



Overland Park residents paid tribute last month to fallen police officer Mike Mosher with numerous memorials including a "Salute to Blue" procession through Overland Park.

## KDOT ranks U.S. 69 Highway improvements highest project need in state

### TRANSPORTATION NEWS

The improvement of U.S. 69 Highway between 103rd and 151st streets in Overland Park was the highest rated expansion project in the state among 40 highway modernization and expansion projects announced last month by Governor Laura Kelly and Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Secretary Julie Lorenz. These are the first projects to move forward under the Eisenhower Transportation Legacy Program (IKE), which was created in March.

For more than a year, your Chamber has joined government and local business leaders in advocating for improvements to U.S. 69 in Johnson County. U.S. 69 received 95 points out of 100 as "The highest rated expansion project in the state. It will alleviate congestion at one of the worst bottlenecks in Kansas." Preliminary estimated construction costs is \$300 million.

KDOT's announcement does not commit any funding to projects. Overland Park officials have been working with KDOT state officials in preparation of issuing a Request For Qualifications/Proposal for consulting services on U.S. 69 Highway.

To learn more about potential U.S. 69 improvements, [click here](#).

## COVID-19 Resource Hub

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

## Events Calendar

### Virtual Webinar

Featuring U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

Tuesday, June 9  
4:00-5:00 p.m.

To register, [click here](#)

### Virtual Coffee Break

Sponsored by Fortune Financial Advisors

Wednesday, June 10  
9:30-10:30 a.m.

To register, [click here](#)

### Virtual Event: Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

Sponsored by Fortune Financial Advisors

Friday, June 12  
12:00-1:30 p.m.

To register, [click here](#)

### Virtual Coffee Break

Sponsored by Fortune Financial Advisors

Wednesday, June 24  
9:30-10:30 a.m.

To register, [click here](#)

## Board & Staff

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# Lessons from my kitchen table

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Images of leaders are often portrayed in a traditional motif such as Gen. Washington leading his troops across the icy Delaware.**

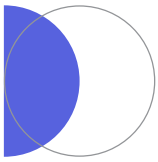
My images of leaders during this pandemic look like the entrepreneur in a closed restaurant, creating a new plan for carry-out and delivery only; a manager leading her team to deliver a project on time via a Zoom screen reminiscent of the "Brady Bunch;" the CEO filling out PPP loan paperwork while creating a new work model for his or her business and homeschooling from a makeshift home office; and many individuals on the front lines who don't have leadership titles, but who led by delivering care, products and services vital to our people and our communities despite known and unknown risks to themselves.

For the last ten weeks my vantage point to observe these leaders has mostly been my kitchen table. As restrictions are relaxed and our businesses are working to find their footing, I've reflected on the many lessons I've taken from their resilience.

I've witnessed inspiring examples of creativity and innovation as organizations stretched their resources to not only stay afloat, but in many cases, reinvent themselves in this new economy. Restaurants pivoted first, some making the difficult choice to close in March while others ramped up carry-out, curbside and delivery options and new menus. **The Mixx** and **Panera Bread** adapted further still, adding grocery items to their menu. Speaking of groceries, how about the ramp-up of online shopping of essential items at our grocery stores? Russ Johnson, manager of the 95th & Antioch **Hy-Vee**, gave me a glimpse of the fulfillment process at his store and it was a well-oiled (very busy) machine, providing both needed items for those who didn't want to shop the aisles and new jobs for many area residents.

Amidst the challenges have been incredible acts of kindness, including too many stories to enumerate of bankers working long into the night on the paperwork necessary to secure PPP loans for local businesses to stay afloat. Businesses, despite their own revenue shortfalls, reaching out to provide free meals to health care workers and first

(continued on page 5)



# Chamber events this month

The Chamber invites you to these virtual events . . .

## Virtual Call with U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

Tuesday, June 9 - 4:00-5:00 p.m.

[Register here](#)

## Coffee Break - Sponsored by Fortune Financial Advisors

Wednesday, June 10 - 9:30-10:30 a.m.

[Register here](#)

## Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

Sponsored by Fortune Financial Advisors

Friday, June 12 - 12:00-1:30 p.m.

