

Foundation hosts National Civics Bee®

Join us to hear some of the brightest local middle schoolers present their impressive entries in the Johnson County round of the [National Civics Bee](#)®.

The Overland Park Chamber Foundation is partnering with The Civic Trust of the U.S. Chamber Foundation to present this second annual event, which is sponsored by [Evergy](#).

The top three winners advance to a state competition hosted by the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita. The state winner earns a trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the National Championship. Prizes at the national level include a grand prize of a \$100,000 education savings plan for first place, \$25,000 for second place, and \$15,000 for third place.

Presenting Sponsor



Technology Sponsor



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Wednesday, April 16 – 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Yardley Hall in the Midwest Trust Center

Johnson County Community College

12345 College Boulevard



Last year's Johnson County winners also took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the state competition.



A great group of Chamber members participated in our inaugural Coffee & Questions, a monthly program for small business professionals. They had opportunities to learn from each other and enjoyed an interactive presentation by Nick Briney, owner of [Evevia Health & Performance](#). See details on upcoming Coffee & Questions programs on page 3.

Chamber Board

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Matt Sogard, 1st Vice Chair
Overland Park Regional Medical Center

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Matt Sheets, Secretary
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Ex-Officio Board:

Jim Holland, Fisher Phillips LLP

Lori Curtis Luther, City of Overland Park

Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Blue Valley School District

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, Chamber

Mayor Curt Skoog, City of Overland Park

Chamber staff

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, IOM, President & CEO

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Tanya Rife, Executive Assistant

Natalie Vesta, Economic Development Project Coordinator

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Andrew Weisberg, Director of Talent

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE

Chamber President

[@traceylosborne](#)



Business and policies are local

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I recently returned from meetings with peer chamber executives and national policy leaders at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

As you would imagine, topics ranged from tariffs, taxes, the economy, immigration, education, and housing to AI. The underlying themes woven throughout were the confusion and uncertainty challenging businesses today. I often hear from you that, above all, you need to know the rules and to know they won't change. The current landscape creates much economic uncertainty, particularly the shifting sands surrounding tariffs.

Bottom line: U.S. Chamber CEO Suzanne Clark reiterated that all issues are local. In her recent State of American Business address, she said, "The State of American Business is local, whether it's the small businesses that line Main Street or the national chain restaurant where someone had their first job. The economic growth that powers people's lives comes from cities, regions, and states where private enterprise, supported by smart public policy, drives progress and creates opportunity."

From the hallways of Capitol Hill to actions under the dome in Topeka to the City Council chambers in Overland Park, policy

actions from our elected officials affect businesses every day. You know that policies and regulations at all levels drive timelines, supply chains, costs, access to capital and workforce, impacting your bottom line.

Kelly Loeffler, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, told us they're hearing inflation is tied with workforce attraction as the top challenge for small businesses. Adding to these challenges, the Overland Park Chamber is concerned many small businesses may not be aware of the potential tax increase on the horizon of the expiring 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). Here's a little background: In 2017, Congress permanently lowered the corporate income tax rate 14 percentage points – from 35% to 21%. To ensure that pass-through businesses like sole proprietorships, partnerships, and S corporations would not be disadvantaged relative to C corporations, Congress also created a new deduction for qualified business income (QBI) in section 199A of the Internal Revenue Code.

The TCJA was heralded as the most comprehensive tax reform since 1986. Unfortunately, many of its individual, business, and estate tax reforms were enacted on a temporary basis and are scheduled to expire at the end of 2025.

(continued on page 7)

Upcoming events

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, April 9 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Johnson County Museum,
8788 Metcalf Avenue

Make connections, develop lasting business relationships and create new opportunities, all while enjoying coffee and a light breakfast.

This event is a great opportunity to tour the museum, including the always-fun All-Electric house, and explore a new special exhibit entitled "Ripples: Water, Community, and You."

Free for Chamber members.

[Register here](#)



SERIES SPONSOR



Coffee & Questions

In our new series offered by the Chamber's Small Business Council, you'll share best practices and learn from fellow business professionals.

These free sessions are 8:00-9:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Chamber office.

April 10 – [What to Look for in Your Business Contracts](#) with David Marcus, [DLM Law](#).

