

April 2009

Black & Veatch selects Overland Park for location of its world headquarters

Black & Veatch company officials announced in late March the selection of Overland Park for the location of its world headquarters, ending a two-year analysis that included 40 prospective alternatives.

"This is great news for our local economy," said Tracey Osborne, Overland Park Chamber of Commerce President. "Black & Veatch has been a mainstay of the Kansas economy for over nine decades, investing in communities across the state and around the world. Their selection of Overland Park for this monumental decision speaks highly of the company's commitment to Kansas and of the quality of our local workforce."

The project includes the company's purchase and enhancement of its existing 600,000 square foot building at 11401 Lamar, and a long-term expansion plan includes an additional 250,000 square feet on the site as needed for future growth. When complete, the world headquarters could accommodate a total workforce of more than 3,400.

Len Rodman, Chairman, President & CEO of Black & Veatch, said, "The State of Kansas and city of Overland Park were immensely helpful in working

collaboratively with Black & Veatch to make this visionary plan a reality."

Lavern Squier, the Chamber's Sr. Vice President of Economic Development, commented, "This decision constitutes one of the largest real-estate transactions in the region, as Black & Veatch enhances the largest office building in Kansas into a campus setting that becomes a world headquarters for professionals whose work on vital infrastructure has a global impact."

Black & Veatch is a leading global engineering, consulting and construction company specializing in infrastructure development in energy, water, telecommunications, management, consulting, federal and environmental markets. With \$3.2 billion in revenue, the employee-owned company has more than 100 offices worldwide and has completed projects in more than 100 countries on six continents. Long known for commitment to community service, in 2007 the company received the Governor's Award of Excellence, which is presented annually to the Kansas business that best represents the state's ideals of leadership, service and contributions to the economy.



Our Mission:

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

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A cause for celebration

One of the most long-awaited announcements in the metro has been the news that **Black & Veatch** has elected to expand in Overland Park. After deliberating through nearly 40 options over the last two years, company officials announced in late March their decision to purchase and enhance their existing 600,000 square-foot building in OP, and ultimately expand their campus with an additional 250,000 square-foot



Tracey Osborne, CCE
President

building. The company's vision for a new world headquarters is a chamber of commerce dream come true. Black & Veatch not only decided to stay in Overland Park, retaining top-quality jobs, but in unveiling the proto-type for their new complex, they communicated confidence about our workforce and economy, and have placed our community on the global map.

This has been a long process. Essential were the City of Overland Park and the Kansas Department of Commerce, who worked extensively with company officials to make this project possible. The long-standing partnerships between the City, Department of Commerce, and the Chamber's Economic Development Council are not visible day-to-day to our members and EDC investors, but they are daily at work on projects large and small. Generally

those engaged in the daily work cannot talk about the process, but as an investor and taxpayer, you should know that every day, win the project or lose, you have advocates at the City, State and Chamber, who are working with companies such as Black & Veatch, to retain and expand our job and tax base.

It's important that we take the time to reflect on the importance of the company's decision, and to celebrate the impact it will have for both Black & Veatch and the region. As a community, we have a long history with Black & Veatch. Here are a few examples. They are a Chamber Partner. They have participated in United Way for over 50 years, and their engineers and technicians donate time to high school students to engage them in the different disciplines of engineering. They serve as mentors and judges for Future Cities Competitions and FIRST Robotics. Their commitment to the communities they serve is extensive, and will benefit generations far into the future. Every time a company announces it has chosen Overland Park is an opportunity for celebration. The other day in the office we were discussing celebrations in general, and how we often are so busy working on a variety of priorities that we occasionally approach successes and events like just another task, check them off and move on to the next one. I suggest that it is crucial, particularly in times where negative news is so prevalent, that we take the time to celebrate good news, large and small. Black & Veatch's World Headquarters announcement is news we have long been anticipating. We thank Black & Veatch officials for their investment and confidence in our community. This is a great day!

“. . . as an investor and taxpayer, you should know that every day, win the project or lose, you have advocates at the City, State and Chamber, who are working with companies such as Black & Veatch, to retain and expand our job and tax base.

Business Perspective is published monthly by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce.
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Join us at this networking event!