[Register here](#)

## Leads Groups

Our Leads Groups continue to meet virtually with Zoom calls throughout the month. They offer the opportunity to network in smaller group sizes. If you are interested in participating in one of our four Leads Groups, contact Stacey Cowan at [scowan@opchamber.org](mailto:scowan@opchamber.org).

## Coffee Break - Sponsored by Fortune Financial Advisors

Wednesday, June 24 - 9:30-10:30 a.m.

[Register here](#)

# Legislature Adjourns; Special Session Looms

Reminiscent of college all-nighters, the Kansas Legislature worked nearly 24-consecutive hours to wrap up its work for the year. Unfortunately, the critical bill – a comprehensive COVID response bill – was vetoed by Governor Kelly citing concerns with certain aspects of the bill. The legislature will return on June 3 for a special session in an attempt to find common ground on this critical legislation.

Some lawmakers, upset with some aspects of Governor Kelly's response to the COVID-19

pandemic, went into the session intent on modifying the Governor's authority in emergency situations. Business groups – including the Overland Park Chamber – sought reasonable protections from frivolous lawsuits for businesses reopening their doors to their employees and customers.

Here's a quick look at two pieces of legislation addressed during the one-day session.

**COVID Response Bill** – This bill, vetoed by Governor Kelly, contained multiple provisions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic including:

(continued on page 4)

# Message from our 2020 Chairman

GUEST COLUMN

As a health care leader and this year's Chairman of the Overland Park Chamber Board, I've had a unique perspective on the historical events that will certainly come to define 2020.

I have seen firsthand the courage of health care providers and first responders as we faced down a scary, fast-moving and little-known disease. With reverence, I have seen and heard of numerous acts of kindness on behalf of individuals, faith communities and businesses in support of those in our community and the region who may be less fortunate and facing incredible challenges. With concern, I have watched businesses make difficult decisions and contemplate plans for an uncertain future. But, through it all, with pride, I have watched

Bobby Olm-Shipman  
President & CEO

[Saint Luke's South Hospital](#)



the Overland Park Chamber rise to the challenge by connecting, educating, advocating, and supporting the business community – doing its part to make Overland Park continue to prosper.

Practically overnight, our community fundamentally changed how we lived and worked. Travel and face-to-face meetings were quickly (continued on page 5)

# Chamber launching new website

This month the Chamber will launch a new website that offers increased opportunities for our members to engage with the Chamber and fellow members.

The new website incorporates new branding the Chamber adopted earlier this year. It also is a result of the Chamber transitioning to a new and more robust database for maintaining member records and populating web content.

Features include:

- Enhanced online membership directory and business categories.
- More accessible member "Hot Deals"
- Expanded member profiles

We'll be communicating more specifics soon and provide you with instructions on how to access the Member Hub to update and add to your company's profiles.

## Legislative Update cont.

- Immunity provisions for businesses and the healthcare industry;
- Legislative oversight of more than \$1.2 billion in federal CARES Act funds that will be received by Kansas;
- Legislative oversight and limitations on the power granted to the Governor in emergency situations; and,
- Statutory clarity for executive orders issued by Governor Kelly during the pandemic.

**Property/Income Tax Changes** – This bill contained several pieces of significant tax legislation previously considered during the main part of the session. Lawmakers added other tax relief provisions in response to COVID-19. As of this writing, Governor Kelly has not acted on this bill.

The bill:

- Eliminates the current property tax lid and replaces it with a new mechanism keeping municipal property tax revenue static by automatically adjusting the mill levy. The intent is to provide taxpayers with increased property tax transparency;
- Establishes standards for tax preparers, providing taxpayers with additional protections;
- Clarifies that regular property maintenance cannot, by itself, trigger increased property appraisals;
- Moves the May 10 property tax due date to August 10;
- Formalizes the movement of the April 15 income tax deadline to July 15;
- Allows counties to establish property tax payment plans for non-delinquent accounts.

**Kansas Economic Recovery Loan Program** – This bill establishes a low-cost loan program to support businesses during times of economic crisis. The program caps the maximum 10-year loans at \$250,000 with the program being administered by the State Treasurer. The bill has not yet been signed by Governor Kelly and administrative details will have to be worked out before any lending can occur.

