

# Business Perspective

January 2019

## Chamber presents new opportunity to cultivate and build business relationships

The Overland Park Chamber is pleased to introduce Leads | Exchange | And | Referral | Network (LEARN) groups. LEARN groups will give Chamber member representatives the opportunity to meet consistently in a non-competitive and mutually supportive environment to exchange leads and business referrals. LEARN groups are a tool for members to cultivate professional relationships, establish trust, increase knowledge and build business. Initially, there are two LEARN groups, each with a capacity of 8-25 chamber members from different industries.

Participation in a LEARN Group offers:

- Focused opportunity to create and maintain an effective network;
- Build personal and professional relationships with chamber members;
- Develop strategies to grow and expand your business.

LEARN Group 1 meets 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays at the Overland Park Chamber.

LEARN Group 2 meets 8:00-9:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays at **Cleveland University**.

For more information and to submit an application for a LEARN Group:

### • Group Chair 1

Trish Reedy, (913) 271-2368  
[trish.reedy@primelending.com](mailto:trish.reedy@primelending.com)

### • Group Chair 2

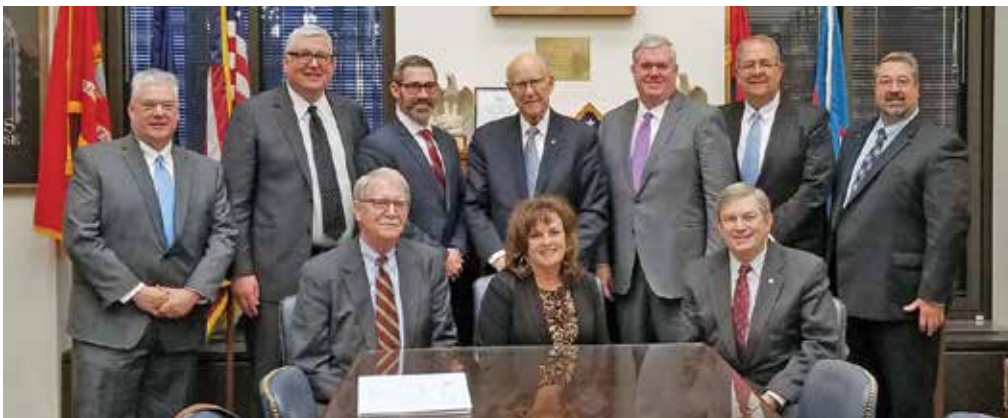
Dr. Mike Cartwright, (720) 648-8880  
[michael.cartwright@cleveland.edu](mailto:michael.cartwright@cleveland.edu)

### • Chamber Membership Director

Stacey Cowan, (913) 766-7604  
[scowan@opchamber.org](mailto:scowan@opchamber.org)

More information about LEARN groups can be found on the Chamber website - [click here](#).

## Chamber leaders visit Washington, D.C.



Overland Park Chamber leaders made their annual trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with elected officials and national association representatives to discuss important public policy issues. Meeting with Senator Pat Roberts were, back row: Kevin Walker, Chamber Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy; Tony Rupp, **Foulston Siefkin LLP**; Bobby Olm-Shipman, **Saint Luke's South Hospital**; Sen. Roberts; Brett Bogan, **Spencer Fane LLP**; Brad Stratton, **Overland Park Wealth Management**; and Mike Hess, **HNTB Corporation**. Front row: Tom Robinett, Chamber Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy (now retired); Tracey Osborne Oltjen, Chamber President & CEO; and Mike Hockley, **Spencer Fane LLP**. For more details, see page 3.

## Our Mission:

To enhance the business environment and quality of life in our community.



## Chamber Calendar

### Wednesday Wake-up

**Wednesday, January 9, 2019** - 8:00-9:00 a.m.  
**Shawnee PARC Post Acute & Rehabilitation Center**, 7600 Antioch Road  
*Free and open to Chamber members only*

### Ribbon cutting

**Monday, January 21, 2019** - 8:00 a.m.  
**CareNow Urgent Care**, 13761 Metcalf Avenue

### Ribbon cutting

**Thursday, January 24, 2019** - 4:00 p.m.  
**New Woman Obstetrics & Gynecology**, 9209 West 110th Street

### Legislative Breakfast #1

*1st in series of four legislative breakfasts presented by the Johnson County Public Policy Council*  
**Saturday, January 26, 2019** - 7:30-9:00 a.m.  
**DoubleTree by Hilton**, 10100 College Boulevard  
*Register by January 23 to receive the discounted series package price for all four breakfasts.*

### Ribbon cutting

**Sunday, January 27, 2019** - Grand opening & ribbon cutting, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
**Colonial Village**, 7381 West 133rd Street

### EDC Honors Lunch

*Annual Economic Development Council luncheon recognizing Overland Park business leaders.*  
*Sponsored by Saint Luke's Health System*  
**Thursday, February 7** - 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
**Johnson County Community College**, 12345 College Boulevard

### Mayor's State of the City

*Annual luncheon for Mayor Gerlach's State of the City address*  
*Sponsored by Saint Luke's Health System*  
**Tuesday, February 19** - 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
**Overland Park Convention Center**, 6600 College Boulevard

To register for these events, [click here](#) or call (913) 491-3600.

