



Spring color brightens College Boulevard.

Mayor encourages us to plan, build, protect, preserve

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

These unprecedented times present very real threats to our health, prosperity and way of life as this public health crisis introduces significant disruption. However, I am optimistic that our community will unite and find restoration amidst the uncertainty.

Together, through determination, understanding, patience and compliance with medical directives, we will achieve success and the momentum to full recovery. Already we are witnessing the impact of residents and businesses reaching out to assist others.

Your elected officials, including members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the Kansas Legislature, Overland Park City Hall and the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce have heard about the economic hardship businesses are already experiencing or expect will occur and are working on

Mayor Carl Gerlach
City of Overland Park



solutions to respond to your needs. I assure you that City leaders are in daily contact with leaders at all levels. Remember, we are

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Events Calendar

Webinar: Utilizing Micro-soft Teams to Optimize Your Remote Workforce

Presented with AdamsGabbert

Thursday, April 9
11 a.m.

To register, [click here](#).

Public Policy & Advocacy Committee Meeting

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Friday, April 10

12-1:30 p.m.

Save the Date!

Golf Tournament

Sponsored by AdventHealth
South Overland Park

Monday, August 17

Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate
14225 Dearborn Street

Executive Leadership Series

Sponsored by FNBO-First National Bank of Omaha

Featuring Angela Hurt, President & Founder of Veracity Consulting

Tuesday, August 25

7:30-9:00 a.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas City - Overland Park

10100 College Boulevard

Good Morning, Overland Park!

Friday, October 23

7:30-9:00 a.m.

Marriott Overland Park

10800 Metcalf Avenue

Annual Meeting

Sponsored by Security Bank of Kansas City

Friday, December 4

COVID-19 Resource Hub

For updates and links to resources your business needs to cope with the ongoing pandemic, visit our webpage - [click here](#).

Support Local Business!

For a listing of services our members are offering in response to COVID-19, visit our webpage - [click here](#).

Board & Staff

Board Officers:

Bobby Olm-Shipman, Chairman
Saint Luke's South Hospital
Bill Ferguson, Chair-Elect
Central Bank of the Midwest
Tony Rupp, 1st Vice Chairman
Foulston Siefkin LLP
Joan Wells, 2nd Vice Chairman
Wellington
Doug Lynn, Secretary
Sprint
Chris Wally, Treasurer
Wally & Co.
Mike Hess, Past Chairman
HNTB Corporation

Board Members:

Sean Barnard, Bambou Salon & Spa
Josh Beck, MarksNelson
Faruk Capan, Intouch Group
Paula Day, YRC Worldwide
John Fuller, DLR Group
Matt Gunter, SelectQuote
Jim Hemenway, Chicago Title
Tom Herzog, Netsmart Technologies
Brenner Holland, Hunt Midwest
Craig Jeffries, Empower Retirement
Melody Rayl, Fisher Phillips LLP
Cindy Rock, Thryv
Stacy Rose, AdamsGabbert
Matt Sheets, FNBO-First National Bank of Omaha
Matt Sogard, Overland Park Regional Medical Center
Dr. Joe Sopcich, Johnson County Community College
Steve Troester, PGAV Architects, Inc.
Mark Williams, Garver

Ex-Officio Board:

Bill Ebel, City of Overland Park
Mayor Carl Gerlach, City of Overland Park
Dana Markel, Visit Overland Park
Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Blue Valley School District
Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, Overland Park Chamber
Greg Wolf, Dentons
Roger Summers, Fogel Anderson
[2020 Chairman of OP Chamber Economic Development Council]

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



We're here for you

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE
Chamber President & CEO

How many times have you heard that these are “unprecedented” times? There’s a reason for that. By the very definition, this is something we’ve never before known or experienced. In the Chamber’s disaster preparedness manual, I’ll admit pandemic wasn’t one of our contingencies.

As we settle into our new routines, many of us in makeshift home offices, we’re mentally preparing for even harder times ahead. March was a whirlwind of activity, filled with challenges and hard decisions. Some of you closed temporarily as restrictions on public gatherings were imposed, and became “stay to home” orders. Some adjusted your services or your hours, and had difficult conversations with your employees, clients, vendors, landlords and your families. The worst part is the uncertainty.

We don’t know when this will end.