Several other pieces of legislation were passed and have been sent to Governor Kelly for consideration. Look for lawmakers to revisit many of the provisions in the vetoed COVID response bill including liability protections for Kansas businesses in next week's special session. The Chamber will provide updates and a final legislative report at the conclusion of the session.

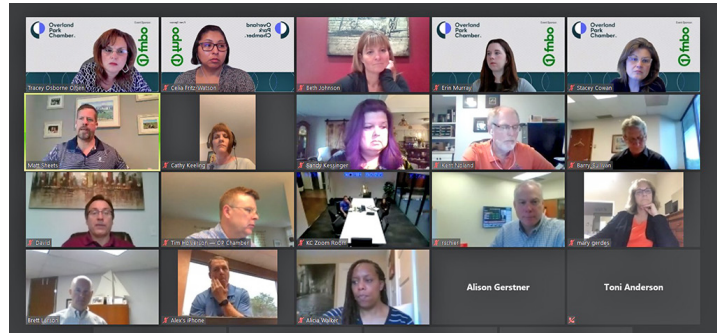
# Reopening Guidance

The reopening process for businesses varies by sector. Here is sector-specific guidance:

- Restaurants - [CDC's Reopening Decision Tree for Restaurants and Bars](#) and [National Restaurant Association's Reopening Guidance](#)
- [Retail](#)
- [Home service providers](#)
- [Construction businesses](#)
- [Gyms and fitness facilities](#)
- [Office-based businesses](#)
- [Hair and nail salons](#)
- [Childcare programs](#)
- [Camps and youth programs](#)
- [Schools](#)

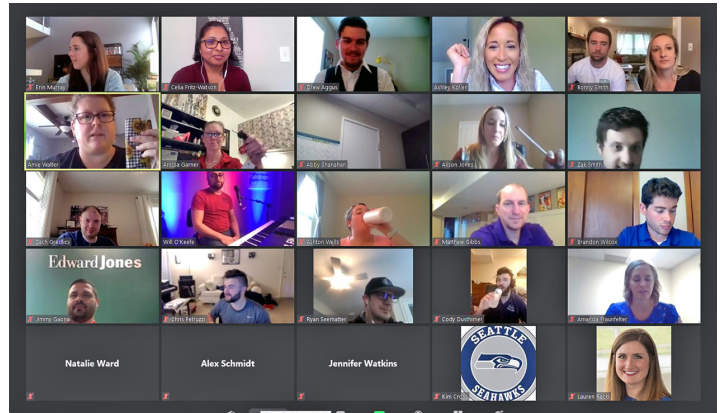
# We Bring People Together

## RECENT CHAMBER VIRTUAL EVENTS



The Chamber has continued to host its Industry Conversations Series. In the most recent virtual event, banking and financial professionals shared insights about their experiences during the pandemic.

Industry Conversations Series Sponsor:



Last month, our Overland Park Young Professionals participated in a Virtual Happy Hour + Trivia event held jointly with the Shawnee Chamber's Shawnee FLEX and the Olathe Chamber's Olathe YoPros groups.

The event included breakout rooms for small group networking and a "Within Reach" scavenger hunt of items found in a home office. Congratulations to door prize winner Anissa Garner, Candlewood Suites Kansas City-Overland Park.

Last month the Chamber hosted a number of virtual webinars featuring industry experts providing information to help our members navigate the pandemic. These webinars were sponsored by [FNBO-First National Bank of Omaha](#).

- COVID-19 Listening Session with Congresswoman Sharice Davids – [click here](#)
- Legal & HR Considerations to Get Back to Business presented by [Fisher Phillips LLP](#) – [click here](#)
- The New Normal : Transforming Your Digital Strategy For Success presented by Valerie Jennings, [Jennings Social Media and MarTech](#) - [click here](#)

## President's Message cont.

responders. Businesses like Staples reaching out to Jason's Deli to print their new menus for free, and Jason's responding with a nice card and delicious cookies. Sean Barnard at Bamboo Salons & Spas, despite being closed for several months, is installing a bench in Downtown Overland Park to commemorate the work of our first responders in this pandemic.

