

# Business Perspective



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

November 2019

Be an informed voter on November 5!

**VOTEJOCO.com**

for candidate surveys, interviews and complete information on voting in Johnson County!



U.S. Representative Sharice L. Davids, Mayor Carl Gerlach and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen joined hospital representatives to break ground for an expansion of **AdventHealth South Overland Park** at 165th and Antioch in Bluhawk. The new 193,000 square-foot, 85-bed inpatient hospital will provide access to a full suite of hospital and emergency services. The expansion will generate approximately 200 full-time equivalent jobs. For details, [click here](#).

## Our Mission:

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



## Chamber Calendar

### Wednesday Wake-up

**Wednesday, November 13** - 8:00-9:00 a.m.  
**Overland Park Regional Medical Center**,  
10500 Quivira Road  
*Free and open to Chamber members only*  
**2019 Series Sponsor: Fortune Financial Advisors**

### Member Orientation

**Tuesday, November 19** - 8:00-9:00 a.m.  
Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street  
*Free and open to Chamber members only*

### Working Lunch

**Wednesday, November 20** - 12:00-1:30 p.m.  
**Tabard's Ale House**, 12030 Blue Valley Parkway  
\$25 per person for Chamber members only  
**Presenting Sponsor: Spectrum Reach**

### Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

Joint meeting with Kansas State Affairs Committee of the Kansas City Chamber  
**Tuesday, December 3** - 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street  
\$15 per person for members only; appetizers included.

### 2019 Annual Meeting

**Thursday, December 5** - 11:30-1:30 p.m.  
**Marriott Kansas City Overland Park**,  
10800 Metcalf Avenue  
Corporate Table Sponsor: \$1,000 for preferred seating for 10  
Chamber members: \$65 per person/\$695 for table of 10  
Non-members: \$80 per person/\$850 for table of 10  
**Presenting Sponsor: Security Bank of Kansas City**

To register for events, [click here](#).

### Ribbon cuttings & groundbreakings

**Friday, November 8** - 9:00 a.m.  
**Liverpool Los Angeles**, 11591 West 95th Street in Oak Park Mall  
**Thursday, November 14** - 4:30 p.m.  
**My Place Hotel**, 8983 West 135th Street  
**Thursday, November 14** - 5:30 p.m.  
**AdamsGabbert**, 10975 Benson Drive, Suite 100  
**Wednesday, November 20** - 4:45 p.m.  
**Align by Design**, 11740 West 86th Terrace

Think Like a **FUTURIST**

# 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

**Thursday, December 5, 2019**

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Rebecca Ryan**  
Futurist & Economist  
"Human Spark Plug"

Register at [www.opchamber.org](http://www.opchamber.org)  
or call (913) 491-3600

Presenting Sponsor **SECURITY BANK**  
OF KANSAS CITY™

To register, [click here](#). For sponsorship opportunities, [click here](#).

## 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**

Jim Edwards, **Nothing Bundt Cakes**

John Fuller, **DLR Group**

Dr. Michael Fulton, **Shawnee Mission School District**

Matt Gunter, **SelectQuote**

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, **Thryv**

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**

Brett Bogan, **Spencer Fane LLP**  
[2019 Chairman of Overland Park Chamber Economic Development Council]

### CHAMBER STAFF:

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, **President & CEO**

Stacey Cowan, **Membership Director**

Andie Drummond, **Member Services Coordinator**

Frank Ebling, **CFO**

Celia Fritz-Watson, IOM, **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**

Amanda Schumacher, **Special Projects**

Kevin Walker, IOM, **Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy**

## A broken record

I really enjoyed the Ken Burns series *Country Music*. The final episode covered country music's evolution 1984-1996. It catalogued the clash of old versus new, reflecting the time period when by necessity of a lot of rural windshield time I added country music to my playlist.

There was the rise of Garth, and the diversity of stars from Vince Gill to Shania Twain to the resurgence of Johnny Cash as new kinds of music mixed with the rhythm of traditional sounds. Pure country blended with rock, pop and familiar twangs to create new sounds that weren't universally appreciated. "New Traditionalists" found a way to please these resisters, and they found new fans, too. Think the straight-forward style of George Strait, Randy Travis and the Judds.