What we do know is that amidst all this chaos and uncertainty are good things. People who stepped up far beyond any job description, whether it was to guarantee their teams could quickly “go remote” or to make sure school children wouldn’t go hungry when schools closed, or that countless thousands man the front lines every day, providing health care and emergency services or serve the public at grocery stores, retailers, delivery services, and suppliers providing essential items. Despite rumors of skirmishes over toilet paper, we know times like these are when people pull together.

Our Chamber team’s priority has been to curate information for you amidst the chaos of information overload into our resource hub on our website: [click here](#). Updated



throughout the day, you’ll find the latest federal and state and local regulations and resources related to COVID-19. The U.S. Chamber’s guides to understanding and accessing federal relief funds are very helpful, as is expertise from Chamber members through webinars and other updates.

Our staff team has been calling each member, a more challenging task once the stay at home order was instituted. We’ve learned from each of you – that no matter what the state of your business, you’re caring, determined, innovative and optimistic. You’re supporting each other, creating new ways to meet and serve virtually and caring for others throughout our community. Despite not knowing how long it will be until we’re back to “normal,” know that your Chamber team is here for you. We’re your voice as policies are shaped and your connector to the resources you need now. Let us know what you need and how we can help. We miss you, but know we’re just an email, phone call or tweet away.

Government leaders take action to address COVID-19 pandemic

As Stay At Home Orders upended businesses, government agencies and organizations moved at unprecedented speed to provide stopgap measures to help business weather the storm. Here are highlights of actions that occurred at all levels of government. Keep in mind, the rapidly changing situation has kept policy leaders on a near-constant vigil to see what businesses and community-members need in response to the situation. Much of this may have changed since this was written.

Overland Park and Johnson County – the ability for local units of government to respond and provide relief in situations like this are limited. However, city and county leaders are actively working with the Overland Park Chamber, business leaders and members of the community to discuss options and possible strategies to minimize the negative health and economic impact of the virus.

- **Sign Regulations** - The City of Overland Park has relaxed its sign regulations allowing businesses to erect temporary signage to help direct potential customers to their goods and services.
- **Stay at Home Order** -The County Commission also functions as the county board of health. As a result, commissioners were engaged in the ongoing conversation with public health officials to chart a course of action for the county. With the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases growing, the Johnson County Board of Health opted to join neighboring jurisdictions in issuing a “stay at home” order. Commissioners consulted with the Overland Park Chamber and others business leaders to seek input on exemptions as the county looked to balance public health concerns with the potential harmful economic impact.

State of Kansas

Exec Orders - Governor Kelly has issued multiple executive orders in reaction to the spread of COVID-19 in Kansas. This year, the Legislative Coordinating Council made

up of legislative leaders from both chambers and both parties, had the opportunity to evaluate and uphold an order or prevent one or more from taking effect. Details on these orders – including limitations and exemptions can be found at www.governor.kansas.gov. Key executive orders included:

- 20-03 (March 17) – Declaration of a state of local disaster emergency relating to COVID-19.
- 20-09 – (March 22) – Temporarily relief from certain motor carrier rules and regulations.
- 20-10 – (March 24) – Temporarily prevents foreclosure and eviction restrictions.
- 20-13 (March 24) – Extends the filing and payment deadline for certain taxes – including income taxes – to July 15, 2020 with no penalties or interest.
- 20-16 (March 28) – Establishes a statewide “stay at home” order. NOTE: This order supersedes the Johnson County order issued by the Johnson County Board of Health.
- 20-17 (March 31) – Temporarily removes certain work and waiting period provisions from the state’s unemployment insurance program.

Federal

SBA Disaster Loans - The United States Small Business Administration has formally approved Kansas for participation in the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. Small businesses can apply for working capital loans up to \$2 million to cover fixed debt, payroll and other expenses. Non-profits can receive the loans with a 2.75% interest rate. For-profit businesses qualify for a 3.75% interest rate. Details on this loan program can found at: www.sba.gov.

Economic Stimulus Plans - Congress has passed three phases of an economic recovery plan in response to COVID-19. Each phase is unique in its focus.

- **Phase I** – This was a supplemental \$8.3 billion appropriations bill designed to support and enhance our nation’s medical infrastructure system to be better equipped to respond to immediate and longer-term needs. The funding supports

medical testing, support for local health departments, staff increases and other medically related strategies for federal and state agencies. It was signed into law on March 6.