Kindness. Respect. Creativity. Grit. Hope. Resilience. This is what I see in the leaders I encounter at my kitchen table on the phone, on Zoom, in emails. There's no playbook for this. It's different than any other recession, or 9/11. You've responded with ingenuity.

At the Chamber we've had to use the same kind of ingenuity to serve as a beacon for others in this storm as we carve out a smart, sustainable future for our own organization. As we return to the office in June, we've tightened our belts as many of you have. For example, our office will be operating on a full-time basis, though every member of our team, including me, will be working a reduced schedule. Our promise to you is that we'll do our best to keep any delays to a minimum, but we wanted you to understand the reason in case there ever is a lag in communication.

The Overland Park Chamber has a long history of providing essential support to businesses and our member organizations. We plan to continue to serve that role for many years to come.

Thanks to your support we are on solid ground. Thanks to our amazing team, we will continue providing our members with resources needed to survive – and prosper – during these unprecedented times.

## Chairman's Message cont.

replaced by Zoom, Webex and conference calls. Your chamber quickly pivoted as well, working on behalf of members to advocate for business relief and pro-business policies at the local, state and federal level and connecting businesses to resources, lawmakers, and each other for assistance. Specifically, the Overland Park Chamber worked to ensure construction projects and initiatives were able to continue to move forward, that restaurants were allowed to provide take-out and curbside service, and that businesses were connected to vital, understandable information on federal stimulus programs to keep businesses open and employees paid. While "you might be on mute" and the occasional barking dog or yelling child have now become part of the new soundtrack of our days, the Chamber's support of our business community has remained consistent.

As business leaders, many of us, myself included, are now tasked with the challenge of plotting the course forward in a very uncertain future, filled with competing and challenging priorities. We must return to work and some semblance of normalcy, while protecting ourselves and each other by social distancing, wearing masks and being vigilant to hand hygiene. We must take advantage of new business opportunities, technologies and practices the pandemic has forced us to adopt, while continuing to train, develop and recruit the workforce of tomorrow. And we cannot lose sight of those strategic priorities that will differentiate our community and continue to make Overland Park the best place to build a business, career and a home in the future. The Overland Park Chamber stands ready to face these challenges by your side today, tomorrow and into the future.

# Welcome to the Chamber!

## INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

### Burn Boot Camp

Peter Berger, Business Partner  
6600 College Boulevard, Suite 100  
Overland Park, KS 66211  
(913) 515-0714  
overlandparkks@burnbootcamp.com  
<https://burnbootcamp.com/locations/overland-park-ks/>  
*Fitness, Health & Wellness*

### JS Therapy Group LLC

Jessica Schroeder, Therapist  
7133 West 95th Street, Suite 217  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
(913) 565-2131  
hello@jstherapygroup.com  
[www.jstherapygroup.com](http://www.jstherapygroup.com)  
*Health & Wellness, Social Service & Welfare Organizations*

### Serendipity Labs

Ashley May, General Manager  
5440 West 110th Street, Suite 300  
Overland Park, KS 66211  
(913) 214-9900  
<https://serendipitylabs.com/us/ks/kansas-city-overland-park/>  
*Office Space, Real Estate-Commercial & Industrial*

### Sweet Streams Lavender

Christina Blincoe, Owner  
P.O. Box 21  
Bucyrus, KS 66013  
(913) 963-7817  
sweetstreamslavender@gmail.com  
[www.sweetstreamslavender.com](http://www.sweetstreamslavender.com)  
*Health & Wellness, Retail*

# Thanks for your reinvestment!

## APRIL & MAY MEMBER RENEWALS INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

### 40-49 Years

Ashok B. Bavishi, C.P.A.  
Spectrum Business

### 20-39 Years

Casa de Fuentes  
High Touch of Kansas City  
Marge Roche and Associates  
Morgan Hunter  
SPX Cooling Technologies

### 10-19 Years

Andre's Confiserie Suisse-Andre's Rivaz  
Batteries Plus Bulbs #282  
Business Data Services LLC  
Craig Sole Designs  
Enterprise Center in Johnson County  
Merrill Companies  
nXio  
The Forum at Overland Park  
RMATA  
Turner Construction