## Chamber Board and Staff

### BOARD OFFICERS:

Mike Hess, *Chairman*  
**HNTB Corporation**  
Bobby Olm-Shipman, *Chair-Elect*  
**Saint Luke's South Hospital**  
Bill Ferguson, *1st Vice Chairman*  
**Central Bank of the Midwest**  
Steve Troester, *2nd Vice Chairman*  
**PGAV Architects, Inc.**  
Doug Lynn, *Secretary*  
**Sprint**  
Chris Wally, *Treasurer*  
**Wally & Co.**  
Brett Bogan, *Past Chairman*  
**Spencer Fane LLP**

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Faruk Capan, **Intouch Group**  
Greg Crowley, **Crowley Furniture**  
Tim Danker, **SelectQuote**  
Jim Edwards, **Nothing Bundt Cakes**  
John Fuller, **DLR Group**  
Dr. Michael Fulton, **Shawnee Mission School District**  
Jim Hemenway, **Chicago Title**  
Tom Herzog, **Netsmart Technologies**  
Brenner Holland, **Hunt Midwest**  
Craig Jeffries, **Empower Retirement**  
Jodde Lanning, **Payne & Jones, Chartered**  
Karsten Randolph, **AdventHealth Shawnee Mission**  
Cindy Rock, **DexYP**  
Stacy Rose, **AdamsGabbert**  
Tony Rupp, **Foulston Siefkin LLP**  
Matt Sheets, **First National Bank**  
Joan Wells, **Wellington**  
Mark Williams, **Garver**

### EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr. David Cook, **The University of Kansas Edwards Campus**  
Bill Ebel, **City of Overland Park**  
Mayor Carl Gerlach, **City of Overland Park**  
Dana Markel, **Visit Overland Park**  
Tracey Osborne Oltjen, **CCE, Overland Park Chamber**  
Greg Wolf, **Dentons**  
Lori Wright, **Kansas City Power & Light**  
[2019 Chairman of Overland Park Chamber Economic Development Council]

### CHAMBER STAFF:

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, *CCE, President & CEO*  
Stacey Cowan, *Membership Director*  
Frank Ebling, *Controller*  
Celia Fritz-Watson, *Director of Events & Member Services*  
Tim Holverson, *IOM, Recruitment & Retention Director, Economic Development*  
Chris Jackson, *EDC Policy & Communications Coordinator*  
Beth Johnson, *CEcD, Senior Vice President of Economic Development*  
Stan Lawson, *Communications Director*  
Erin Murray, *Assistant to the President*  
Amy Stock, *Member Services Coordinator*  
Kevin Walker, *IOM, Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy*

## Continuing Chamber partnerships in 2019

The Overland Park Chamber continues to lead the way for businesses in this great community. I am proud to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of this great organization. There have been many great women and men who have led the Chamber over its past 50+ years, and it is my honor to follow in their footsteps.

One of the lesser known facts about the Overland Park Chamber is the success we have had on a national level. Ours is one of fewer than 1% of the nation's chambers to earn Five Star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It demonstrates the level of excellence in planning and recognizes the Chamber for outstanding contributions toward positive change in the community. This success comes from the engagement of many Chamber members, leadership of the Board of Directors, and our professional staff team working together to make this possible.

This is an exciting time for Overland Park with the unveiling of the Forward OP vision and goals for the community. The Chamber is proud to have been a community partner in this vision with the City of Overland Park and **Visit OP**. The Overland Park we enjoy today is the result of deliberate planning and commitment to following through on previous community plans.

Forward OP captures a community spirit and outlines a path of continued success for the next 25 years. The resulting plan will be a road map the Chamber can reference as it continues to refine its ongoing goals and objectives. Some of our strategic initiatives include smart/connected infrastructure, diverse housing, state of the art mobility and quality of place. All of these are critical to the number one priority we hear from you, our members, each day – attraction and retention of workforce.

As a Vice President at **HNTB Corporation**, I know well that a big part of Overland Park's development success is a result of the collaboration of the private and public sectors. The partnership between Chamber, City and private sector that created the Chamber's Economic Development Council more than 30 years ago helps retain and attract talent, businesses and jobs in Overland Park. As it has done for decades, the Chamber will continue to partner with the City and the private sector to focus on relevant workforce, development and quality of life enhancements that keep our community one of choice for both businesses and residents.

Overland Park has prospered through a strong history of partnerships between local government and the business community. With the release of its newly created Local Public Policy Platform, the Chamber looks to strengthen these relationships. Our open lines of communication and forward thinking are crucial to the continued development within our city.