May 8 – [From Basic Bookkeeping to Strategic Analysis](#) with Joe Lillian, [JBL Enterprises Inc.](#)

If you are interested in presenting a program, please [complete this form](#) or contact Katie at klindgren@opchamber.org.



Community Blood Drive

Monday, April 21 – 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Overland Park Chamber, 9110 West 110th Street

Our Overland Park Young Professionals encourage you to join them in donating blood to help save lives!

Blood donors are essential. Our local blood supply must increase in order to meet local hospital need.

[Schedule your appointment here](#)



Register for events at www.opchamber.org.

Ribbon cutting celebration!

April 9 – [AGENDA: USA](#), 6310 Lamar Avenue, Suite 230 – 2:00 p.m.

Create & Connect

Painting, networking and fun with Overland Park Young Professionals

Thursday, April 17 – 4:00-7:00 p.m.

[Painting with a Twist](#), 8817 West 95th Street

Have fun with new friends while a professional artist guides you in creating your own masterpiece. It's fun art, not fine art!

\$44 per person.

[Register here](#)

Use code OPCHAMBERYP5 at checkout for \$5 off.



OP After Hours

Thursday, May 22 – 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Zephyr Bourbon Bar at [Marriott Kansas City Overland Park](#), 10800 Metcalf Avenue

Enjoy an evening of drinks, appetizers and conversations with your fellow Chamber members in the elegant Zephyr Bourbon Bar.

Free for Chamber members.

[Register here](#)



Sponsorships available!

The Chamber's upcoming season of signature events offer lots of opportunities to get your brand in front of key business decision makers for greater visibility!

Sponsorship opportunities include . . .



Golf Tournament

August 11, 2025

Good Morning, Overland Park!

October 10, 2025



Annual Meeting

December 5, 2025

For complete details, contact Pam at pglickman@opchamber.org or (913) 766-7603.

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS

AgencyOf

Cameron Baraban, Founder
7001 West 79th Street
Overland Park KS 66204
(913) 626-9653
cameron@agencyof.com
www.agencyof.com
*Internet Marketing & Advertising,
Marketing Services*

Bartlett & West – New EDC Investor!

Steve Wise, Project Manager
10895 Grandview Drive,
Suite 110
Overland Park KS 66210
(888) 200-6464
steve.wise@bartwest.com
www.bartlettwest.com
Architects, Engineers

Central Seminary

Scott Wedel, VP - Finance &
Administration
8620 West 110th Street, Suite 200
Overland Park KS 66210
(913) 667-5700
businessoffice@cbts.edu
www.cbts.edu
Educational Services

Colliers International

RC Jensen, Broker
4520 Main Street, Suite 1000
Kansas City MO 64111
(816) 531-5303
rc.jensen@colliers.com
www.colliers.com
*Real Estate - Commercial &
Industrial, Real Estate - Investments*

D.A. Electric LLC

Darryl Swim, Owner
(323) 360-5767
darryl@daelectricck.com
www.daelectricck.com
Contractors - Electrical, Lighting

Overland Park Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #21

Pete O'Malley, President
(913) 530-0791
www.overlandparkfop.org
Charitable Organizations

Health Connect Home Care

Deborah Wooten, Chief
Administrative Officer
7381 West 133rd Street, Suite 200
Overland Park KS 66213
(913) 285-5777
contact@healthconnectkc.com
www.healthconnectkc.com
Health Care, Home Care Services

Hero Benefits Network

Georgianne Hayhow, Team
Leader/Associate Broker
6550 Sprint Parkway, Suite 200
Overland Park KS 66211
(913) 915-3186
G@WeMoveKansasCity.com
www.WeMoveKansasCity.com
*Real Estate - Residential; Real
Estate*

Panasonic Connect Professional Services

June Heigel
14206 Overbrook Road
Leawood KS 66224
(913) 685-8855
www.na.panasonic.com/us
*Audio-Visual Equipment &
Supplies; Computer Service &
Repair*

Phoenix Renovation & Restoration

Amanda Habiger, Business
Development
6970 West 152nd Terrace
Overland Park KS 66223
(913) 599-0055
ahabiger@kcphoenix.com
www.kcphoenix.com
*Fire & Water Damage Restoration,
Cleaning Services*