### 5-9 Years

Altasciences Clinical Kansas, Inc.  
Blue Valley Goodyear  
Coco Bolos Mexican Grill & Cantina  
Hinkle Law Firm LLC  
Mazuma Credit Union  
Museum at Prairiefire  
Rock & Brews Overland Park  
Savoy Apartments  
Thryv  
Villa Medici

### 1-4 Years

ACA Business Club  
Contract Furnishings  
Goodwill Western Missouri & Eastern Kansas  
Hunt Midwest  
InQuest Marketing  
Lenny's Grill & Subs  
Maciel Wealth Management  
MTI EVENTS  
Summit Lawn and Landscape, Inc.  
True Peace Financial Solutions, LLC  
White Lawn and Landscape LLC

**Thank you for your continued investment in the Chamber!**  
**We understand businesses are making difficult choices and we appreciate you recognizing the important value the Chamber continues to provide your company.**

# Harvesting new ideas out of turmoil

The following article is excerpted from the Chamber's monthly digital Business Intelligence Report . . .

by Dave Coffaro

**When 2019 was coming to a close, the World Health Organization's term – COVID-19 – had not yet come into existence. By March 11, the WHO labeled the newly discovered virus a pandemic. In the first 71 days of the new year, the world was forced to shift from business as usual to navigating a new order of priorities, many of which are the antithesis of business as usual.**

Global health is the top priority. Making sure people avoid exposure to COVID-19 or recover quickly is the number one focus for the organizations. But what comes next?

For many business leaders, today's experience feels analogous to operating at the base level of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. At the beginning of the year, they were focused on self-actualization priorities; today, they are focused on food, water, shelter and safety, metaphorically speaking.

One survey of leaders published in January 2020 showed the top priorities for their companies were leadership development, facilitating employee engagement, emphasizing accountability, improving emotional intelligence and leading across generations. The conversation today has taken a dramatic turn, with the focus on a different set of priorities – keeping organizations safe, delivering service virtually, managing the workforce remotely, navigating a temporary suspension of operations and keeping the doors open.

With the turmoil causing descension down the business hierarchy of needs, how can leaders take a strategic approach to harvesting new ideas to position better for tomorrow?

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

**Our monthly Business Intelligence Report is brought to you by:**



# Diplomats collect food donations

Last month, Chamber Diplomats recognized a need and an opportunity to safely do volunteering. They did contactless dropoff of food donations to **SERVPRO® of Leawood / Overland Park for Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas** to distribute to those in need. Thank you to our Diplomats for your efforts and to Chamber member Catholic Charities for working long hours and days to help people through difficult times, made particularly worse during this COVID-19 crisis.

To become involved with the Diplomats, contact Stacey Cowan at [scowan@opchamber.org](mailto:scowan@opchamber.org).



# Marketing best practices for reopening and rebounding

GUEST COLUMN

**Data consistently proves companies who continue to communicate with customers during a downturn rebound more quickly and more completely than those who don't. Now is the perfect time to keep your brand top of mind with customers. But not without using a delicate touch. Follow these keys to marketing in the current atmosphere to serve your customers' needs and bring them back through your doors.**

Evaluate your brand positioning. Think about what your business means to your customers. Is it the same as it was a few months ago? Today's mindset could mean your customers find value in qualities they weren't focused on before, so be sure you're highlighting your business's most valuable, of-the-moment assets.

Chuck Stephens  
President & CEO

Stephens & Associates Advertising



Offer reassurance. If your business has adopted special safety measures or policies, share them with your customers. Not only does this ensure they're prepared when they visit in person, but it also lets them know you're taking their health and well-being seriously.

Be where your customers are. As people prepare to get out and about again, they're devouring digital content. Help them find what they're looking for by keeping your website up to date with current hours and information. Highlight the same details on your social media channels through short, focused posts.

Pay attention to tone. Customers are going through their own individual recovery processes. To avoid inadvertently offending them, highlight services and special offers tastefully. Marketing from a perspective of helpfulness and gratitude will help ensure customers are just as excited about your reopening as you are.