The theme of the show was "Don't get above your raisin'." Perhaps you heard this from someone when you were growing up, most likely from a grandparent. Ricky Skaggs popularized a song by this title in which he complains that his girl "just ain't what she used to be;" "she's just a little high headed." He implores her "be yourself" and "stay here on earth with me."

Though our teens now aren't humming this song and I doubt they hear the phrase "Don't get above your raising" very much, I suspect they do hear variations of the theme, just as I did growing up. The clear messages I got were:

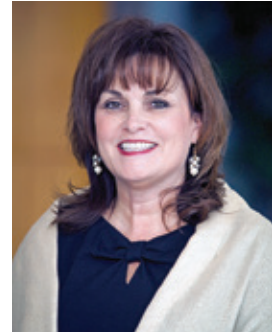
- Don't forget where you came from.
- Work hard. Every day. No matter how much (or if) you get paid.
- Treat others as you wish to be treated.
- Never stop learning.
- Vote. Always.

We've been blessed to live and work in a place that is among the best communities in the nation. We're so used to being named to the "Best of" lists, we almost don't pause to celebrate when we make another one. As we head into this season of Thanksgiving, a full list of our blessings would be too long for this space – best in class school systems, colleges and universities, a thriving business community, quality health care, and arts, cultural and recreational opportunities galore.

What's important to know is these things didn't just happen.

Decades of strategic leadership from business, civic and government leaders have created this environment of success. We have a long history of collaboration and public/private partnerships that have built our community's quality of life and economic foundation.

November 5 is a critical election. Regardless of where you live in Johnson County you have important decisions to make on your ballot. There are races in our cities, Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees, Water District Board #1, our School District Boards...each of you has a ballot to cast. These local governing bodies are the closest to you and set the course for your taxes, education of our kids, our future workforce, and delivery of vital services like water, police, fire, and roads. Your vote determines how (or if) our community continues to grow and



**Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, IOM**  
President & CEO  
[@traceylosborne](https://www.linkedin.com/in/traceylosborne)

(continued on page 4)

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**President's Message cont. . . .** develop. Do you believe that collaboration and strategic planning is important? Then be sure the candidates you support believe that, too. From time to time there are elections that shape the future and this is one of them. What our future looks like depends on the voters. We've compiled the candidates' opinions on business issues in brief interviews and surveys. Check them out at [www.VoteJoCo.com](http://www.VoteJoCo.com) and

vote. If my life was a country song it might be entitled Broken Record because I'll remind you again and again that it's our responsibility to be informed voters. Perhaps that's why that Country Music episode resonated with me. When I think about how I was raised I know that providing a future for those who come after me begins with casting a ballot for those who will protect and enhance that kind of community. #votejoco

## 2020 sponsorships available!

Gain visibility by partnering with the Chamber to sponsor events and programs in 2020. Sponsorships include Corporate Sponsor and Leadership Circle levels, two of the Chamber's top sponsorship opportunities.

**For information: Celia Fritz-Watson at (913) 766-7603 or [cfritzwatson@opchamber.org](mailto:cfritzwatson@opchamber.org).**



**Wednesday,  
November 20**

12:00-1:30 p.m.


Make new business connections during lunch at [Tabard's Ale House](#), a locally owned family restaurant. Enjoy a made-from-scratch eclectic menu and world cuisine! They also have more than 80 beers to from which to choose. Attendance at this event is an exclusive benefit for Chamber members only. Space is limited, so reserve your seat now!

**\$25 per person for Chamber members only.**

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



Hosted by



12030 Blue Valley Parkway

Sponsored by



## Build your business network!

# Wednesday Wake-up

A Business Before Hours

**Wednesday, November 13**

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Enjoy networking over coffee and breakfast at [Overland Park Regional Medical Center](#). The hospital and the Kansas City Heart Rhythm Institute will soon unveil Kansas City's most advanced center for the treatment of heart rhythm disorders. Learn about the latest advancements in cardiac care and tour the new cardiac cath labs.