**Wednesday
Wake-up**

A Business Before Hours

**Wednesday, April 8
8-9 a.m.**



**Winter Garden and
Executive Briefing Center
Sprint World Headquarters
6450 Sprint Parkway
(attendees should park in Garage P)**

The Executive Briefing Center is a world-class venue that showcases Sprint technology and innovation. It will be open 9-9:30 a.m. with select demonstrations of devices and solutions.



RSVP by noon on April 7

BUSINESS EDUCATION SEMINAR

Online Social Networking

Tuesday, April 21 – Chamber offices, 9001 W. 110th St.
presented by Shawn Kinkade, Aspire Business Development

The world is going online. People are shopping and doing their research online and it's important as a business owner that you and your business are active online as well. Learn what online social networking is about and how to use it to grow your business.



ASPIRE
Business Development

7:45 a.m. coffee & check-in, 8:00-10:00 a.m. seminar
\$25 for members, \$35 for non-members

RSVP by noon on Monday, April 20

Save the Date . . .

Leadership Overland Park Graduation
Wednesday, June 24, 2009
12:00-1:30 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel

Annual Chamber Golf Tournament
Thursday, September 10, 2009
1:00 p.m. shotgun start
Deer Creek Golf Club

**RSVP for these events
online at
www.opchamber.org
or call (913) 491-3600**

Join us at this networking event!

**Wednesday
Wrap-up**

A Business After Hours

**Wednesday, April 22
5-7 p.m.**



8880 West 151st Street



RSVP by noon on April 21



**Sixty Minutes of
Pure Networking.**

For Overland Park Chamber of Commerce Members Only

**Thursday, April 16
4-5 p.m.**

Held at the Chamber office
9001 W. 110th Street
(Building 29 in Corporate Woods)

Seating is limited.
RSVP by noon on April 15

proudly sponsored by



LOP class studies education and health care

The 30 members of the Leadership Overland Park program studied education and health and social issues in recent class sessions. On Education Day, class members toured public schools in Johnson County and the Burlington Northern Technical Training Center, before dining at the Culinary Experience at **Johnson County Community College**. They heard presentations from Dr. Bob Clark, Vice Chancellor of the **University of Kansas Edwards Campus** and Dr. Marilyn Rhinehart, Vice President of Instruction at **Johnson County Community College**. They also listened to panel discussions on volunteer opportunities in schools and heard from the presidents of the boards of education from the Blue Valley, Olathe and Shawnee Mission school districts.

On Health and Social Issues Day, the class participated in a case scenario including staff members from **TLC For Children and Families, SAFE-HOME, Inc., Marillac Center, United Community Services of Johnson County** and the **Health Partnership Clinic**. The class also heard from a health care leadership panel, which included representatives from the nursing, insurance and hospital communities. The session featured other presentations on autism, aging, and hospice and palliative care. **Menorah Medical Center** hosted the class and provided a tour of their facility. This month, the class will join members of Leadership Lenexa and Leadership Gardner for a session on county government and will later focus on local government and public safety on City Day.



Touring the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Technical Training Center at Johnson County Community College.



Class members heard a panel discussion on social services.

The **YOUNG** PROFESSIONALS



The Young Professionals is a new program of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce designed to provide professional,

social, and mentoring opportunities to those working or living in Johnson County.

The Young Professionals will meet monthly with programs alternating between a networking social and an educational lunch featuring a speaker.

Upcoming Programs:

The Young Professionals Happy Hour

Monday, April 27 –
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Old Chicago Restaurants
11721 Metcalf Avenue



The Young Professionals Lunch & Learn

"Communicating across Generations"
presented by Tracy Russo

University of Kansas Edwards Campus
Monday, May 18 – 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
\$10 for members \$15 for non members

If you fit the Young Professionals demographic and would like to be added to the invitation list to receive announcements about upcoming programs, contact David Prunte at dprunte@opchamber.org or (913) 491-3600.

Young Professionals
Founding Sponsors:





Legislative Breakfast Series

The last in a series of five legislative breakfasts presented by the Johnson County Public Policy Committee is this month. Several Johnson County legislators will discuss current issues at the Statehouse and answer questions.

Saturday, April 18

Senators John Vratil and Tim Owens; Representatives Terrie Huntington, Lance Kinzer, Rob Olson, Mike Slattery

The breakfast is 7:30-9:00 a.m. at the **Ritz Charles Overland Park**, 9000 W. 137th Street. Cost per person: \$20 for Chamber members; \$25 for non-members.