*Chuck Stephens leads the team at [Stephens & Associates](#), an Overland Park-based boutique marketing agency he founded 40 years ago.*

# Considerations when reopening offices 2020 census is hiring!

The following is a synopsis of a recent webinar offered by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

In the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Path Forward Series, industry experts Dr. Lindsey Leininger, Dartmouth University; Jeroen Lokerse, head of Cushman & Wakefield in the Netherlands and creator of the "Six Feet Office" plan; and Dr. Joseph Allen, director of the Healthy Buildings Program at Harvard University, shared their thoughts on what employers need to think about before reopening their respective workspaces.

Some of the strongest points were made by Allen when discussing the layout of building floor plans.

About 50 years ago, the design of building space became tighter, not allowing as much room to breathe; however, Allen feels that is about to change rapidly.

"I think we're about to get back into the era where we were, believe it or not, a hundred years ago, where people were the focus," Allen said.

Allen noted several defensive strategies when reopening a workspace:

1. Staggered shifts to minimize working group sizes
2. Engineering strategies: enhanced ventilation and filtration
3. Utilizing administrative controls: elevators, spacing out employees
4. Using PPE

While Allen focused on buildings' physicality, Leininger felt the public's response to reopening was heavily based around trust.

"Small business owners can really help build the trust that we need to get through this crisis," Leininger said.

Leininger believes practicing good hand hygiene and spacing ourselves farther away from others will be an important part of our social contract for an extended amount of time.

She encouraged viewers to check out publications from the Society for Human Resource Management, as they have provided material directing employers on how to enforce social distancing.

Lokerse discussed his "Six Feet Office," which is being implemented widely and being well-received by those experiencing it.

Some of the office's features included:

- Traveling on a one-way route through workspace
- Allowing only one person at a time in each restroom
- Using larger meeting rooms for small groups of people
- Implementing changes with small groups
- Identifying and correcting problems before employees return

Lokerse shared that employees and guests will adapt quickly – something employees and employers alike are having to do in this fast-changing environment.

The U.S. Census Bureau has resumed field operations in Kansas for the 2020 Census.

Census offices, including the Overland Park office, are open and hiring again! The Census Bureau has a critical need for employees as census enumerators to visit households that have not responded to the census. The Census Bureau would prefer to fill these positions locally with people familiar with the community and their neighbors. Jobs feature flexible hours, mileage reimbursement and pay starting at \$15.50 per hour. For more information, visit [www.2020census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/jobs). All field operations will be conducted with the health and

safety of Census Bureau staff and the public as the utmost importance.

If you haven't completed your census, you can respond by phone, by mail, at [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov), or a Census Bureau worker will come to your home to ask you. For more information on how to respond, visit [countmeinjoco.org](http://countmeinjoco.org) or see [this flyer](#).

We can also see how many people in our area have [already responded](#) to the 2020 Census.

As of June 1, here are response rates:

- Overland Park: 72.5%**
- Johnson County: 74%
- Kansas: 64.5%
- USA: 60.5%

**A GARDEN SOIRÉE 2020**

# STEMMS

**AUGUST 8  
7-11 PM**

At the beautiful Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

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

**Purchase your tickets or sponsorship package today.**

PRESENTING SPONSOR: **LMC TRUCK** PARTS & ACCESSORIES

LEGACY SPONSORS: Bank of Blue Valley in partnership with the Regnier Family Foundations

**THE frank** AGENCY

# Perspective is an amazing gift

GUEST COLUMN

**When walking through darkness, it's often hard to see the light. And with the current health and financial crises we are dealing with, it is easy to be consumed by the darkness. However, I read a story last week from an unknown author that made me reflect. I thought it was worth sharing.**

Imagine you were born in 1900. On your 14th birthday, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday. 22 million people perish in that war. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. 50 million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million. On your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, the World GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet. On your 41st birthday, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war. At 50, the Korean War starts. 5 million perish. At 55 the Vietnam War begins and doesn't end for 20 years. 4 million people perish in that conflict. On your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, should have ended. Great leaders prevented that from happening. When you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How do you survive all of that?

Jim Holland  
Managing Partner  
Fisher Phillips LLP



Those that came before us faced adversity – and many would say adversity far greater than what we face today.