Sam's Club of Overland Park

Preston Crockett, Sales and
Training Manager
8300 West 135th Street
Overland Park KS 66223
(913) 402-1405
p0c0944.s04707.us@samsclub.com
www.samsclub.com
Wholesale - Membership Warehouse

Staffing By Starboard

Ethan Sympton, Marketing
Associate
16100 West 116th Street
Lenexa KS 66219
(816) 659-1544
contactstarboard@
staffingbystarboard.com
www.staffingbystarboard.com
Employment Agencies & Services

Superior Bowen Asphalt Company

Patrick O'Donnell, Vice
President
520 West Pennway Street,
Suite 300
Kansas City MO 64108
(816) 921-8200
info@superiorbowen.com
www.superiorbowen.com
Contractors - General

The Atriums

Kassi Harris, Community Sales
Director
7300 West 107th Street
Overland Park KS 66212
(913) 381-6000
infoatriums@
omegaseniorliving.com
www.omegasriving.com
*Assisted Living Facility, Retirement
& Lifecare Communities & Homes*

The DeBruce Foundation

Craig Moore, Partnerships &
Special Projects
4520 Main Street, Suite 1400
Kansas City MO 64111
(816) 949-8727
info@debruce.org
www.debruce.org
*Charitable Organizations,
Non-Profit Organizations*

YogaSix

Shannon Klepac, General
Manager
6555 West 119th Street
Overland Park KS 66209-2001
(913) 660-9230
overlandparkgm@yogasix.com
www.yogasix.com
Fitness, Yoga

Thanks for reinvesting!

MARCH MEMBER RENEWALS

50+ Years

Central Bank of the Midwest
Evergy
Kansas Gas Service
Security Bank of Kansas City
T-Mobile

40-49 Years

DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas
City-Overland Park
FNBO

20-39 Years

Axcet HR Solutions

Fastsigns of Overland Park
Fisher Phillips LLP
Home Association Solutions LLC
Jalapenos Mexican Restaurant
MarksNelson, a Springline
company
Rosana Square/Mark One
Electric
Show-Me Live Event Production
United Community Services of
Johnson County

10-19 Years

CBRE Group Inc.
Choice Physicians Group
Empower
Garver, LLC
Hillcrest Transitional Housing of
Kansas

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Overland Park-West
Hovey Williams LLP
K² Landscapes
Kansas Christian College
Kansas State University Olathe
Overland Park Wealth
Management
University of Saint Mary -
Johnson County

5-9 Years

Flury-Hinderks Insurance
Game Show Battle Rooms
Mariner Wealth Advisors
Mission Farms West
Development, LLC
Oades Brothers Tire & Auto
Regency Park

Riordan Clinic
Savage & Browning LLC
TFI Family Services
Two Lines Pregnancy Clinic

1-4 Years

AARP Kansas
Activate - Overland Park
Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.
Another Broken Egg Cafe
ArchWell Health
Body Fit Training
DMC Service, Inc.
Growing Futures Early Education
Center

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Chamber Leadership Transition

On March 26, 2025, Chamber Chair of the Board Josh Beck submitted his resignation to Kim Winslow, Chair-Elect, and the Chamber's Executive Committee, citing his intention to run for public office.

Josh said, "It has been an honor and privilege to serve this amazing organization, whose mission is to make Overland Park prosper! During my time as a member of the Board of Directors, member of the Executive Committee, and Chair of the Board, I developed a deep level of respect and appreciation for the staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to support this mission."

The Executive Committee reluctantly accepted his resignation; Kim Winslow, Senior Director, Energy Solutions at [Evergy](#), has stepped into the role of Chair.

Craig Finn joins Chamber team

We are pleased to introduce a new member to our Chamber team – [Craig Finn](#) joins the Chamber staff as Vice President of Finance and Administration.

Previously, Craig was the CFO of a salt company in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He came to Overland Park when his company was acquired by Morton Salt, which opened offices here. During Craig's career, he also was CFO of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.