To register, complete the reservation form on our Web site at www.opchamber.org, call (913) 491-3600 or send e-mail to opcc@opchamber.org.

Keep up with what's happening at the Statehouse with our weekly **This Week in Topeka** report written by Dave Holtwick, Vice President of Government Affairs. To receive the weekly report, send your request to opcc@opchamber.org.



Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
invites you to

Travel to China

*A unique cultural and educational experience
for business, family & friends!*

October 8-16, 2009

\$1,799 per person

(based on double occupancy and
roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles)

To learn more about this tour, attend an informational session, 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8 at the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce.

To request a tour brochure or to RSVP for the information session on April 8, contact the Chamber at (913) 491-3600 or opcc@opchamber.org



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RECENT EVENTS



Kirk Young, **Job Match Assessment**; Adam Crews, **Ameriprise Financial Services**; and Alan Stetson, **First National Bank**.

Wednesday rap-up

A Business After Hours

hosted on February 25 by



Wednesday Wrap-up attendees enjoyed a buffet of tasty appetizers.



Marty James, **Cookies by Design**; and Michele Taylor, **Embassy Suites Hotel**.



Ryan Kirby and Emily Hanover, **Kansas City Wizards**; and Chris Fay, **Benefits of Home Senior Care**.



Bob Morris, **Newcomer's Johnson County Chapel & Cemetery**; and Dr. Nicole Murphy, **Whole Life Chiropractic, PA**.



Rachel Hartman, **Paul Mitchell The School**; Laura Smith, **Fulk Chiropractic**; and Angie Licklitter, **Scooter's Coffeehouse**.

OPC CHAMBER CONNECTION

sponsored by



Matt Brewer, **Avid Communications**; Mary Durham, **Hoeltz Executive Village**; and Karyl Morris, **Honey Baked Ham Company**.



Ben Custer, **Avid Communications**; Brad Larson, **Vision PCS, Inc.**; and Susie Bower, **United Way of Greater Kansas City**.



Randy Woehl, **HR Systems, Inc.**; and Karen Harrison, **Joie de Vivre-Joy of Living**.



Katrina Hawkins, **Heartstrings Community Foundation**; John McEntee, **Hyatt Place-Kansas City/Overland Park/Convention Center**; and Mark Naster, **Heartland Habitat for Humanity**.



Chamber Diplomats and AT&T officials celebrated a ribbon cutting for the new **AT&T Store** in Corbin Park at 6615 West 135th Street.



Dr. Nicole Murphy was joined by family, friends and Chamber Diplomats in cutting a ribbon for **Whole Life Chiropractic, PA**, 11604 Metcalf Avenue.



Chamber Diplomats helped Billy Mills, manager, celebrate a ribbon cutting at the grand opening of **Buffalo Wild Wings**, 13749 Metcalf Avenue.



Young Professionals Reception – Derick Oakley, **Ameriprise Financial Services**; Isabella Partin and Jessi Veach, **URS Corporation**.



Young Professionals Reception – Maria Johnson, **Prairiebrooke Arts, Inc.**; Lindsey Piant and Miranda Cumler, **DLR Group**.



Young Professionals Reception – A table of attendees mingling at **Trezo Vino Wine Bistro**.



Allison Darling, **ManagementConcepts, Inc.**; John Vogt, **All Star Awards**; Bill Burghart, **Capital City Bank**; and Debbie Sherrer, **Financial Benefits of Kansas City**.

Wednesday Wake-up
 A Business Before Hours
 hosted on March 11 by:
Security Savings Bank
 SolidGround™



Dr. Meagan Leahy, **Leahy Chiropractic, PA**; Barbara Millard and Michele Helsel, **Johnson County Community College**.



Julie Parker and Amelia McCormick, **jna advertising**; and Jim Sloss, **Sign Pro**.



Doug Kratz, **Office Depot**; and Katrina Hawkins, **Heartstrings Community Foundation**.



Brian Harrold, **Ameriprise Financial Services**; and Jim Grant, **Affiliate Strategies, Inc.**



SANTEE
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Administrative Professionals' Day is Wednesday, April 22

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FLOWERSKC.COM

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Olathe, KS 66062
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tgfu3200@thegreatframeup.com
www.lionsgate.thegreatframeup.com
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Welcome new members!