I have always been an optimist and tend to see the glass as half-full. Watching the 24-hour news over the last several weeks has dampened my optimism and made me believe that my glass may be empty (or at least have a crack) – and perhaps this darkness will never end. However, when reading about my great grandparent's generation and the resilience they demonstrated during their lifetimes, it made me realize that my glass is over-filled.

Perspective is an amazing gift. As we face what many believe is the greatest challenge of our time, let's do so with a bit of perspective from those who have paved the way – and realize that there is light all around us, we merely need to open our eyes.

*Jim Holland is a partner with [Fisher-Phillips LLP](#) and is a past chairman of the Overland Park Chamber.*

# McCownGordon builds collaborative partnerships

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

**McCownGordon Construction is recognized as one of the region's largest construction managers with offices in Kansas and Missouri. The firm focuses on building collaborative partnerships and offering clients the best building experience.**

A recent partnership for the firm is Avenue 82 at 82nd Street and Metcalf Avenue in Downtown Overland Park. EPC Real Estate, BRR Architecture and McCownGordon partnered more than a year prior to the start of construction to maximize value. Through team synergy and shared goals, the team completed the project on deadline and within budget in December 2019.

When selecting a location, EPC and BRR desired walkability, access to amenities and charm—all things found in downtown Overland Park. EPC was drawn to the unique mix of community businesses, professionals and empty nesters, and the area's continued growth. It was the ideal centralized location for BRR to move its 160+ Kansas City employees after review of residence locations.

Avenue 82 is the third development by EPC (following Avenue 80 and 81) and its first office building. Home to BRR Architecture, Reach Healthcare Foundation and future tenants, the 70,000-square-foot, four-story building features expansive office space, a double-height lobby and a patio and event space on the fourth floor. Included is 225 parking spaces, 80 of which is shared with the City after business hours to supplement current downtown parking.

McCownGordon is known for being fast-paced, performance-driven and client-focused with expertise in a variety of markets including corporate, healthcare, higher education, K-12 and private development. The company is 100 percent employee-owned, named one of the Best Places to Work by the Kansas City Business Journal for the past 15 years, and ranks as a Fortune 2019 Best Workplaces for Millennials. For more information, visit [www.mccowngordon.com](http://www.mccowngordon.com).





# Johnson County Community College welcomes new president

## CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

**Dr. Andrew (Andy) W. Bowne (pronounced like “town”)** will be Johnson County Community College’s new president starting July 1, 2020.



Dr. Bowne will succeed Dr. Joseph M. Sopcich, who has served in this position since June 2013 and has been employed by the College since 1992. Dr. Bowne was unanimously approved by the JCCC Board of Trustees in its regular meeting on March 19.

Dr. Bowne brings fundamental ideas to the position, with plans to:

- Foster an institutional culture dedicated to the success of every student
- Create an understanding focused on the importance of diversity, welcoming and engagement
- Emphasize workforce training as well as partnerships with K-12 schools for lifelong learning
- Work with community stakeholders to ensure the college is meeting community needs and expectations

- Enrich successful fundraising and promote public-private partnerships
- Focus on the value of everyone in the campus community, including students, faculty and administration

The community is eagerly awaiting his arrival to campus and JCCC faculty, staff and students are ready to greet him with Cavalier spirit!

For more information, visit [www.jccc.edu](http://www.jccc.edu).

Building Permits				
	New Commercial	Institutional, Schools, etc.	Other Commercial	Totals
Apr. 2020	0	6	38	44
Sq. Feet	0	38,221	1,069	39,290
Value	N/A	\$4,604,416	\$13,892,835	\$18,497,251

– City of Overland Park

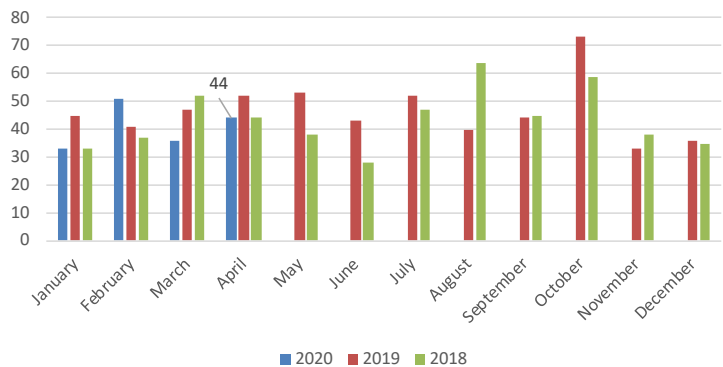
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[opcc@opchamber.org](mailto:opcc@opchamber.org) | [www.opchamber.org](http://www.opchamber.org)