- **Phase II** – This legislation is known formally as the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This act includes provisions for expanded FMLA leave, paid sick leave, free coronavirus testing and business tax credits. This legislation was signed into law on March 18. Overland Park Chamber member **Fisher Phillips LLP** has compiled an excellent overview of the details - [click here](#).
- **Phase III** – Known as the CARES Act, the legislation approves direct payments to families and establishes several programs to support the business community. For an overview of the small business provisions, [click here](#).

As this situation continues to evolve, policy makers at all levels of government continue to look for solutions to ease the impact of the pandemic. The Chamber will continue to advocate for the needs of businesses of all sizes. To find the latest information on relief options, detailed analysis of legislation and educational opportunities, regularly check the Chamber’s webpage focused on COVID-19 resources - [click here](#).



United States[®]
Census
2020

Count Me In JoCo
Everyone counts for the 2020 Census

2020Census.gov or CountMeInJoCo.org
#countmeinjoCo #2020census

Community helping community

In times of crisis, we can always count on the best in people to shine through and now during one of the gravest crises most of us have ever experienced, this has been no exception. Here are some of the ways people, businesses and organizations have stepped up to help:

Former **Kansas City Chiefs** player Will Shields and his wife Senia, through their Will to Succeed Foundation, are donating 96,000 meals in the metro through two nonprofit organizations: **Harvesters** and the Food Pantry at Jewish Family Services. They also own **68's Inside Sports** in Overland Park.

Life-saving medical equipment typically used in **Johnson County Community College** simulation labs is now in the hands of trained health professionals at the University of Kansas Medical Center. The College loaned nine ventilators to KUMC and donated unused lab supplies, food and manpower to organizations across the metro. Additionally, faculty and staff collected hundreds of boxes of face masks and gloves, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and other cleaning supplies from science labs and classrooms and donated them to several local health care facilities.

Jason's Deli's five Kansas City metro restaurants, including **Jason's Deli** at 12010 Metcalf Avenue, partnered with LandaJob to provide 3,500 meals to first responders.

Plowboys BBQ has partnered with Operation BBQ Relief to provide 2,500 no-cost meals in the community daily over the

next two weeks as part of a pilot Restaurant Relief Program. Meals are cooked at 6737 West 75th Street, but are available to individuals and organizations in need throughout the metro. For meal needs, send a request to FeedingKC@plowboysbbq.com. To make a donation or become a sponsor, send an e-mail to info@obr.org.

Creative Planning donated \$1 million to **Harvesters** to assist the food bank's response to the coronavirus crisis. Peter Mallouk, president and chief investment officer, said Creative Planning already is set up to support its employees and is ahead of the curve in doing everything it can for clients. So they started looking externally at ways to help the community. "We hope it will help 10,000 to 20,000 or more, based on their cost per family," said Mallouk. "Being able to help thousands of families is great. We hope this will cover that program for a month. We'll see where this goes from there."

KeyBank announced steps it is taking to respond to the crisis including deferring payment for at least 90 days for clients facing economic hardship and an initial \$1 million commitment to communities across the bank's footprint.

The **Kansas City Royals** have started a program called Royals Respond as means for the community to identify local resources, find activities for kids and to help out around the metro.

Tropical Smoothie at Bluhawk and Rosana Square locations have been delivering complimentary smoothies to first responders, police and local hospitals.



Mayor's message continued . . . always available for your questions and feedback.

"We plan, build, protect and preserve a lasting quality of life in Overland Park." Our mission statement gives me faith that our approach will guide us to successfully face this crisis together.

When I reflect on what I can do, I focus on the things that I can control. The four verbs in the City's mission statement seem a great place to start.

Plan -- I encourage each of you to develop plans, imagining a timeframe and plan to get there. This is a time for innovation. What can you do to make your business or organization better? Overland Park as a city organization is doing this; we have transitioned a number of employees to work remotely while adjusting our business practices to ensure continued service delivery.

Build -- It's difficult to think about building in a time like this, but I would encourage you to think about how you build through different contexts. How will you use this time? Perhaps it's building new relationships, community good will, new systems and processes, or new skills. Executing your plan will make your business and our community better.