We are pleased to introduce these new members:

Pepsi Ice Midwest

Hal Edwards, General Manager
12140 West 135th Street
Overland Park, KS 66221
(913) 851-1600
Fax: (913) 814-3754
hedwards@icemidwest.com
www.pepsiicemidwest.com
Ice Rink

Provision Design

Katey Cooper,
Owner/Creative Director
21925 West 179th Street
Olathe, KS 66062
(913) 206-2864
katey@provision-design.com
www.provision-design.com
Marketing Programs and Services,
Web Site Design

Red Robin Gourmet Burgers

James Bramble,
General Manager
8657 West 135th St.
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 239-0926
Fax: (913) 239-0940
jbramble@eatpbj.com
www.redrobin.com
Restaurants

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Steve Jobe,
Vice President of Sales
14720 West 105th Street
Lenexa, KS 66215
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Fax: (913) 227-7822
ronb@scottrice.com
www.scottrice.com
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Smith Barney

Mike Little, Branch Manager
4000 W. 114th Street, Suite 150
Leawood, KS 66211
(913) 661-9880
Fax: (913) 253-7101
michael.a.little@smithbarney.com
www.fa.smithbarney.com/
michaellittle

Financial Planning Consultants & Services

If you know a business that doesn't belong to the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, let us know so we can tell them about the benefits of membership. Send names to David Prunte at dprunte@opchamber.org.



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Member News & Events

As a fundraiser, **Heartstrings Community Foundation** is selling personalized chocolate Easter bunnies and eggs made by Laura Little's Candies. Place your order by April 3 at (913) 649-5700.

Downtown Overland Park merchants need help with the Easter egg trail, 1-3 p.m. on **April 4**. Pick up your game card under the clock tower in Downtown Overland Park and crack the clues to follow the egg trail.

The three-part Family Business Series offered by the Center for Entrepreneurship at **Johnson County Community College** continues with "From the Kitchen Table to the Conference Table: Family Business Communications" on

April 9. Call (913) 469-2323 to register and refer to CRN 22010.

Greater Kansas City Day, a collaborative effort between the **Kansas City Royals** and the **Kansas City Star** is Friday, **April 10**. Four levels of sponsorships are available for area businesses to support this event. For available corporate sponsorship opportunities, contact Melissa Drinkard at mdrinkard@kcstar.com or (816) 234-4266.

The 21st Annual Administrative Professionals Day presented by the Center for Business and Technology at **Johnson County Community College**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on **April 15** and held at the **Ritz Charles Overland Park**. Register at

www.jccc.edu/workforce or call (913) 469-2323.

For its 40th anniversary, **Johnson County Community College** is offering a free college day, 1-5 p.m. on **April 18**. Classes are open to the public at 1,2,3, and 4 p.m., and each class lasts 40 minutes. A complete list is available at www.jccc.edu/FreeCollegeDay. Classes are free, but registration is required. For more information, call (913) 469-2323.

Quilogy is offering a workshop to help you Jumpstart your Business Intelligence project, 9-11 a.m. on **April 21**, at Microsoft Office, 10801 Mastin

(continued on next page)

Member Renewals

We thank the following for their membership reinvestment with the Chamber in February 2009:

20+ Years

Abdallah Shriners
Blue Valley Recreation Commission
Capitol Federal Savings Bank
Commerce Bank N.A.
Copaken, White & Blitt, L.L.C.
Duffy Construction Company, Inc.
Embassy Suites Hotel
Enterprise Leasing Company
HMN Architects, Inc.
Honey Baked Ham Company
Kansas Gas Service
Larry F. Glennemeier, C.P.A.
St. Joseph Medical Center
Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP
Swiss Re
Time Warner Cable

10-19 Years

AGENDA: Kansas City, Inc.
Ambius, Inc.
Barley's Brewhaus
Benefit Trust Company

Berger Devine Yaeger, Inc.
BMSI Institute
Candlewood Suites
Courtyard by Marriott - Overland Park
Dana F. Cole & Company, LLP
Firebaugh Construction, Inc.
Heavy Constructors Association
Home Builders Association of Greater K.C.
Hyatt Place-Kansas City/Overland Park/Convention Center
Masterware Corporation
Meritage Portfolio Management, Inc.
Plastic Surgical Arts, PA
Roger the Plumber, Inc.
Spencer Reed Group, LLC
United Community Services of Johnson County
United Way of Greater Kansas City