## Overland Park Statistics

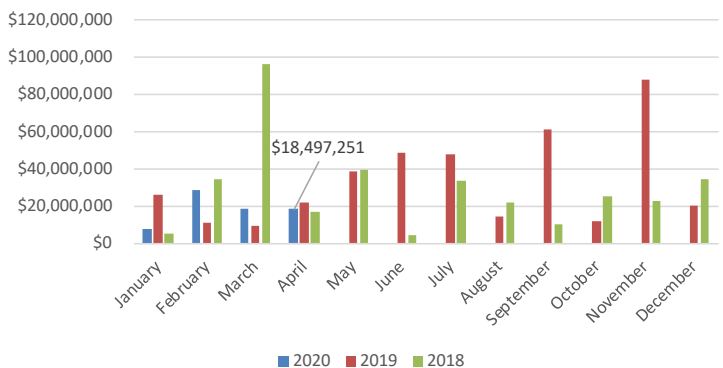
Unemployment		
	April 2020	April 2019
Overland Park	10.7%	2.6%
Johnson County	10.5%	2.9%
Kansas City Metro MSA*	3.9%	3.6%
State of Kansas	11.2%	3.2%

\*Figures are for March 2019 and March 2020  
 (These percentages are not seasonally adjusted)  
 – Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC)

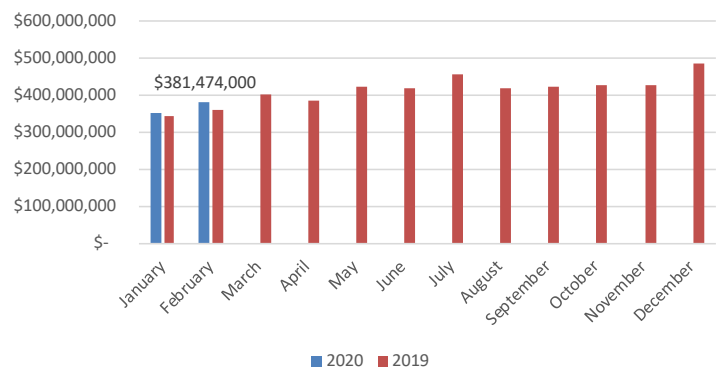
### Commercial Permits



### Commercial Permits – Dollar Value



### Overland Park Retail Sales



## 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](mailto:tosborne@opchamber.org).

# Member News

## GOOD NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

WalletHub ranked Overland Park #8 on its list of 2020's Best Staycations.

*Engineering News-Record's* annual Top 500 design firms included these Chamber members: **Black & Veatch, Burns & McDonnell, DLR Group, HDR Engineering, HNTB Corporation, Olsson, SCS Engineers, Terracon** and **TranSystems** all placing in the top 100.

The **Marriott Kansas City Overland Park** has hired Lori Haskell as director of sales and marketing. You can reach her at (913) 338-8634.

The **INN at Meadowbrook** is now open with luxurious amenities and abundant hospitality.

The **Johnson County Museum's** temporary exhibit, *Rising to the Challenge: Suburban Strength in Difficult Times* highlighting how Johnson Countians have responded to challenging times in the past is now open.

**Harvesters-The Community Food Network** is accepting a limited number of volunteers at both facilities.

**LaunchCode** has opened applications for its web development course, LC101.

The **Overland Park Host Lions Club** joins Lions Clubs International in sponsoring an annual "Peace Poster" contest for children around the world who will be 11, 12, or 13 on November 15, 2020. Cash prizes are awarded to winners. For a copy of the rules, contact Neal Nichols at [pdgneal0708@aol.com](mailto:pdgneal0708@aol.com) or (913) 642-7520.

Submit member news and events to [slawson@opchamber.org](mailto:slawson@opchamber.org).