Hosted by



OVERLAND PARK  
REGIONAL  
MEDICAL CENTER

10500 Quivira Road

Free and open to Chamber members only.  
**To register, [click here](#) or call (913) 491-3600**

2019 Series Sponsor:



## Member Orientation

**Tuesday, November 19**

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

New members and new employees of existing members are invited to learn about Chamber resources and how to maximize opportunities available to members. Network with fellow members and meet Chamber staff and representatives of the Chamber Board, Economic Development Council and the City.



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**[Register here](#) or call (913) 491-3600.**

# CHAMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Diplomat Q&A

Randy Harris, [Chick-fil-A](#)

I am the franchise owner and operator of **Chick-fil-A** at 135th and U.S. 69 Highway.

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



**A:** Businesses in the hospitality or customer service environment.

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

**A:** I believe in the Chamber's objectives around helping all levels/sizes of businesses with growth, connections and positive impact.

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

**A:** To develop long term relationships with other members via events.

**Q:** Where are you from / what brought you to Overland Park?

**A:** I grew up in the Olathe area and graduated from high school in 1980. I joined the Navy before graduation and completed nuclear engineering training with service on submarines and aircraft carriers. I worked numerous positions and jobs, but finally found my dream career as a Chick-fil-A franchisee in 2007 and to the present.

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

**A:** To lead through service, not because of your position.

**Q:** What recent book / movie are you recommending to others?

**A:** Author Simon Sinek's "Leaders Eat Last."

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

**A:** Building leadership teams through investing time and strengths in mentorship, serving others and seeking excellence.

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

**A:** My father. I saw in him throughout life the living example of the entrepreneurial drive and tenacity.

**Q:** What has been your favorite journey?

**A:** To develop my Chick-fil-A leadership to a level that allows my wife and I to travel three or four times a year.

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

## Wednesday Wake-up

A Business Before Hours

hosted on October 9 by



Conner Beese, **Copaken Brooks**;  
Josh Ruhlmann, **Mutual of Omaha**; Michelle Poston, **Infinitas Coordinated Wealth Counsel**; Dr. Jessica Bohlke, **Journey Chiropractic**.



Amy Mahnken, **Athletico Physical Therapy**; Bekki Diefendorf, **Panera Bread**.



## Member Renewals

We thank these companies for reinvesting in the Overland Park Chamber in September 2019:

### 50+ Years

Atmos Energy Corporation  
Mize Houser & Company

### 40-49 Years

Better Homes and Gardens  
Real Estate Kansas City Homes

### 20-39 Years

Allied Global Services  
API Broadcast Advertising  
Bank of Blue Valley  
The Builders' Association  
Garden Terrace at Overland Park  
H&R Block  
Hawthorne Suites by  
Wyndham Overland Park  
Hopps Catering  
Mitchelson, Lynn  
National Crop Insurance  
Services  
Ottawa University-Kansas  
City Campus  
State Farm Insurance -  
Penny Hardesty  
True North Hotel Group

### 10-19 Years

Allied National, Inc.  
GoalGETTERS®  
J. Gilbert's Wood-Fired  
Steaks & Seafood  
Kincaid Coach Lines, Inc.  
Overland Park Host Lions  
Club  
Olsson  
OMNI Human Resource  
Management  
Tri-Land Properties, Inc

### 5-9 Years

American Girl  
Charlie's Car Wash  
Clarus Group  
Landmark National Bank  
The Ranch at Prairie Trace  
Rx Savings Solutions  
The Sovereign at Overland  
Park  
Stroud's Overland Park  
YaYa's Euro Bistro

### 1-4 Years

AdventHealth Medical  
Group Primary Care at  
Deer Creek  
American Cancer Society  
Bambou Salon & Spa  
Brancato's Catering  
House of Real Estate, LLC  
Indian Creek Land &  
Investment Co., LP  
KC Wine & Spirits  
Keller Williams - Diana  
Dodge  
Kelly Construction Group, Inc.  
Little Sunshine's Playhouse &  
Preschool Overland Park  
Polestar Plumbing, Heating  
and Air  
Raising Cane's Chicken  
Fingers  
Tiger-Rock Martial Arts of  
Overland Park  
Title Boxing Club-148th &  
Metcalf  
Total Nurses Network  
Tower Properties Company