5-9 Years

Bayer, Kenneth R.
Brotherhood Bank and Trust
Burnett Automotive, Inc.
Christenson, Barclay, and Shaw, Inc.
Grandma's Office Catering
Marillac Center
Merrill Companies
National American University
Pat Riha Productions
Ritz Charles Overland Park, Inc.
Sheraton Overland Park Hotel
SureWest
Whole Foods Market

1-4 Years

Adell Associates, Pre-Paid Legal Services
Big Guy Little Guy Promotions
Clare Bridge of Leawood
Conference Technologies, Inc.
Delta Dental of Kansas

Equity Bank
Fry Orthodontic Specialists
Fry-Wagner Moving & Storage
Heartland Habitat for Humanity
IronStone Bank
Judith Hoeffel Company
Kansas City Wizards
Kansas Venture Capital, Inc.
Kevin Blayney Photography
Nationwide Insurance
Renewal by Andersen
Shawnee Golf and Country Club
Super 8 Motel Overland Park
Tall Grass Toffee Company
The Helping Hand of Goodwill Industries
3&2 Baseball Club of Johnson County, Inc.
University of Saint Mary

We encourage you to use these Chamber members first when purchasing goods and services.

Member News continued . . .

Boulevard Suite 620. Register at www.quilogy.com/events or email kcebold@quilogy.com.

The Cohen Community Series at **Johnson County Community College** features An Evening with Phil Vassar at 7:30 p.m. on **April 24** in Yardley Hall. Tickets are \$40 and \$55. Call the box office, 913-469-4445, or buy online at www.jccc.edu/philvassar. A limited number of \$150 VIP tickets including the concert and a post-show reception

with Vassar are available by contacting Christy McWard, cmcward@jccc.edu.

The second Books & Boutiques Luncheon, an annual event benefiting programs at **Saint Luke's South**, this year will benefit the Goppert Center for Breast Care at Saint Luke's South and will be 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on **April 28** at the **Overland Park Convention Center**. Lee Woodruff, best-selling author and *Good Morning America* contributing editor, will be the featured

speaker. Before and following the luncheon, locally-owned retail boutiques will set up mini-boutiques. Tickets are \$70. To register, call (913) 317-7559 or visit saintlukeshealthsystem.org. Registration deadline is Friday, April 17.

The Overland Park Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is at 6:45 a.m. on May 1 at the **Marriott Overland Park**, 10800 Metcalf Avenue. The featured speaker is Goran Hunjak, a professional soccer player

who has devoted his life to sports ministry. Tickets can be purchased at any **Valley View Bank**. For more information: Sheryl Block at (913) 381-3311.

See The Elders in concert at Heartstrings in Bloom, a benefit concert for **Heartstrings Community Foundation**, at 8 p.m. on **May 16** in Yardley Hall at the Carlsen Center at **Johnson County Community College**, 12345 College Boulevard.

(continued on page 12)

Sponsor Spotlight:

Menorah Medical Center (MMC), a full-service, acute care hospital located on the corner of 119th and Nall, serves our community's



health care needs by providing compassionate care and some of the most advanced treatment options available in the area. MMC has a medical staff with more than 600 physicians who offer exceptional experiences and extraordinary medicine for adults, newborns, children and teens.

To create inviting backdrops of absolute comfort, the campus artfully combines a distinct style and modern conveniences such as free valet parking and At Your Service, patient meals upon request. The unique identity, energy and spirit of each patient is embraced.

MMC's emergency department houses a certified stroke care center and an accredited chest pain center. Progressive cardiology services include the area's first congestive heart failure clinic, specially equipped surgical suites for open-heart surgeries and sophisticated echocardiology and nuclear medicine techniques.



The hospital continues to be a leader in cancer care. MMC was the first to introduce the area's only CyberKnife®. This revolutionary new treatment for destroying harmful tumors does not

require surgery or anesthesia and lets the patient go home immediately after treatment with few, if any, side effects. MMC is also the only hospital in Johnson County to offer Mammosite®, an advanced technology for breast cancer.

In 1999, MMC formed the Mid America Sarcoma Institute, a multi-disciplinary team of health care professionals dedicated to the care and treatment of patients with bone and soft tissue tumors. The Sarcoma Institute has been known to treat more patients than the Mayo Clinic. This is a testament to Menorah's commitment to providing quality cancer care for the local and regional communities.