As the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce works for our members, I ask for your support and your input to successfully move through this upcoming year and plan for our collective future. I encourage you to contact me anytime during the year to discuss any suggestions or concerns you might have about the city and your Chamber of Commerce.

On behalf of the 2019 Board of Directors, I am excited and honored to work alongside our investors who will help create a new future for Overland Park.



**Mike Hess**  
2019 Chairman  
[HNTB Corporation](#)

*Business Perspective* is published monthly by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce.

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## D.C. Fly-in continued . . .

Nine Overland Park Chamber leaders made their way to Capitol Hill recently to take the Chamber's pro-business message directly to Congress. Senator Jerry Moran, Senator Pat Roberts and Third District Representative Kevin Yoder pledged support for a wide range of issues that support the economic vitality and quality of life in Overland Park during meetings covering topics ranging from business climate to health care to transportation. In addition to meetings with our congressional delegation, the team also made a visit to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for key issue briefings, The American Council of Engineering

Companies to discuss infrastructure projects in and around Overland Park and the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to discuss U.S. Highway 69. Revitalization and enhancement of this important artery south of I-435 is a major focus for the Chamber and was the primary topic of conversation with USDOT. This stretch of highway is nearly 50 years old and at the end of its service life. Additionally, the economic activity and growth along this corridor means congestion will continue to grow. USDOT officials and our congressional delegation continue to support efforts to ensure U.S. 69 efficiently serves Overland Park residents and businesses for years to come.



## Legislative Breakfast Series

The Johnson County Public Policy Council presents these upcoming breakfasts in which Johnson County legislators provide updates on legislative action at the Statehouse:

Saturday, January 26

Saturday, March 23

Saturday, February 16

Saturday, May 18

Breakfasts are 7:30-9:00 a.m. at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas City-Overland Park**, 10100 College Boulevard.

The discounted package price for all four breakfasts is \$92 per person, when paid by January 23, and is available to Chamber members only.

The cost per person for a single breakfast is \$25 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members.

To register, [click here](#) or call (913) 491-3600.

## EDC Honors Lunch

Thursday, February 7

Johnson County Community Center

Networking at 11:30 a.m. / Program at noon

Sponsored by



The Chamber Economic Development Council recognizes companies and individuals with these annual awards:

**NOVA Award** – recognizes fast-growing companies

**Business Hall of Honor** – presented to businesses committed to improving quality of life through economic development

**Commercial Development** – recognizes significant investment and reinvestment in the local economy

**Ben Craig Vision Award** – recognizes outstanding leadership in honor of the decades of community service by the late Ben Craig

**EDC Investors receive one complimentary registration.**

Chamber members can register by contacting Chris Jackson at (913) 766-7605 or [cjackson@opchamber.org](mailto:cjackson@opchamber.org).

## Build your business network!

# Wednesday Wake-up

A Business Before Hours

Wednesday, January 9

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Hosted by

Join us for networking and breakfast and learn about the post acute and rehabilitation services offered by **Shawnee PARC**. With the fusion of world-class health care and personalized hospitality, residents encounter an experience that is truly unique and memorable.



Free and open to Chamber members only.

To register, [click here](#) or call (913) 491-3600

2019 Series Sponsor:





## Mayor's State of the City Address & Luncheon

Featuring Mayor Carl Gerlach

Sponsored by



## Tuesday, February 19

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. • Overland Park Convention Center



## LEADERSHIP OVERLAND PARK

### 2019 Leadership class announced

The Overland Park Chamber Foundation has selected the 2019 Leadership Overland Park (LOP) class. During ten full-day sessions beginning this month, participants focus on challenges and opportunities facing local government and public safety, education, health care and social services, regionalism, the State of Kansas, arts, and economic development.

Members of the 2019 class are:

- Julie Anderson, **OMNI Human Resource Management**
- Josh Beck, **MarksNelson LLC**
- Ericka Beeler, **St. Joseph Medical Center**
- Mike Boyd, **JE Dunn Construction Company**
- Page Burks, **Black & Veatch**
- Jenifer Clausen, **Saint Luke's South Hospital**
- Laura Beth Cochran, **DLR Group**
- Phil Eilers, **HNTB Corporation**
- Feras El-Ghoussein, **Terracon**
- Suzanne Gunning, **Visit Overland Park**
- Sandi Harkins, **Agenda: USA**
- Crystal Howard, **Spencer Fane LLP**
- Jeff Hoyer, **Johnson County Community College**
- Mike Levitan, **AREA Real Estate Advisors**
- Greg Lowery, **McCownGordon Construction**
- Steven Lucas, **Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C.**
- Jessica Marin, **Menorah Medical Center**
- Tara Markley, **Johnson County K-State Research and Extension**
- Burt Morey, **City of Overland Park**
- Matt Miller, **Harmon Construction**
- Kyle Nelson, **AdventHealth Shawnee Mission**
- Aaron Otto, **Johnson County Airport Commission**
- Megan Parsons, **Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.**
- Elliot Payne, **UnitedLex Corporation**
- Susan Pekarek, **Johnson County Wastewater**
- Niki Seltzer, **CommunityAmerica Credit Union**
- Susan Shafer, **First National Bank**
- Shaun Shufelberger, **Central Bank of the Midwest**
- Suzanne Small, **Olsson**
- Brent Taylor, **BT Advisors**
- Sean Tucker, **Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas**
- Lynde Tyrrell, **Overland Park Regional Medical Center**
- Josh Vincent, **WaterOne**
- Kelly Wessel, **Blue Valley School District**
- Heather Wiebke, **Commerce Bank**
- Reggie Woolridge, **Marriott Kansas City Overland Park**