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# NEW MEMBERS

## Welcome new members!

We are pleased to introduce these new Chamber members:

### Academy Bank

Derek Sommerer, Business Development Consultant  
6976 West 135th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66223  
(913) 553-6795  
[www.academybank.com](http://www.academybank.com)  
Banks

### Alan R. Stetson, Attorney-at-Law

P.O. Box 26784  
Overland Park, KS 66225  
(913) 226-3397  
astetson76@aol.com  
Attorneys, Estate Planning

### ALDI, Inc.-159th Street

15891 Metcalf Avenue  
Overland Park, KS 66223  
(913) 768-1119  
[www.aldi.us](http://www.aldi.us)  
Grocers, Retail

### Farmers Insurance-Matthew Meyer Agency

Janis R. Dickey, PhD, Insurance  
3731 West 95th Street  
Leawood, KS 66206  
(913) 221-5599  
farmers.janis@gmail.com  
<https://agents.farmers.com/mmeyer2>  
Insurance

### Genesis Health Clubs

Neal Huston, Club Manager  
6700 West 110th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66211  
(913) 491-4116  
[www.genesishealthclubs.com](http://www.genesishealthclubs.com)  
Fitness, Health and Fitness Program Consultants

### Genesis Health Clubs-Metcalf Super Sport

12075 Metcalf Avenue  
Overland Park, KS 66213  
(913) 338-2442  
[www.genesishealthclubs.com](http://www.genesishealthclubs.com)  
Fitness

### Golden Belt Beef

Stan Kaiser, Operations Manager  
8020 West 151st Street  
Overland Park, KS 66223  
(913) 787-1776  
admin@goldenbeltbeef.com  
[www.goldenbeltbeef.com](http://www.goldenbeltbeef.com)  
Retail, Gourmet Food Shops & Specialties

### Grease Monkey

Scott Bowen, Owner  
8200 Metcalf Avenue  
Overland Park, KS 66204  
(913) 381-9074  
sooner.oil.llc@gmail.com  
[www.GreaseMonkeyAuto.com](http://www.GreaseMonkeyAuto.com)  
Auto Repair & Service, Race Tracks

### Home2 Suites by Hilton

Carmella Dooley, General Manager  
7121 West 135th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66223  
(913) 229-9240  
cdooley@kwbhoteles.com  
<https://home2suites3.hilton.com>  
Hotels

### Journey Chiropractic

Dr. Jessica Bohlke, Chiropractor & Owner  
7418 West 121st Street  
Overland Park, KS 66213  
(712) 541-9370  
journeychirokc@gmail.com  
[www.journeychirokc.com](http://www.journeychirokc.com)  
Chiropractic Physicians - D.C.

### Liverpool Los Angeles

11591 West 95th Street  
Oak Park Mall  
Overland Park, KS 66214  
[www.liverpooljeans.com](http://www.liverpooljeans.com)  
Retail

### Massage AMANI and Spa

Monique Waters, Owner  
7313 West 79th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66204  
(816) 210-2934  
massageamani@yahoo.com  
[www.massageamani.com](http://www.massageamani.com)  
Massage-Therapeutic, Corporate Wellness Program

### Network Tech

Clark Thompson, New Accounts Executive  
15633 South Mahaffie Street  
Olathe, KS 66062  
(913) 538-7700  
clark.thompson@networktech.com  
[www.networktech.com](http://www.networktech.com)  
Technology, Information Security

### Radisson Hotel Lenexa Overland Park

Chris Krouse, Director of Sales and Marketing  
12601 West 95th Street  
Lenexa, KS 66215  
(913) 802-2500  
[www.radisson.com/lenexa-overlandpark](http://www.radisson.com/lenexa-overlandpark)  
Hotels, Meeting Facilities