The Menorah culture of excellence fuels a commitment to meet and exceed the highest medical standards and to continually search for new and better ways to care for patients. But, Menorah physicians, nurses and staff are more than experts equipped with the latest technology. They offer a caring touch to provide hope and the practical tools that patients need to heal both physically and emotionally.

For a free physician directory, visit www.menorahmedicalcenter.com or call the Physician Referral Line at (913) 541-7400.

Guest Column

Bad economy? Be smart with your marketing

By John Nohe, CEO j-n-a advertising



Every day seems like a new episode of the old Batman television series.

Pow! Another corporation files

Chapter 11. Bam! Another scandal. Thud! Another

sweeping layoff. The hits keep coming. The good news is there are plenty of efficient marketing strategies to consider:

1. Know thy customers. Your existing customers are your ambassadors who will help continue to drive your brand forward. It's far less expensive to retain a customer than to acquire a new one, so show your customers the love they deserve.
2. Service, Service, Service. There's very little tolerance today for poor service. Now's the time to audit yourself with an honest assessment of how you can improve the customer experience.
3. Understand your brand's personality. What's your brand position in the market? Are you the irreverent price leader or the sassy sophisticated service leader? Take the time and really examine what your brand represents in your marketing.
4. Be consistent. If your messaging is not in sync, this is a good time to ensure that you are telling a consistent story about your brand.
5. Less is more. Too many messages and it's forgotten. Define your message, and then design advertising that will dramatically exploit just one point.
6. Focus on your competition. Sam Walton, the founder of Wal-Mart, was famous for learning from his competitors. Follow this practice and do everything you can to understand your competition, then make your plans to do it better.
7. Bundle new products and services. The pressure is on value. Examine your product offering and determine if you can add additional products or services that will help your product stand out.
8. Web site effectiveness. Take the time to do a little tune up your Web site with things like Search Engine Optimization and you will see big dividends.
9. Support a cause. Consumers favor doing business with companies that have a corporate conscience. Supporting a community cause program is good for everyone.
10. Let optimism prevail. Cast aside the negative, put on the rose-colored glasses and start checking out the scenery. You'll find that if you look at things positively, you'll find plenty of business opportunities.

John Nohe has been brand-building for over 25 years and has helped many brands become household names. Clients include the Kansas Department of Commerce, the Kansas Lottery and Kansas University Athletics. For more info: www.jnadv.com.

EDC facilitates community/workforce partnership

One of the key objectives of the Economic Development Council is to retain and expand existing companies. One of its success stories is its role in bringing together Dimensional Innovations and our public schools to create greater awareness of local employment opportunities. It all began with the realization by Jason Grove, vice president of operations at Dimensional Innovations, that young people often do not consider manufacturing as a viable career option.

Dimensional Innovations is a multidisciplinary design/build firm in Overland Park. It has experience in various market segments including cinemas, casinos, sports facilities, retailers, restaurants, hotels, hospitals,

entertainment venues, museums, libraries and government, and is best known in Kansas City for its 25-foot-tall book bindings on the exterior of the parking garage at the Downtown Public Library in Kansas City, Missouri.

Creativity abounds in all areas of the company and the company's corporate leadership recognizes that it needs talented people with a variety of backgrounds and skills in creative design, engineering, welding and fabrication utilizing wood, metal and plastic.

Jason got involved in a variety of organizations, including industry groups and education entities, to help show that manufacturing offers great career opportunities. Andrew Nave, Business Recruitment and Retention

Manager for the Overland Park Economic Development Council, helped connect Jason with personnel at the Shawnee Mission School District.

Jason and his staff designed a half-day program that allowed 15 students and five teachers to interact directly with the company's engineering and fabrication staff.

The engineering team demonstrated software programs, discussed their jobs and answered questions as the students used the software. The fabrication staff demonstrated equipment, discussed safety and helped students operate the equipment. Staff emphasized that having a successful career not only includes having technical skills, but also "soft skills" such as

a good work ethic and the ability to work in a team environment. The students noted that it was helpful to take what they'd learned in class and see it applied in the real world. One of the teachers commented that he gained new insights that will help him design curriculum to make his class more relevant. Jason encourages other companies to connect with local schools.