### Chamber ready for 2019 legislative session

A New Year. A new governor. A new House and a new voice for the Overland Park business community in the statehouse. While a turn of the calendar from December to January brings lots of "news" there is one thing that will not be new – your steadfast representation in Topeka by the Chamber. Taking the reins from Tom Robinett is Kevin Walker, our new Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy who will be in Topeka every day working with lawmakers to ensure the interests of Overland Park, our business community and our quality of life are well represented.

Forecasting the session is difficult with the changes that resulted from Election Day, but it's clear several very important issues will be on the agenda. School finance likely will lead the list of major issues. Beyond that are a host of equally important issues including completion of the T-Works transportation program; creation of a new, long-term transportation plan; reduction in the sales tax on food; concerns with our foster care system and an assessment of tax exemptions and incentives.

The budget conversation undoubtedly will be tough. Numerous lawmakers already have stated that tax increases will be off the table and this will spur many to look at wringing every possible efficiency out of the budget.

A lot of progress was made during the 2018 session creating a new K-12 school finance formula to satisfy the terms of the Supreme Court



**Kevin Walker**

ruling favoring school-district plaintiffs. However, still unresolved is further guidance from the court that inflation must be accounted for in the formula to ultimately pass constitutional muster. This requirement comes with a projected price tag that could eclipse \$90 million. The Court gave the legislature until April 15, 2019 to present its revised plan for consideration.

A sub-plot interwoven with talk of a revised funding plan is a constitutional amendment that proponents hope will finally end the cycle of litigation. Their desire is to clarify that funding for schools is a decision resting solely with the legislature. Opponents of such an amendment worry they will lose an avenue to challenge the new formula should future spending not keep pace with the ruling from the Court.

As always, we will continue to strongly oppose any proposed

*(continued on page 10)*

### Sign up for Weekly Legislative Updates

Stay up to date on legislative action with "This Week in Topeka" weekly reports from Kevin Walker.

To sign up, contact Erin Murray at (913) 766-7606 or [emurray@opchamber.org](mailto:emurray@opchamber.org).

## Nine leaders join Chamber board of directors

Nine business professionals have joined the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce board of directors:

Tim Danker is Chief Executive Officer of **SelectQuote Insurance Services**, a direct-to-consumer insurance distribution for the country's leading insurance carriers for life, auto and home and senior health insurance. Tim has held leadership positions at Cerner Corporation and **Sprint**. Tim earned his Business Degree from the University of Missouri and a MBA from the University of Kansas.



**Tim Danker**



**John Fuller**

John Fuller strategically leads **DLR Group's** global marketing, business development and brand efforts as Chief Marketing Officer. He started DLR's Overland Park office in 1994 and it is now one of the firm's largest with sales and employee counts tripling in the last ten years. John is a Leadership Overland Park graduate and was twice elected to the Blue Valley Board of Education. He has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Jim Hemenway is Vice President of Operations and Sales Manager for **Chicago Title Insurance Company** in Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. A native of Florida, Jim has worked in sales and sales management in numerous states for more than 25 years. Jim has served on various nonprofit boards and committees, including as a member of his church and community sports and recreation organizations.



**Jim Hemenway**

At **Netsmart**, Tom Herzog is responsible for leading solution and technology strategies to deliver comprehensive solutions for the health and human services community. Previously, Tom was Senior Vice President and General Manager at Cerner for 11 years. Tom earned a bachelor's degree in business management and human relations from Mid-America Nazarene University.



**Tom Herzog**

Cindy Rock is Vice President and National Head of Inside Sales at **DexYP** where her team handles 75 percent of the organization's client base. After earning an accounting degree from Pittsburg State University in 1983, Cindy was as an auditor for United Telecom (which became Sprint) where she went from entry-level auditor to senior vice president in 24 years. Cindy earned an MBA from the University of Kansas. She serves on the board of the **Kansas City Ballet**.