### Revolve at OneFifteen

Jessica Foster, Community Manager  
11450 Lamar Avenue  
Overland Park, KS 66211  
(913) 491-1515  
manager@revolve115.com  
[www.revolve115.com](http://www.revolve115.com)  
Apartments

### Sherwin-Williams Paint Co.

Danny Hamilton, Store Manager  
6311 West 119th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66209  
(913) 663-0192  
Sw727619@sherwin.com  
[www.Sherwin-Williams.com](http://www.Sherwin-Williams.com)  
Retail, Paint

### Smart Home Lending

Trish Reedy, Mortgage Loan Officer  
11900 West 87th Street, Suite 115  
Lenexa, KS 66215  
(913) 271-2368  
trishreedy@smarthomelending.com  
[www.SmartHomeLending.com](http://www.SmartHomeLending.com)  
Mortgages, Real Estate

### Willoughby Design

Megan Stephens, Managing Principal  
602 Westport Road  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
(816) 561-4189  
info@willoughbydesign.com  
[www.willoughbydesign.com](http://www.willoughbydesign.com)  
Advertising, Marketing Services



Some of our newest members were recognized with plaques at last month's Wednesday Wake-up hosted by **Saint Paul School of Theology**. Receiving plaques from Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen and Chamber Membership Director Stacey Cowan were Jacquelynn Neat, **Employee Benefits Professionals**; Bobby Hartley, **B&B Theatres Overland Park 16**; Danny Hamilton, **Sherwin-Williams Paint Co.**; Greg Gibson, **Evergreen Concepts LLC**; Janis Dickey, **Farmers Insurance-Matthew Meyers Agency**; Sue Buckley, **City Publications KC**; Dr. Jessica Bohlke, **Journey Chiropractic**.

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



For more details, click advertisement below.



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OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213

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(913) 384-2707  
6850 JOHNSON DRIVE  
MISSION, KS 66202

LEE'S SUMMIT  
(816) 525-9000  
910 NW BLUE PARKWAY (SUITE Y)  
LEE'S SUMMIT, MO 64086

TIFFANY SPRINGS - NORTH KC MO  
(816) 382-3800  
8930 NW SKYVIEW AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64154



# RECENT EVENTS



City Council President Terry Happer Scheier, Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen and Chamber Diplomats helped Case Dorman, CEO; and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Fiorella's**, 9000 West 137th Street. The full-service event venue and catering operation in the former Ritz Charles space at offers a wide selection of cuisine. For more information: (913) 356-5700 or [www.fiorellaskc.com](http://www.fiorellaskc.com).



City Councilmember Faris Farassati and Chamber EDC Director of Recruitment & Retention Tim Holverson helped Chance Crawford and other bank representatives celebrate a ribbon cutting for the newest location of **Academy Bank**, 6976 West 135th Street. For more information: (913) 553-6795 or [www.academybank.com](http://www.academybank.com).



City Councilmember Dave White, Chamber EDC Director of Recruitment & Retention Tim Holverson and Chamber Diplomats helped Aaron Turner, general manager, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the renovation of the **Hampton by Hilton Kansas City/Overland Park**, 10591 Metcalf Frontage Road. For more information: (913) 341-1551 or [click here](#).



City Councilmember Faris Farassati, Chamber Membership Director Stacey Cowan and Chamber Diplomats helped Dr. Alan Cabrera and Crystal Bradberry, office manager, celebrate a ribbon cutting for **SVS Vision Optical Center**, 6635 West 135th Street. For more info: (913) 730-9750 or [www.svsvision.com](http://www.svsvision.com).



City Councilmember Faris Farassati, Chamber Vice President Kevin Walker and Chamber EDC Director of Recruitment and Retention Tim Holverson helped Danny Hamilton, Store Manager, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Sherwin-Williams Paint Co.**, 6311 West 119th Street in Overland Park. For more information: (913) 663-0192 or [www.Sherwin-Williams.com](http://www.Sherwin-Williams.com).