Craig Finn

Craig and his wife Kirsten have three sons who are becoming fans of the local sports teams. When youngest son Conner was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease known as Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD) in 2020, he received a lifesaving stem cell transplant in Minnesota. As a result of the family's advocacy, Kansas started screening for ALD in February 2024.

You can reach Craig at cfinn@opchamber.org or (913) 766-7609.

We thank former Chamber employee Frank Ebling who returned from retirement to handle Chamber finances in the short term before Craig Finn joined the Chamber team.

(Click ad below for details)

THE GARDEN PARTY OF THE SUMMER IS BACK
fine wine • food • artwork • live music • entertainment • fireworks



A GARDEN SOIRÉE
Stems



CHEERS TO 30 YEARS
OF ARTS & RECREATION



SATURDAY, JUNE 28
Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
EARLYBIRD SALE: Save \$25 on Tickets



HCA Midwest launches apprenticeship program



HCA Midwest Health recently announced the launch of a [Nurse Apprenticeship Program](#), the first in the region and in Kansas, to train and develop a skilled health care workforce to meet the growing demand for qualified professionals in the industry.

Based at [Overland Park Regional Medical Center](#) and [Menorah Medical Center](#), the innovative program will provide aspiring caregivers with hands-on experience and comprehensive training, allowing them to build rewarding careers while earning an income and accessing employee benefits.

Attending the launch announcement were Shonda Anderson, Director of Internship & Apprenticeship, Kansas Department of Commerce; Libbey Tucker, Chamber Senior Vice President, Economic Development; Mayor Curt Skoog; and Tracey Osborne Oltjen, Chamber President & CEO.

Interested individuals can apply at HCAMidwest.com/NurseApprentice.



Leadership **OP** Educate & Elevate Scholarship



City Council Member Holly Grummert joined Chamber Senior Vice President Libbey Tucker to help Bob Wiley, Kansas Market Director; and John Sorrell, CEO; and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new offices of [Core Bank](#), 6900 College Boulevard, Suite 100.

Core Bank is a full-service commercial bank with customized banking services to small and mid-sized businesses. It is committed to delivering modern banking solutions and personalized service and building strong community partnerships. For more info: (913) 490-7413 or [click here](#).

New Members continued . . .

Johnson County Management, LLC
JP Contracting
Keller Williams - Diana Dodge
Re-Bath Kansas City
Silver Lake Bank
Solutions Digital Consulting LLC
Strang Chef Collective and Strang Reserve

Taco Naco KC
Union Broadcasting
Urban Air Adventure Park
Urban Egg a daytime eatery
Westlake Ace Hardware - College & Antioch
Westlake Ace Hardware - 151st Street

When our [2020 Leadership Overland Park \(LOP\)](#) class was unable to complete an in-person physical class project because of the pandemic, they established the Educate & Elevate Scholarship to help in-need Johnson County residents pursue a career.

Over the past five years, eight individuals have been recipients.

The award for 2025 will be \$1,000. Applications are due by May 23. The winner of the scholarship will be recognized at the graduation ceremony for the 2025 Leadership Overland Park class on June 5.

[See details here.](#)

Thank you to these 2020 class members who have actively continued administering the scholarship:

- Mary Dykmann, [The University of Kansas Edwards Campus](#)
- Michael Koss, [City of Overland Park](#)
- Cris Powell, [Kansas Gas Service](#)
- Sandra Warner, [Johnson County Community College](#)
- Jaclyn Wolf, [Kansas State University Olathe](#)



The Chamber's [concierge program](#) supports businesses in attracting and recruiting top talent.

From personalized community tours to curated welcome baskets, the program creates a warm and inviting first impression.

For more information: Andrew Weisberg at aweisberg@opchamber.org.

LOP class studies state government and education

Leadership Overland Park class members learned about state government and education during sessions in March.

The Chamber Foundation's [2025 Leadership Overland Park \(LOP\)](#) class recently visited the State Capitol for their State Government Day session. In a shared session with other Johnson County leadership programs, they heard from Johnson County legislators, state

department heads and a panel of lobbyists. The next session will be Education Day.

During Education Day, the class toured schools, learned about special programs in the school districts, heard from a panel of school superintendents, enjoyed lunch at the Broadmoor Bistro and engaged in a discussion on strategic initiatives from early childhood education to career-ready programs.