Protect -- We're all in this situation together, connected in ways that perhaps we previously didn't understand. Protection is our individual duty and responsibility. It is necessary for us to

physically distance ourselves from one another, even as we attempt to maintain services. The City has done this through many methods across all departments, including our services for the construction industry.

Preserve -- Our actions today will help us preserve ourselves, our Country, our State and our City. These steps have been made with the best information available. I am saddened by the reality that these steps are not only difficult, but will be catastrophic to some. We must unite to control this outbreak, which requires great sacrifices for the community.

I'm reminded of Franklin D. Roosevelt's inaugural address in 1933 where he uttered the line, "There is nothing to fear but fear itself." There's no doubt that the fear we're feeling is fear of the unknown. I know when we focus on those things we can control, a certain calm takes hold, lessening fear. This is how your city's leadership is focused.

Together we have built a great city with a remarkable quality of life. While we will emerge from this crisis differently than we entered, I remain convinced that a community that chooses to plan, build, protect and preserve together will be stronger than before.

I wish you all the best and I look forward to the day we're all celebrating together in the way that Overland Park is used to doing. Stay safe and be well.

New funding opportunities

Local organizations moved at unprecedented speed to provide stopgap measures to help business weather the storm. Here are some new resources:

The **KC COVID-19 Small Business Relief Loan Fund** is a community-backed \$5 million small business relief loan fund established by AltCap to provide immediate relief to local, small businesses with 20 or less employees experiencing extreme economic disruption and financial strain as a result of public health measures to “flatten the curve” and combat the virus. It will provide flexible, patient capital for the area’s hardest hit small businesses. Applications are available for three-year, short term loans up to \$100,000 with no interest and deferred payments for the first 6-12 months. For more information, [click here](#).

The **2020 Black & Veatch IgniteX COVID-19 Response Accelerator** is a virtual, remote initiative open to startups and others with emerging solutions that can mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our communities. The program seeks to partner with startups with solutions that can be rapidly developed and deployed to fulfill a demonstrated market need immediately. It brings broad expertise and a vast global network of experts and client relationships. For more information, [click here](#).

A coalition of charitable, business and government partners established the **Kansas City Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund** to address the needs of the region’s most vulnerable communities affected by the pandemic. The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation is housing the Fund, which will collect donations to make grants to nonprofit organizations that have experience supporting impacted communities – particularly those that are disproportionately affected by this global pandemic and its economic consequences. The Hall Family Foundation and the Sunderland Foundation have partnered on a challenge grant to match donations to the Fund up to \$5 million. For more information, [click here](#).

Show your face!

(And other tips for staying engaged while working from home)

GUEST COLUMN

Don’t be scared – turn on your camera.

That’s step one for navigating remote work, especially if you’re not used to it. It can be tempting to do all those video calls with audio only, but part of engaging your team is connecting with them on a human level (even if it’s only through pixels on a screen). Thanks to technology and the amazing collaboration tools available (be sure to find one that works best for you), our team at Veracity can stay connected, and seeing each other forces us to communicate more intentionally and sincerely. And, because we’re human, we feel more connected with our teammates when we can see them in their element—which leads to more meaningful conversations.

Regular communication is crucial right now, but make sure your regular check-in calls are not only about business—spend some time connecting. When you don’t have that physical face-to-face you’re used to, you have to replace it the best you can.

Now, I know some business leaders worry about productivity: “Are my employees just doing their laundry and watching TV all day?” But the worst thing you can do as a leader during this time is leading with distrust and with a culture of micromanagement. Instead, work to communicate the confidence you have in your team and your appreciation of their efforts—make sure

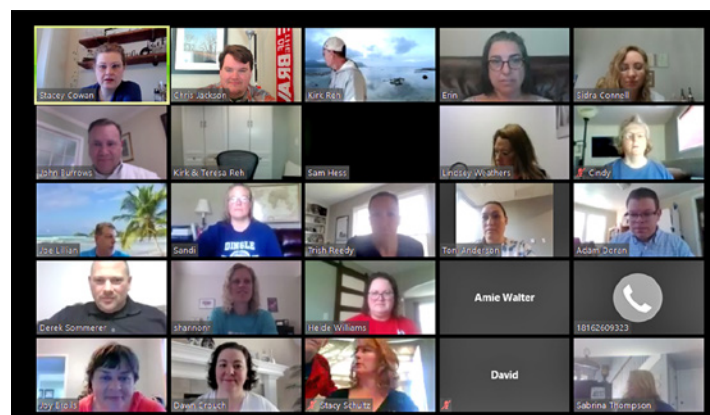
Angela Hurt
CEO & Founder, Veracity Consulting



they know we’re all in this together. If they feel empowered, they’ll likely end up being even more productive than you could have expected.