City Councilmember Faris Farassati, Chamber EDC Senior Vice President Beth Johnson and Chamber Diplomats helped Dr. Loren Liming, his family and team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Virtue Chiropractic**, 6511 West 119th Street. Dr. Liming uses state-of-the-art technology while offering a holistic approach to health and wellness focused on care for the entire body so clients can enjoy a higher standard of healthy living. For more information: (913) 240-4833 or [www.virtuechiro.com](http://www.virtuechiro.com).



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# RECENT EVENTS

## Diplomat Q&A

**Michael Campbell, Shepherd Elder Law Group**

I am a Community Education Liaison with **Shepherd Elder Law Group**. My role in our firm is to educate people about the scope of legal and financial services our attorneys provide. I enjoy meeting people and developing relationships through compassion-driven conversation.



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

**A:** People who are looking for information relevant to special needs and senior care needs. People who deal with insurance, financial planning, and health care providers are great partners for us.

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

**A:** It gives me an opportunity to connect with people who may be hunting for more information concerning the changing landscape of senior care and estate planning.

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

**A:** My favorite moment has been inviting prospective members and helping them experience genuine connection with others, developing real friendship.

**Q:** Where are you from and what brought you to Overland Park?

**A:** I am from southern California. My wife and I moved to this area for work. Johnson County is a great place to live and work.

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

**A:** I am very passionate about making a positive impact in our community. I believe we are making a significant change in our culture in the marketplace through the power of love and kindness. I look for ways to serve our community.

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

**A:** Samantha Shepherd, founder and Managing Attorney of our firm. She provides an example of genuine compassion and professionalism in her practice that is making a difference in our world.

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

*OP After Hours*

hosted on October 15 by



## Sponsor Spotlight:



KCP&L and Westar Energy merged to bring you **Evergy**, evolving to create more savings, sustainable energy and solutions that meet your needs.

“This is an exciting time for our company,” Terry Bassham, president and chief executive officer, said. “Last year we merged KCP&L and Westar to form Evergy, and we are proud to start using our new name in the communities we serve. The merger has brought savings to customers through lower base rates and rebates. Together we are well positioned to be a leading energy company providing our customers with energy from renewable sources and offering innovative programs to meet their needs.”

Because electricity is an essential part of daily lives, the energy industry continues to evolve to meet the needs of its customers and the environment.

Evergy is focused on moving energy forward, offering innovative solutions and providing reliable and safe energy to you.

### Evergy commits to energy solutions and choices

Ensuring you have choices to fit your lifestyle, Evergy strives to make your experience effortless and fulfilling as it works alongside you to offer innovative solutions and meet your needs.

### Evergy provides energy and service efficiently

That means more savings for you, no changes to base rates in Kansas for at least five years and smaller, less frequent rate-change requests for all in the future.

### Evergy embraces alternative energy sources

To generate more power with less impact on our environment, nearly half of the power Evergy provides to homes and business is emissions-free.

[Evergy.com](http://Evergy.com) is available for customers to find company information and access secure account services. The company will continue to offer service updates and other information through social media – [Evergy](https://www.facebook.com/evergy) on Facebook and [@evergypower](https://twitter.com/evergypower) on Twitter.





At last month's Economic Development Investors Lunch, our Economic Development Council Investors heard from consultant Kate McEnroe. Her Chicago firm offers full-service location selection and economic development consulting that focuses on geographic and market position strategies that support the aspirations of companies, communities, and individuals. The opportunity to hear industry professionals is one of the benefits of being an Overland Park Chamber Economic Development Council (EDC) Investor. You can learn more about the EDC on the Chamber website at [www.opchamber.org/economicdevelopment/about-the-edc](http://www.opchamber.org/economicdevelopment/about-the-edc) or contact Chris Jackson at [cjackson@opchamber.org](mailto:cjackson@opchamber.org) or (913) 766-7605.

## Overland Park partners with Digital Sandbox to support entrepreneurs

Overland Park recently became a partner with Digital Sandbox KC to catalyze smart and dynamic entrepreneurs. Funding from the City of Overland Park will support entrepreneurs based in our city.

Digital Sandbox KC is a proof-of-concept program that significantly and rapidly moves early-stage entrepreneurs from concept to commercialization. It is a unique collaboration among private, public, university/research and philanthropic organizations.