**Cindy Rock**

Stacy Rose serves as Chief Operating Officer at **AdamsGabbert** (AG) where she is responsible for day-to-day operations and general management. Stacy has helped grow the company from 20 employees to more than 250 in a three-year period. She was recognized by the **Kansas City Business Journal** for her role in AG's explosive growth – a 3,000 percent increase in revenue from 2013 to 2016. She received her bachelor's degree from William Jewell College. She serves on numerous boards and supports many area nonprofits including T.A.K.E. Defense and **ArtsKC**.



**Stacy Rose**

Matt Sheets is Market President for the Kansas City and Dallas markets at **First National Bank** of Omaha (FNBO). He works to advance revenue and market share and is responsible for adjudicating commercial credit decisions in both markets. He serves on the Board of the Blue Valley Education Foundation and is an active Mentor in the Blue Valley CAPS Global Business Program. Matt is a graduate of Michigan State University and received an M.B.A. and J.D. from Case Western in Cleveland.



**Matt Sheets**

Joan Wells is CEO and co-founder of **Wellington**, a live experiences and marketing agency based in Overland Park for more than 25 years. Wellington's 58 employees create signature event experiences for local and global brands. Joan was recognized as Entrepreneur of the Year by the National Association of Women Business Owners. She serves numerous boards and committees and is a member of the **Overland Park Rotary Club**. She is a graduate of Kansas State University.



**Joan Wells**

As 2019 Economic Development Council chairman, Lori Wright joins the board as an Ex-officio member. Lori is Vice President, Investor Relations and Treasurer for Great Plains Energy and **KCP&L**. Lori has held several positions since joining the company in 2001. She entered the utility industry in 1986. She has Bachelor and Master of Business Administration degrees from the University of Iowa, and is a certified public accountant.



**Lori Wright**



# RECENT EVENTS



New Chamber members were recognized at last month's Wednesday Wake-up networking event. Bryce McDonald, **NorthCode Solutions**; Mingyan Zheng, **AI Sushi & Hibachi**; Lizz Rhodus, **Camp Quality Missouri**; Sarahgrace Ashworth, **Panera Bread**; Thomas Holland, **Dark Horse Group**; Kristen Oliver, **Panera Bread**; Deb Calvert, **People First Productivity Solutions**; Karen and Paul Snyder, **Snyder Law Firm**; and Avery Myers, **NorthCode**; received plaques from Chamber Board member Stacie Gram, **Swiss Re America Holding Corporation**, and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen.



City Council President Jim Kite, Chamber Vice President Beth Johnson and Chamber Diplomats helped owner Michele Frumkin and her team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new location of **KC Wine & Spirits**, 8949 Metcalf Avenue. KC Wine & Spirits is a family-owned business offering a wide variety of wine and liquor as well as local, domestic, and imported beer. For more information: (913) 648-6999 or [www.kcwineandspirits.com](http://www.kcwineandspirits.com).

## Wednesday Wake-up

A Business Before Hours

hosted on December 12 by



Top: Kristen Oliver, **Panera Bread**; Cindy Sims, **SIMSdirect LLC**; Michelle Poston, **Infinitas Coordinated Wealth Counsel**.



Bottom: Bryce McDonald, **NorthCode Solutions**; Heidi Shelton, **Baker University**; Leo Buse, **True North Hotel Group**; Celsie Sneden, **NEAT Method Kansas City**.



For their latest **YP Cares** volunteer event, Overland Park Young Professionals gathered on #GivingTuesday to assemble Happy Kits for **Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas**. Happy Kits are craft activity kits used at the hospital and clinics to make patients and families feel welcome and happy during their visit.





## Welcome new members!

We are pleased to introduce these new Chamber members:

### AI Sushi & Hibachi

Mingyan Zheng, Manager & Owner  
6357 West 119th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66209  
(913) 661-1688  
[www.AIoverlandpark.com](http://www.AIoverlandpark.com)  
Restaurants, Caterers

### Camp Quality Missouri

Elizabeth Rhodus, Development Director  
(816) 213-8964  
lizz.rhodus@campqualityusa.org  
[www.campqualityusa.org](http://www.campqualityusa.org)  
Non-Profit Organizations, Youth Organizations and Centers

### Elite Martial Arts

Kristen Bedford, Owner  
8910 West 95th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
(913) 766-6070  
info.op@ataelitemartialarts.com  
[www.elitemartialarts.net](http://www.elitemartialarts.net)  
Martial Arts Instruction

### Market Lofts

7314 West 80th Street  
Downtown Overland Park, KS  
(913) 341-3220  
paul.goehausen@gmail.com  
[www.marketloftsapts.com](http://www.marketloftsapts.com)  
Apartments

### Paint Nail Bar

Britten Moyers, Owner  
4941 West 119th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66209  
(913) 274-1202  
britten.moyers@paintnailbar.com  
[www.paintnailbar.com](http://www.paintnailbar.com)  
Spa - Day, Beauty Services

### Robinett, Tom

Leawood, KS 66209  
(913) 522-5405  
tarobinett@gmail.com  
Individuals

Please support fellow Chamber members who have made investments to enhance the prosperity of our community!