On the flipside, employees also need to know it’s OK to step away from their desk. We value a healthy lifestyle at Veracity, and it’s not uncommon to see me running a video meeting while still in my workout clothes. And for those who participate, our weekly virtual yoga sessions have been a big hit. They not only reinforce our core values, but they demonstrate a level of trust in our employees that’s crucial to ongoing engagement.

My hope is that this temporary disruption to our normal routine will result in even deeper connections for our team as we move forward. In the meantime, keep those cameras on, and let’s face this thing head-on!



Teams like the Chamber’s Diplomats group of business volunteers have been keeping their work going by meeting virtually.

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

AFLAC – Aaron Kolich

Aaron Kolich, District Sales Coordinator
2301 Burlington Avenue
North Kansas City, MO 64116
(913) 620-3856
aaron_kolich@us.aflac.com
www.aflac.com
Insurance

Alfred Benesch & Company

Rob Krewson, Sr. Vice President / Division Manager
11010 Haskell Avenue, Suite 200
Kansas City, KS 66109
(913) 441-1100
rkrewson@benesch.com
www.benesch.com
Engineers

AlphaGraphics of Overland Park

Daniel Martins, Owner
6600 College Boulevard, Suite 135
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 217-8245
dmartins@alphagraphics.com
www.AlphaGraphics.com
Printing

Bickimer Electric LLC

Mike Bickimer, Owner
12807 West 121st Street
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 313-6751
mike@bickimerelectric.com
www.bickimerelectric.com
Contractors-Electrical

Blue Water General Contractors, LLC

Brandi Duncan, New Bus. Mgr.
16250 West 165th Street
Olathe, KS 66062
(913) 777-1283
bluwatergencon@gmail.com
Contractors-General, Home Improvements
Referred by Michele Antonopoulos, Villa Medici

Club 27 Restaurant

Justin Hohl, Director of Food & Beverage
12501 Quivira Road
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 890-1600
golfop@opkansas.org
www.golfop.com/club27
Restaurants, Event Space

Deer Creek Golf Club

7000 West 133rd Street
Overland Park, KS 66209
(913) 681-3100
www.deercreekgc.com
Event Space, Golf Courses-Public

Edward Jones– Hannah McSpadden

Hannah McSpadden, Financial Advisor
16274 Foster Street
Stilwell, KS 66085
(913) 897-2726
hannah.mcspadden@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com
Financial Services, Investments

Farm Bureau Wealth Management

Grover Musser, Wealth Management Advisor
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Corporate Woods Building 84
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(913) 348-5010
grover.musser@fbfs.com
<https://grovermusser.fbfsadvisors.com/>
Financial Planning Consultants & Services, Financial Services

Great Plains SPCA

Tam Singer, CEO
5424 Antioch Drive
Merriam, KS 66202
(913) 831-7722
info@greatplainssPCA.org
www.greatplainssPCA.org
Humane Society, Non-Profit Organizations

The Green Door Book Store & Gift Shoppe

Christin Young, Owner
7713 West 151st Street
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 208-6104
christin@thegreendoorstore.com
www.thegreendoorstore.com
Retail

Heartland Business Capital

Brett R. Larson, Sr. Business Development Officer
8900 Indian Creek Pkwy, Suite 150
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 599-1717
contactus@hbcloans.com
www.hbcloans.com
Financial Services, Loans

Jennings Social Media and Martech

Valerie Jennings, CEO
10740 Nall Avenue, Suite 350
Overland Park, KS 66221
(913) 424-3042
mvalerie@jsmm-vbm.com
www.jsmmtech.com
Marketing Services, Social Media

LaunchCode

Adam Davis, Managing Director of Company Relations
1200 Main Street, Suite 2450
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(573) 508-9508
adam@launchcode.org
www.launchcode.org
Technology, Educational Services

Lexington Farms Apartments

Kimi Medler, Community Manager
8500 West 131st Place
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 851-3200
leasing@lexingtonfarmsapts.com
www.lexingtonfarmsapts.com
Apartments, Property Management