"We saw a positive response from the students and instructors and it was great for our staff to get the interaction. The hands-on aspect seemed to be beneficial in showing classroom studies translated into real work life experiences. The day surpassed our expectations and we are looking forward to holding this as an annual event."

Overland Park by the numbers

February Permit Activity

New Commercial Permit Activity

Issued for Month: 2

2009 YTD: 4

2008 YTD: 4

Value for Month: \$6,878,181

2009 YTD: \$10,896,181

2008 YTD: \$ 2,655,800

Permits Issued to:

1. Corbin Park Parking Garage
6991 W. 135th St.
160,650 sq. ft.

2. Ranch Mart South Garden Center
9525 Mission Rd.
4,175 sq. ft.

Other Commercial (Remodel/Misc.) Permit Activity

Issued for Month: 50

2009 YTD: 93

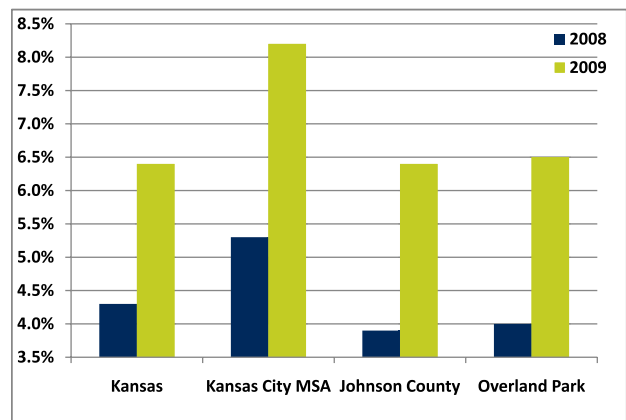
2008 YTD: 102

Value for Month: \$4,907,539

2009 YTD: \$7,685,637

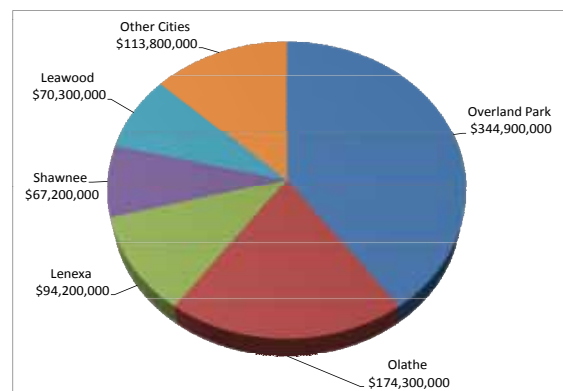
2008 YTD: \$7,422,363

December Unemployment Rates



Johnson County Retail Sales

December 2008



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General public tickets are \$30 or \$20 and can be purchased at (913) 469-4445. Tickets for the VIP Pre-Party, 5-7:30 p.m., are \$125 and can be purchased at (913) 649-5700. Sponsorship opportunities also are available. For more information: www.heartstringscf.org.

Integrity GMAC Real Estate has opened a new, full-service residential real estate office at 7111 W. 79th Street to better serve the needs of area buyers and sellers.

BIGSHOT took home Gold, Silver and Bronze honors at the 2009 mADDY! Awards Show. Since Jeff Henry founded the company in 1999, it has grown from a one-man design shop to a full-service marketing agency with nearly \$1 million in sales in 2008.

Straub Construction was recognized by The National Commercial Builder's Council (NCBC) with the "Project of the Year" award for the Weaver Auditorium project.

Black & Veatch is a finalist in the American Council of Engineering Companies' 43rd annual Engineering Excellence Awards competition.

Timothy W. Triplett, **Black & Veatch**, has been named to the Dispute Board Federation's Advisory Panel, which provides guidance to developing countries in resolving issues related to infrastructure projects.

Kim N. Pearse, PE, has been elected to the board of directors at **GBA**, a leading engineering and architectural firm.

Doug Carpenter, an environmental scientist with **GBA**, has received professional certification as a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control.

The **UPS Store at Oak Park Commons** was recently featured by the media because it is offering free resume printing and fax services to job seekers. Resumes can be submitted online or brought to the store at 95th and Quivira.

Arts/craft vendors are sought for **Downtown Overland Park** Mardi Gras Days, a family fun-filled event on June 5-6. Applications may be obtained at www.downtownop.org.

To share news about your company with our members, e-mail information to slawson@opchamber.org.