Beth Johnson, senior vice president of the Overland Park Chamber, will coordinate the program in Overland Park. "It is young, growing companies that

develop the future leaders of Overland Park's business community and drive new innovation," says Johnson. "By providing a base of funding that accelerates smart, talented individuals and the teams they build to develop viable ideas into functioning businesses, Digital Sandbox KC plays a critical role in helping businesses scale and finding the best ways to integrate business with burgeoning new technologies."

Since its inception in 2013, Digital Sandbox KC has provided project development funding for 121 area startups.

For more information, contact Beth Johnson at [bjohnson@opchamber.org](mailto:bjohnson@opchamber.org).



Wendy Doyle, president and CEO of the Women's Foundation, was the featured speaker last month in our Executive Leadership Series, which is sponsored by **First National Bank**.

## Building Permits in Overland Park

	New Commercial	Institutional, Schools	Other Commercial	Totals
<b>Sept. 2019</b>	3	0	41	44
Square Feet	109,268	0	109,747	219,015
Value	\$8,882,836	\$0	\$52,607,289	\$61,490,125

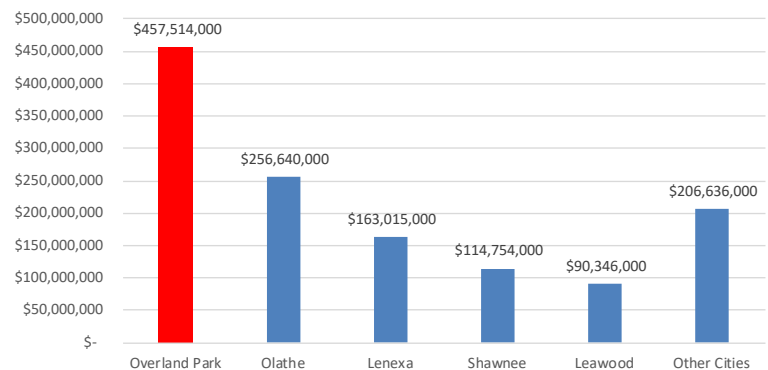
– City of Overland Park

## Unemployment

	Sept. 2019	Sept. 2018
Overland Park	2.4%	2.7%
Johnson County	2.4%	2.6%
Kansas City Metro MSA	3.3%	2.8%
State of Kansas	3.2%	3.3%

(These percentages are not seasonally adjusted)  
– Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC)

## Overland Park Retail Sales July 2019



# Thank you to our 2019 Sponsors!

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



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## Member News

**Evergny** is the new brand for the merger of Kansas City Power & Light and Westar Energy.

**Johnson County Community College** received a grant to provide tuition-free scholarships for veterans and immediate family members in its commercial driver's license training program.

**First National Bank** has awarded \$1.04 million in community development grants including more than \$70,000 to Kansas organizations to support workforce initiatives.

The **Overland Park Convention Center** was named a top 20 convention center in the nation by EXHIBITOR Magazine.

The U.S. Department of Education recognized **Shawnee Mission's** Corinth Elementary School and **Blue Valley's** Lakewood Elementary School as 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools.

**WaterOne** has been recognized with a Sustainable Water Utility Management award.

**Johnson County Community College** has been named a Top Performer in the 2019 Sustainable Campus Index.

**Affinis Corp** has named Kristen Leathers-Gratton as president.

**Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball** has named Andrew Bazzelle as a senior manager and hired Michael Tyll as a staff accountant.

John Fuller has been appointed a **DLR Group** Managing Principal, making him one of four senior leaders overseeing 1,200 employees and 30 offices around the globe. He is the first managing principal in the agency's 53-year history who is not an architect or engineer.

Michelle Zech is the new vice president of human resources business partner for the Mid-America Region of **Advent-Health**.

**Riordan Clinic** has hired Dr. Gael Wheeler D.O. in Overland Park.

Lisa Ragan, **Safely Delicious LLC**, won the Shirley Marx Pitch Competition at the Women's Business Development Center's Signature Conference.

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

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