OrangeTheory Fitness Overland Park

Ric Spaulding, Studio Manager
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(913) 213-1012
rspaulding@theorangezone.com
<https://overland-park.orangetheoryfitness.com/>
Fitness, Health and Fitness Program Consultants

Plowboys Barbeque

Todd Johnson, President
6737 West 75th Street
Overland Park, KS 66204
(913) 914-7569
Tjohnson@plowboysbbq.com
www.plowboysbbq.com
Restaurants, Caterers

The INN at Meadowbrook

Chris Curtis, Director of Sales and Marketing
4901 Meadowbrook Parkway
Prairie Village, KS 66207
(913) 329-9000
chris.curtis@innatmeadowbrook.com
www.innatmeadowbrook.com
Hotels



Some of our newest Chamber members were recognized at last month's Wednesday Wake-up with new member plaques. Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen and Chamber Membership Director Stacey Cowan presented plaques to Grover Musser, **Farm Bureau Wealth Management**; Phil Bressler, **Rhycom Advertising**; Melissa Bickimer, **Bickimer Electric LLC**; Brad Urczyk and Brandi Duncan, **Blue Water General Contractors, LLC**; Uche Mbah, **Planet Fitness**; Mark Stehle, **Tidal Wave Auto Spa of Overland Park**.

Crisis quickly ends legislative session

PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY

The 2020 session began like many others, but the threat of coronavirus brought things to a hurried end. A lot of legislation took a back seat to the budget and other policy changes that gave state agencies more latitude to respond to the evolving public health crisis. Lawmakers are scheduled to return on April 27 but the ongoing COVID-19 virus makes a return uncertain. Here are a few key pieces of legislation that did pass:

Transportation Plan

Adopted a new, long-term transportation plan that returns to a ten-year, coordinated program. However, this time the plan also creates a project pipeline allowing for projects to be advanced from design to implementation on an ongoing basis. Other aspects of the plan also allow for accelerated construction on certain projects, limiting disruption and saving money. The top priority for Overland Park - expansion and modernization of U.S. 69 highway - should fare well under the new parameters.

Economic Development Incentives

Legislation revising the powerful STAR Bonds program was working its way through the process, but passage got caught up in the rush to adjourn. Legislators did add a proviso into the budget extending the powerful program for an additional year. Other economic development programs weren't as lucky so the angel investor tax credit and



Kevin Walker
Senior Vice President of Advocacy

a cleanup of the KIT/KIR and HPIP programs will have to be addressed should the legislature return for veto session.

Unemployment Benefits

Passed a temporary expansion of unemployment benefits. Impacted employees will have the one-week waiting period waived and will qualify for up to 26 weeks of benefits. The provisions of the law are retroactive to January 1, 2020. This temporary expansion expires April 1, 2021. Details can be found at the Department of Labor website: www.dol.ks.gov or www.getkansasbenefits.gov.

HIRE Program

One response specific to the coronavirus situation was the creation of the Hospitality Industry Relief Emergency (HIRE) Fund. The state, through action of Governor Kelly and her administration, allocated \$5 million in loan funds to bolster the hospitality industry. The program offers 0% interest loans for 36 months with no interest or principal payments for the first four months. Details can be found on the Department of Commerce website, [click here](#).

Different disasters, shared lessons

GUEST COLUMN

Jane Gage
Community consultant, Joplin, Mo.

Almost nine years ago my community of Joplin, Missouri, dealt with disaster when an EF-5 tornado destroyed one-third of our community and caused the death of 161 people.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a different disaster. The tornado was here and gone; we don't know when the pandemic will subside. Although the tornado was incredibly destructive, we reacted as a community with kindness toward each other. Today, I sense, even in Joplin, an underlying current of fear founded on scarcity - we won't have enough money, food and supplies and I'm sure you feel some of those same sentiments in Overland Park.

These two disasters are different, but they share at least one thing in common. They forced change. In Joplin, we had a literal clean slate for a portion of our community. We had a choice to make - build back to our pre-tornado state or to reimagine the landscape for a better future. The citizen-listening effort I led helped Joplin residents stop looking around and look ahead. Today, we don't look the same - I believe we are different and better.