## Member Renewals

We thank these companies for reinvesting in the Overland Park Chamber in November 2018:

### 50+ Years

AT&T  
Payne & Jones, Chartered

### 40-49 Years

Shawnee Mission Health

### 20-39 Years

Alaskan Fur  
Axcet HR Solutions  
Marriott Kansas City Overland Park  
RubinBrown LLP

### 10-19 Years

GoalGETTERS®  
Tickets For Less.com

### 5-9 Years

Digital Lagoon  
Hereford House - Leawood  
New Birth Company  
SG360

### 1-4 Years

Benson Educational Consultant  
Citizens Bank & Trust  
Hunt Midwest  
KidZone Kansas City LLC  
Kutak Rock LLP  
Museum at Prairiefire  
Naka-Kon Japanese Cultural Education Association  
SelectQuote  
State Farm  
Title Boxing Club-148th & Metcalf  
Valley Hope Association  
Westlake Ace Hardware



City Councilmember Rick Collins and Chamber EDC Director of Recruitment & Retention Tim Holverson helped Phil Hayes, Principal; and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new offices of **CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA)**, 12721 Metcalf Avenue, Suite 104. CLA offers personalized audit, assurance, accounting, tax, consulting, outsourcing, and wealth advisory services. For more information: [www.claconnect.com](http://www.claconnect.com).



Chamber EDC Director of Recruitment & Retention Tim Holverson and Chamber Diplomats helped Craig Walker, CEO & Founder; Chad Schimke, Partner; and their growing team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new offices of **New Frontier Technologies**, 9082 Bond Street. A new breed of system integration company, New Frontier merges field level automation with corporate level data expertise where operations meets IT. For more information: (913) 815-6750 or [www.newfrontiertech.com](http://www.newfrontiertech.com).



Marshaun Butler; Vice President; Molly Camis, Pharmacy Manager; and other representatives celebrated a ribbon cutting for the expanded inpatient pharmacy at **Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas**, 5808 West 110th Street. The new space improves patient safety through enhanced technology and contributes to compliance with CMS regulations. For more information: (913) 696-8000.

# RECENT EVENTS

## Chamber Annual Meeting

Wednesday, December 5

Overland Park Convention Center

Presenting Sponsor



Leadership Patron



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



Awards Sponsors



Metcalf 435  
Corporate Centre



Corporate Table Sponsors



Print Sponsor



Ground Transportation  
Sponsor



Hotel  
Accommodations

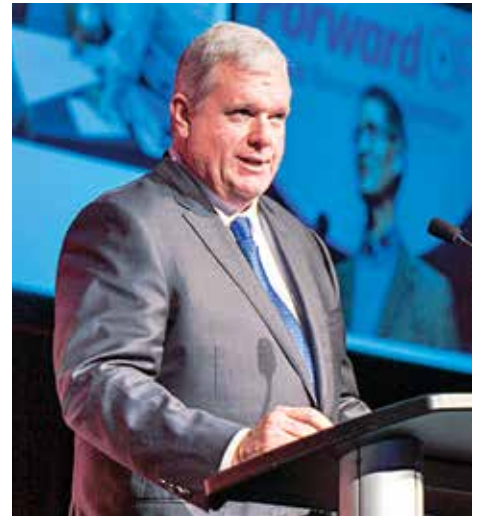


Vibe  
Sponsor



Delivering an inspiring keynote address on leadership was Tommy Spaulding, two-time *The New York Times* best-selling author of "The Heart-Led Leader" and "It's Just Not Who You Know."

Photography by



As the Outgoing Chairman of the Board, Brett Bogan, **Spencer Fane LLP**; reviewed some Chamber highlights of 2018.



Retiring Chamber board members recognized at the Annual Meeting included Don Pearce, **Pearce Construction Company**; Mark Thomas, **Copaken Brooks**; Bruce Boettcher, **Sheraton Overland Park Hotel**; Diana Chaloux-LaCerte, **Hitch Fit Gym**; Michael Tracy, **OMNI Human Resource Management**; Charles Laird, **Menorah Medical Center**; and Bob Regnier, **Bank of Blue Valley**.



2019 Chairman Mike Hess, **HNTB Corporation**; previewed the Chamber's goals and plans for the year ahead.





OP Awards were presented to the superintendents of the six Johnson County school districts for launching #ZeroReasonsWhy, a community mobilization and story campaign to prevent teen suicide and drive productive conversations to affirm there are zero reasons why suicide is an option. Superintendents receiving awards were Frank Harwood, DeSoto; Dr. Todd White, Blue Valley; Chamber Chairman Brett Bogan; Dr. Wayne Burke, Spring Hill; Pam Stranathan, Gardner Edgerton; Dr. John Allison, Olathe; Dr. Mike Fulton, Shawnee Mission; and Chamber President Tracedy Osborne Oltjen.



