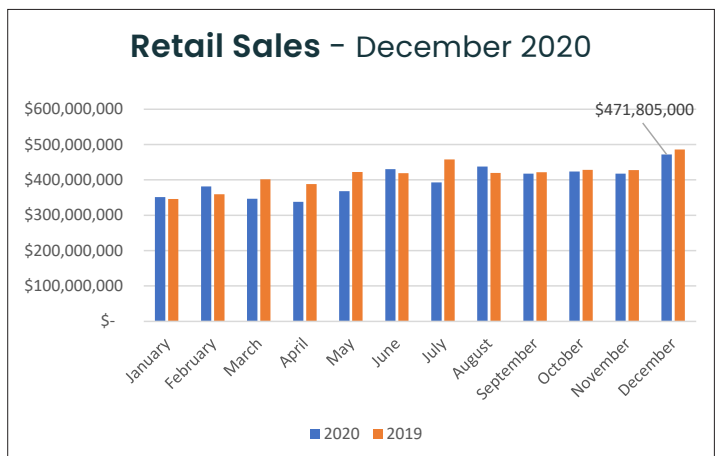
	New Commercial	Institutional, Schools, etc.	Other Commercial	Totals
Feb. 2021	1	0	21	22
Sq. Feet	4,993	0	1,450	6,443
Value	\$420,860	N/A	\$14,201,339	\$14,622,199

– City of Overland Park

Commercial Permits



Retail Sales – December 2020



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

Community news

JoCo Works provides skills training

Johnson County has made funding available to train job seekers and employees at little to no cost – and many **Johnson County Community College** Continuing Ed courses qualify.

This funding has been earmarked for workforce development to pay for training and skill-building for Johnson County businesses that need to reskill or upskill their workforces. Individual residents who have experienced job loss or wage cuts also may qualify.

JCCC Continuing Education partnered with **Workforce Partnership** to provide this vital workforce training to strengthen our local economy.

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

2 new superintendents begin in July

Dr. Michelle Hubbard will assume the role of Superintendent of the **Shawnee Mission School District** on July 1, bringing with her long-standing connections to the community and district schools. Dr. Hubbard has served six years in the district as an associate superintendent, and was appointed deputy superintendent in January 2021. Dr. Hubbard will replace outgoing superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton. She is committed to carrying out the work of the district's strategic plan.

Dr. Brent Yeager will take over the area's largest school district, **Olathe Public Schools**, on July 2. He will replace John Allison, who has served as superintendent since 2017. Yeager currently is the district's assistant superintendent for learning services. He has 20 years experience in the classroom and in administrative positions. His current role includes leadership of the district's school improvement process, development and revision of curriculum and resources, establishing the Diversity and Engagement Department, and selection for the 2018 Aspiring Superintendent's Academy, a cohort of 18 nationally selected participants.

Dr. Michelle Hubbard



Dr. Brent Yeager