Sessions in April will focus on Johnson County government and the Kansas City region in

joint sessions with leadership classes from other Johnson County chambers.



President's Message continued . . .

The U.S. Chamber has created a QBI Tax Increase Calculator to provide a simplified illustration of the potential tax cost to business owners if Congress allows section 199A to expire at the end of this year, based on the estimated 2026 tax brackets provided by the Tax Foundation.

To learn more about how the QBI deduction works for pass-through businesses and to estimate its impact on your business, [click here](#).

I'd love to hear from you how your business is impacted by changing regulations, tariffs, potential expiring 2017 TCJA, or just the general uncertainty of the economy.

Call me at the Chamber or shoot me an email at tosborne@opchamber.org.

Central Bank garners numerous accolades



CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Central Bank serves 29 communities through a network of 49 full-service branches, five of which are in the Overland Park community.

Offering best-in-class services for all your personal and business needs, Central Bank's team of talented professionals work diligently every day to provide a customer experience second to none in the financial industry. This hard work and dedication earned it the title of "Best Bank in Johnson County" from readers of the [Johnson County Post](#) in 2024.

In addition to this recognition, Central Bank was ranked #10 on the "America's Best Banks" list from Forbes Magazine. With a 70.6 Net Promotor Score in 2024, it far exceeds the financial industry average of

34. This further exemplifies the level of customer satisfaction provided by Central Bank and its team.

As a long-time supporter of the Overland Park Chamber and [The Arts and Recreation Foundation of Overland Park](#), Central Bank is proud to partner with like-minded organizations working hard to make our communities great places to live and work. Through its commitment to Ben's Bank at Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead, Central Bank provides a legacy for Mr. Ben Craig, a long-time team member at Central Bank and lifetime supporter of the Overland Park Chamber.

With an ongoing dedication and focus on community partnership, Central Bank strives to leave a lasting impression in all the communities it serves.

For more information, visit www.centralbank.net.



City Council Member Inas Younis joined Chamber Senior Vice President Libbey Tucker to help Jerred Mann, CEO, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the fifth location of [Rejuuv Luxury Spa](#) at 15106 Glenwood Avenue.

Rejuuv provides top-tier luxury aesthetics services, helping clients look and feel their best with personalized treatment plans and a genuine touch.

For more info: (913) 242-7049 or [click here](#).



Chamber Executive Vice President Kevin Walker helped Jeni Nezerka, Medical Director, and her team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Veterinary Emergency Group](#), 6347 West 119th Street.

This is the 100th location of VEG ER for Pets, where you'll experience an open concept that builds trust, a team that meets pets where they're most comfortable — even on the floor — and a promise to find a way to say yes to all pets.

For more info: (913) 297-3676 or [click here](#).

This newsletter is distributed by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, 9001 West 110th Street, Suite 150, Overland Park, KS 66210.

(913) 491-3600 | Fax: (913) 491-0393

opcc@opchamber.org | www.opchamber.org

Corporate Partners



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[Phoenix Home Care & Hospice](#)

[Security Bank of Kansas City](#)

[Spencer Fane LLP](#)

[The University of Kansas Edwards Campus](#)

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

Recent Events

MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS



Mayor Curt Skoog and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen joined Matt Sogard, CEO of [Overland Park Regional Medical Center](#), and other hospital representatives to celebrate the new location of HCA's [Midwest Perinatal Associates](#), 8787 Ballentine Street, Suite 1200. The compassionate team at Midwest Perinatal Associates is led by Drs. Jessica Parrott, Michael Muench and Sarah Edwards.



Overland Park Young Professionals heard from a panel of women business leaders at our recent **CEO Unplugged** program at [WellSky Corporation](#). Moderated by Molly Salisbury, [Johnson County Community College](#), the program featured Kristen Leathers-Gratton, [Affinis Corp](#); Chamber Senior Vice President Libby Tucker; and Morgan Schulte, [FNBO](#). Thank you to our Young Professionals sponsors: **Bronze Sponsor:** [BHC](#) **CEO Unplugged Sponsor:** [FNBO](#)



Members enjoyed networking at **Wednesday Wake-up** hosted by [Life 88.5](#).