Receiving an OP Award for his 30 years of public policy leadership with the Chamber and in the community was Tom Robinett who recently retired as the Chamber's Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy. Tom received his award from Chairman Brett Bogan President Tracey Osborne Oltjen.



2018 Chairman Brett Bogan, **Spencer Fane LLP**; received a plaque of recognition from 2019 Chairman Mike Hess, **HNTB Corporation**.



DJ Stann Tate livened up the luncheon with his skills on the turntable.



Tommy Spaulding participated in a meet and greet and signed copies of his book, "The Heart-Led Leader," which is used in the Chamber's Leadership Overland Park program.



# RECENT EVENTS

## Diplomat Q&A

**John Burrows, Mid-America Orthopedics Kansas City**

**Q:** What is your company and describe your position?



**A:** I am the Executive Vice President of Business Development at **Mid-America Orthopedics Kansas City**. I help manage contracts and connect adjusters, case

managers, primary care providers and chiropractors with our surgeons.

**Q:** Who do you find is a best connection / partner for you in business?

**A:** Primary care physicians, physical therapists, claims adjusters, chiropractors, friends and family

**Q:** Why are you a Chamber Diplomat?

**A:** I have been a business owner for more than 20 years and I have a passion for helping other people grow their business.

**Q:** What is the best advice you've ever received?

**A:** Be a servant-leader

**Q:** What is your hidden talent or ability?

**A:** Cooking – I was influenced by my father who was a professionally trained chef and baker.

**Q:** What do you consider your greatest achievement (so far)?

**A:** Raising four rocket-scientist kids and helping several young men and women get into service academies.

**Q:** Who is somebody you look up to as a role model and why?

**A:** George Washington. He was able to defeat the British Army with a band of under-funded, poorly trained volunteers – and he did so knowing that failure was a death sentence.

To find out more about becoming a Chamber Diplomat, contact Stacey Cowan at (913) 766-7604 or [scowan@opchamber.org](mailto:scowan@opchamber.org).

**2019 Legislative** continued . . .

changes in the tax law that would impose a sales tax on professional services. Further, as the legislature continues to wrestle with sales tax exemptions and economic development programs we will be there to ask that any review of the exemptions be comprehensive and consider the impact a repeal of certain exemptions might have on economic development.

The Chamber will continue to work with legislators to protect and enhance

economic development and workforce development programs (such as PEAK, HPIP and STAR bonds) that allow Kansas to remain competitive in efforts to grow and retain jobs across the state.

We also will continue to advocate against sweeping of funds from the Kansas Highway Fund into the State General Fund, asking that these funds be used for their intended purpose. It won't be an easy session, but you can count on your Chamber policy team to be there!

## Sponsor Spotlight:



**CommunityAmerica** has called Kansas City home since 1940. They are not only the largest credit union in Kansas City, but also one of the largest in the country. As the Official Banking Partner of the Kansas City Chiefs, and one of the top 10 Kansas City-based financial institutions, it's easy to see why more than 200,000 people trust CommunityAmerica with their finances – and why more than 750 folks choose it as a place to work.

Finances are personal, so CommunityAmerica treats them that way. Their full suite of financial products are built with member needs in mind: Cashback Free Checking, Chiefs Checking, High Interest Savings, loans, mortgages, credit cards, insurance, financial planning, college & career planning—and that's just the beginning.



Headquartered in Lenexa, members enjoy 29 full-service branches locally and one in St. Louis, MO; plus a network of more than 30,000 ATMs nationwide.

CommunityAmerica's proudest claim is their dedication to making Kansas City a better place for their members and their community. Through their unique Profit Payout, they've shared over \$48,000,000 dollars with their members in the last 7 years. And when it comes to the community, they give back through their foundation, set up specifically for the betterment of local organizations.

Their commitment to financial literacy and a thriving community takes many different forms. City Year, Veterans Community Project and Operation Breakthrough are notable missions that CommunityAmerica is actively involved with. Both through monetary donations and hands-on service, the drive to give back runs deep in this community. Employees are given up to 16 hours of paid volunteer time to spend with the charity of their choice.

CommunityAmerica always says, "There's a reason community is in our name." Their mission is to change more than how people bank, but to change the world around them. Using a spirit of service in both philanthropy and business, they live that mission each day.

For more information, visit [www.CommunityAmerica.com](http://www.CommunityAmerica.com).



## Member News & Events

**Merrill Companies** announced Andy's Frozen Custard will be its first user for the final phase of Prairiefire, which links the development's eastern and western entertainment and retail sections. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2019.

The owners of **Urban Air Trampoline Park** are expanding with an additional location in Johnson County.

**Shawnee Mission School District's** Early Childhood Education Center is relocating to the Broadmoor Technical Center.

The County Manager's office is accepting applications for the **Johnson County** Citizens Academy through January 18. The Academy will take place Monday evenings, February 11-April 15.