COVID-19 has forced change on your businesses. You and your employees have gone home to work. There are no visits to clients and no clients coming to your locations. Your markets may have disappeared, or you may be overwhelmed. You may have had a reduction in force or faced the difficulty of bringing on new staff in a distributed environment. I'm sure you hope many of these changes are temporary. You're looking forward to



a day when everything returns to "normal."

I would challenge you to resist the urge to step back to exactly where you were before the pandemic began. Take time to examine how new routines and ways of doing business have worked. Take the best of those changes and incorporate them into your renewed business. The forced changes you have made in the last few weeks may reveal innovation that can propel you forward. Don't be afraid to change.

I can say with compassion these are hard days. I also can tell you, because Joplin has been there, there are better days ahead. The return to normal never comes as quickly we want. I do believe that a disaster can be an opportunity, even if it doesn't seem so now. Lean in during these hard times and learn how to improve your future.

Believe me, in Joplin we are right with you.

Jane Gage was an entrepreneur for over 20 years and stepped up to lead the citizen listening process after the Joplin 2011 Tornado. The Department of Homeland Security awarded her the Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience in 2012. Today she consults and teaches about long-term community recovery.

Maintaining Social Connectedness in a Time of Physical Distance

GUEST COLUMN

Now more than ever we need to ensure we stay socially connected, that we are intentional in our words and deeds – taking time to connect beyond a task, to just ask the simple question of “how are you doing?”

During times of change, it is natural for psychological challenges to arise or heighten which can challenge our mental wellness. It is certain we are all experiencing a wide array of emotions as COVID-19 has found its way into our conversations. Awareness is key to developing a plan

and tools are needed to help us manage forward at home, work, and our community.

We've been asked to minimize face-to-face interaction. Many people will feel unsettling effects of isolation and the changes to our daily routine. It's important for us to not only check on the physical health of others, but their mental health too. While it's in our collective interest to abide by the order to shelter in place and physical distance, we MUST maintain a social connection through phone calls, video chats or other forms of communication.

Aside from staying virtually connected, what can we do to

keep our mental wellness at the forefront during times of uncertainty? Most important is to be intentional about managing the stress and anxiety often found during a traumatic event. Here are some things we've been talking about with our team members as we navigate forward:

- Routines are important for us, our families and our work teams
- Prioritize the use of video with family, friends, and colleagues
- Schedule a virtual water cooler meeting to just catch up
- Go outside, take a walk, take some deep breaths
- Healthy eating and sleep are fuel for the day
- Balance inputs by listening and reading for enjoyment
- Laughter is good for the heart and mind

I received a call from a friend the other day, they had not heard from me in a while, just wanting to ask how I was doing. We took time for a virtual coffee break – sharing the challenges of the day and a few laughs as well.

Tom Herzog
COO, Netsmart



There was nothing needed, each of us grateful for the time, helping one another forward.

We are all working to balance and prioritize right now. One thing that has certainly not changed is that community is about people helping people... we are reminded of our essential role in making that happen.

Tom Herzog is an advocate of mental wellness. He also serves on the Chamber Board of Directors and is a member of the ForwardOP Steering Committee



For its recent State Day session, our Leadership Overland Park class spent a day in Topeka where they heard from Johnson County legislators, Governor Laura Kelly, Attorney General Derek Schmidt, Commerce Secretary David Toland, Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz and a panel of lobbyists and also toured the Capitol Building.

Recent Events

CELEBRATING GRAND OPENINGS & EXPANSIONS



Spectrum Store, 6921 West 119th Street
For more information: (913) 967-3744 or www.spectrum.com



Remodel of **Genesis Health Clubs**, 6700 West 110th Street
For more information: (913) 491-4116 or www.genesishealthclubs.com



Ajilon - Paladin, 10801 Mastin Street, Suite 600
For more information: (913) 563-1700 or www.paladinstaff.com



Members networking at the March Wednesday Wake-up event hosted by Oakwood WaterWalk.



Members networking at the March Wednesday Wake-up event hosted by Oakwood WaterWalk.