**ArtsKC – Regional Arts Council** recently awarded 24 ArtsKC Catalyst Project grants for arts projects and programs to nonprofit organizations.

Three **Shawnee Mission School District** schools were recognized as Apple Distinguished Schools for 2018-2021. Apple Distinguished Schools showcase innovative uses of technology in learning, teaching, and the school environment, and have documented results of academic accomplishment.

**United Community Services of Johnson County** announced two new board of directors members: Robin Harold, AdventHealth, and Edgerton Mayor Donald Roberts.

**Cleveland University-Kansas City** announced that students in the Doctor of Chiropractic degree

*(continued on page 12)*

## Diplomat Q&A

**Erin Ronan, Enterprise Bank & Trust**

**Q:** What is your company and your position?

**A:** **Enterprise Bank & Trust** offers all banking products as well as conventional & SBA loans, merchant services & wealth management. As a Business Banker, I work with small to mid-sized business to meet their banking needs to help them attain a lifetime of professional and personal financial success.



**Q:** Who do you find is a best connection / partner for you in business?

**A:** Business owners who are experiencing growth in their business are great prospects for me and the bank. I'm also building my network to be a great resource for my clients.

**Q:** Why are you a Chamber Diplomat?

**A:** I am a lifelong resident of Overland Park, so my heart is definitely with the people and businesses of this community. Being a Diplomat gives me the opportunity to interact with people and businesses on a deeper level.

**Q:** What has been your favorite benefit or moment as a member of the Chamber?

**A:** The best benefit is the warm welcome other Diplomats have shown me. There was no awkward moment of "who is the new gal?" I felt part of the group right away.

**Q:** What is your hidden talent or ability?

**A:** I sing in my church choir, but I've always wanted an alter ego as a lead rock 'n roll singer.

**Q:** What are you recommending to others?

**A:** "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr. Absolutely beautifully written, down to each sentence, even though the subject matter is WWII and the horrors of war.

**Q:** What are you most passionate about?

**A:** My focus has changed as an empty nester so now I'm passionate about homeless animals. I am a foster mom for cats and a board member of the Heart of America Humane Society.

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## Holiday mix 'n mingle

Hosted by



**Door prize donors:**

- Black & Veatch
- Blue Valley Goodyear
- Big Whiskey's – Overland Park
- Corner Bakery Cafe-Corbin Park
- Cosentino's Market - Blue Valley
- Dogtopia of Overland Park
- Fidelity Bank
- Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Overland Park-West
- KC Wine & Spirits
- Mastin Discount Liquor LLC
- Museum at Prairiefire
- Nifty Promotions
- Nothing Bundt Cakes Overland Park
- Office Evolution
- Scheels
- The Brass Onion

**Top:** Josh Levinson, **KeyBank**; was one of several door prize winners. He received his prize from emcee Mike Makris, **BHC RHODES**; and Erin Murray, Chamber staff.

**Bottom:** Shannon Riordan, Todd Smidt and Adam Fichman, all with **Lifted Logic**.

# Thank you to our 2019 Sponsors!

## Corporate Partners



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



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### Member News continued . . .

program lead the nation in board completion rates.

**St. Joseph Medical Center** volunteers earned \$5,100 with its Masquerade Jewelry sale, which it donated to Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph to provide food, diapers, formula, and emergency assistance to those in need.

**Affinis Corp** won ACEC of Kansas' 2019 Engineering Excellence Awards for roadway projects in Overland Park and Merriam.

**UnitedHealthcare** released its 2018 America's Health Rankings Annual Report in which Missouri improved from 40 to 38 and Kansas moved down from 25 to 27.

For the 11th consecutive time, **Shawnee Mission Medical Center** was awarded the designation of "A" for its commitment to keeping patients safe by The Leapfrog Group, a national non-profit health care ratings organization.

Adventist Health System, which includes **Shawnee Mission Health**, has been recognized by the College of

Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) with a 2018 Most Wired award, which identifies and recognizes health care organizations that exemplify best practices through adoption, implementation and use of information technology.

**AdventHealth** (formerly Shawnee Mission Health) welcomes six new physicians: Sara Lange, MD, Gynecologic Oncology; Kathryn K. Murray, DO, DABFM, Occupational Medicine; Dale G. Garrett, MD, MPH, FACOEM, Occupational Medicine; Kimberly Ponnuru, MD, FACS, General Surgery; Kathryn Gillen, DO, Pulmonary Medicine; and Jorge Guillen, MD, Family Medicine.

Mackenzie Brock and Tyler Wooldridge have joined **TPP Certified Public Accountants, LLC**, as staff accountants in the CPA Services Division.

Adam Fichman, **Lifted Logic**, spoke on how business owners can increase leads by understanding the monetary value of web users as the opening speaker of the TEDxOverland Park.

To submit company news, [click here](#).

To submit events, [click here](#).