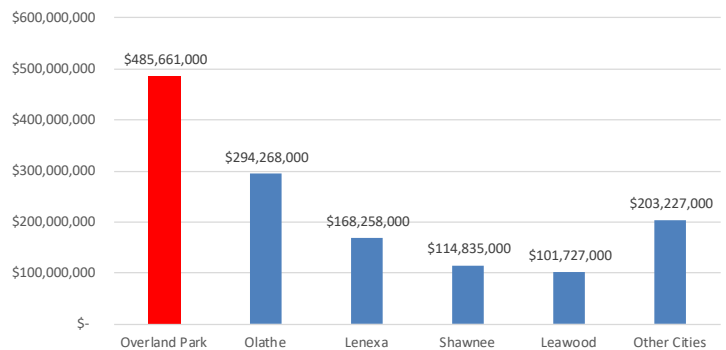
Overland Park Statistics

Building Permits

	New Commercial	Institutional, Schools	Other Commercial	Totals
Feb. 2020	3	0	28	31
Sq. Feet	18,300	0	0	18,300
Value	\$ 2,098,897	N/A	\$26,680,072	\$28,778,969

– City of Overland Park

Overland Park Retail Sales December 2019



Corporate Partners



Corporate Sponsors

Affinis Corp
CommunityAmerica
Credit Union
Everygy
FNBO-First National Bank
of Omaha
Foulston Siefkin LLP
JE Dunn Construction
Company
Johnson County
Community College
Kansas Gas Service
McCownGordon
Construction
Saint Luke's Health System
The University of Kansas
Edwards Campus
The University of Kansas
Health System

Leadership Circle

AdamsGabbert

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

Member News

GOOD NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Sprint is now part of the T-Mobile family following the completion of the company merger to create the New T-Mobile, a supercharged Un-carrier that will deliver a transformative 5G network. Mike Sievert will assume the role of CEO of T-Mobile. Both brands will continue to exist and over time everything will evolve to T-Mobile. For details, [click here](#).

Dr. Andrew (Andy) W. Bowne will be **Johnson County Community College's** new president starting July 1. Dr. Bowne will succeed Dr. Joe M. Sopcich, who has served in this position since June 2013 and has been

employed by the College since 1992. For details, [click here](#).

REACH Healthcare Foundation announced grants totaling \$399,000 to nine organizations that use care connector services to help low-income and medically underserved individuals secure the care they need. In keeping with the foundation's decision to simplify grant application and decision processes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, REACH awarded the 12-month grants based on the organizations' prior work in delivering essential services to populations that frequently face barriers to health care. The nine

organizations had received care connector grants in 2019.

Thirty-one students recently received scholarships funded by donations to **The Builders' Association** Scholarship Foundation.

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc., awarded its annual Spirit of Ownership Chairman's Award to **Johnson County Wastewater's** Tomahawk Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility project in Leawood.

Olsson hired Joe C. Johnson as regional business consultant leader.

To submit member news, visit the Member News page at www.opchamber.org.

Thanks for your reinvestment!

FEBRUARY MEMBER RENEWALS INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

20-39 Years

Agenda: USA
Ash Grove Cement Company, Inc.
Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate-Phil Summerson
COBLE MCCUNE Wealth Management
Commerce Bank
Copaken Brooks
Heavy Constructors Association
Hyatt Place Overland Park/Convention Center

10-19 Years

Fry-Wagner Relocation & Logistics
Leawood Family Dental, LLC
MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital
Renewal by Andersen
Scott Rice Office Works
Stallard Technologies, Inc.
Super 8 Overland Park
Walmart-157th & Metcalf

5-9 Years

Goody Tickets
Great Southern Bank
ID Life
Kansas City Regional Association of Realtors
KidsTLC, Inc.
The Ranch at Prairie Trace
Valley Hope Association

1-4 Years

Alzheimer's Association
Apartment Association of Kansas City
Arcadia at Overland Park
Bharthi Reddi - Platinum Realty
BIOMIN America Inc.
Brancato's Catering
The Brass Onion
Brew Haha Coffeehouse
CareNow Urgent Care
CareNow Urgent Care

Cosentino's Price Chopper
Couches to Curios
Edward Jones - Jim Easley
Fogel-Anderson Construction
Harvesters-The Community Food Network
My Place Hotel
Office Evolution
Regency Park-Mission Peak Capital
Riordan Clinic
Safely Delicious, LLC
Tutera Senior Living & Healthcare
Veracity Consulting, Inc.
The Vue
Westlake Ace Hardware-Santa Fe Drive
Westlake Ace Hardware-College Boulevard
Westlake Ace Hardware-151st Street

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