

Chamber celebrates Annual Meeting

More than 400 Chamber members gathered for the Chamber's 2024 Annual Meeting. Leaders shared achievements of the past year and previewed the year ahead, the Rick Worrel Community Legacy Award and OP Award were presented, and business and community leaders shared success stories illustrating the power of partnership.

Presenting Sponsor



Greg Musil, [Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C.](#), became the 2024 recipient of the Richard A. "Rick" Worrel Community Legacy Award presented by 2024 Chairman Cindy Rock and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen.



2024 Chair Cindy Rock and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen presented the OP Award to the [Overland Park Host Lions Club](#). It was accepted by Lynn Wolfe and Neal Nichols.



2025 Chamber Chair Josh Beck, [MarksNelson](#), led a panel discussion focusing on the partnerships that led to the 69Express project addressing the safety, travel time reliability and congestion issues along U.S. 69 Highway. Panelists were Cameron McGown, [HNTB Corporation](#); Overland Park Mayor Curt Skoog; Sec. Calvin Reed, Kansas Department of Transportation; and Steve Hewitt, [Kansas Turnpike Authority](#).

Chamber Board

Board Officers:

Josh Beck, Chair
MarksNelson LLC
Kim Winslow, Chair-Elect
Evergy
Matt Sogard, 1st Vice Chair
Overland Park Regional Medical Center
David Freisner, 2nd Vice Chair
Konza Global Wealth Group
Matt Sheets, Secretary
FNBO
Chris Wally, Treasurer
Wally & Co.
Cindy Rock, Past Chair

Board Members:

Rick Axthelm, **Compass Minerals**
Josh Bitterman, **Goldfish Swim School**
Phil Bressler, **Rhycom Advertising**
India Boulton, **T-Mobile**
Tom Davies, **Security Bank of Kansas City**
Hyleme George, **Black & Veatch**
Gretchen Ivy, **HNTB Corporation**
Scott Kautzi, **Strang Hall Chef Collective**
Pat Kellerman, **Shamrock Trading Corporation**
Dr. Judy Korb, **Johnson County Community College**
Courtney Kounkel, **Monarch Build, LLC**
Kristen Leathers-Gratton, **Affinis Corp**
Will Mann, **Zurich North America**
Ryan Matthews, **Kansas City National Security Campus**
Rich Muller, **VanTrust Real Estate**
Neelima Parasker, **SnapIT Solutions, LLC**
Ben Prell, **MTC Holding Corporation**
Cindy Shelton, **Nifty Promotions**
Dr. Alan Verrill, **AdventHealth Shawnee Mission**
Christian Weld-Brown, **MBB**
Jason Wright, **JE Dunn Construction Company**

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
Courtney Cavlovic, Workforce Development Coordinator
David Dyer, Membership Director
Paula Fields, Director of Finance & Administration
Pam Glickman, Director of Events & Member Services
Izzy Hagen, Director of Marketing
Stan Lawson, Communications Director
Katie Lindgren, Economic Development Director
Hannah Melton, Assistant Director, Member Services
Libbey Tucker, CECd, Senior Vice President of Economic Development
Tanya Rife, Executive Assistant
Natalie Vesta, Economic Development Project Coordinator
Kevin Walker, CCE, IOM, Executive Vice President & Chief Policy Officer
Andrew Weisberg, Director of Talent

Josh Beck
MarksNelson

2025 Chamber Chairman



Looking to the year ahead

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

It is truly an honor to step into the role of Chair for this amazing organization!

So many outstanding leaders have preceded me in this role, including our outgoing Chair, Cindy Rock. On behalf of the Overland Park Chamber, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to Cindy for her extraordinary leadership in 2024.

By way of introduction, my wife Kelly and I moved to this beautiful community with our two children in 2015 after I merged the company I founded with Overland Park-based **MarksNelson Advisory**. I now have the privilege of serving as Managing Partner of MarksNelson Advisory, a growing accounting and business advisory firm that has been recognized as a *Great Place to Work* and *Best Accounting Firms to Work For* multiple years running.

Given this background, I would like to share three key perspectives I bring to the role of Chair.

First, I am deeply passionate about the role of business in uplifting communities and

consider it an honor to serve and support you through the Overland Park Chamber.

Second, I was not born in Overland Park – I chose Overland Park, and have personally experienced the many things that made my family feel welcome, engaged, and rooted in this magnificent community.

Third, I firmly believe in the power of partnership and believe the OP Chamber is uniquely positioned to bring together business and community leaders to solve significant problems and achieve substantial goals.

As we move into 2025, I challenge you to find ways to be a part of the power of partnership. I encourage you and your colleagues to actively engage in the important mission of this organization. Your engagement is not just invited, it is essential. We all are enjoying this beautiful community that is the result of the hard work of leaders who came before us, who stepped outside their silos and worked together to make this community strong. Now it is our turn to do the same. Won't you join us?

Cheers to a prosperous New Year!

Upcoming events

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, January 8 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

WellSky Corporation, 1130 Switzer Road

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

Informed by more than 40 years of providing software and expertise, WellSky is one of America's largest and most innovative health care technology companies. It serves more than 20,000 client sites including the largest hospital systems, blood banks, cell therapy labs, home health and hospice franchises, post-acute providers, government agencies, and human services organizations.

Free for Chamber members.

[Register here](#)



SERIES SPONSOR



Young Professionals Kick-off

Wednesday, January 22 – 4:00-6:00 p.m.

BRR Architecture, 8131 Metcalf Avenue, Suite 300

Connect with other local young professionals at an exciting sports-themed networking event!

Enjoy some friendly competition while playing fun board games that will spark conversation and camaraderie – don't forget to wear your favorite team's jersey!

Food and beverages will be provided.

Free for Chamber members.

[Register here](#)



Mayor's State of the City

Tuesday, February 4 – 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Polsky Hall at **Johnson County Community College**

Mayor Curt Skoog will present his State of the City Address in an afternoon program followed by a reception with beer, wine, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Mayor Skoog will share community updates from the past year and consider Overland Park's future quality of life, land use, housing, environment, economic well-being and mobility.

Registration to attend is due by noon on January 28.

[Register here](#)



SERIES SPONSOR



Katie Lindgren joins Chamber team

We are pleased to welcome **Katie Lindgren, MPA**, to the Chamber team as our new **Economic Development Director**.

Katie comes to the Chamber with more than 15 years experience growing capacity for nonprofit organizations in the Kansas City metro area through grant writing, community outreach, and fundraising initiatives.

"We are excited to have Katie join our team as she brings significant experience in outreach and relationship building, workforce development and grant writing," said Libbey Tucker, Senior Vice President, Economic Development. "Her experience and dedication to fostering growth and opportunity will be instrumental in driving our mission to support businesses and strengthen our community's economic vitality."

Katie most recently managed the scholarship program for the Kansas City Kansas Community College Foundation, helping students access more than \$750,000 in scholarships for needed workforce training.

A Kansas native, Katie and her family live in Johnson County and are active in local business and regional sustainability efforts, including involvement with farmer's markets and local entrepreneurship groups.

You can reach Katie at klindgren@opchamber.org or (913) 766-7607.



Katie Lindgren

Mark your calendar!



EDC Honors Lunch

RECOGNIZING LEADERS IN BUSINESS

Wednesday, February 5 – 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Johnson County Community College

Presenting awards for:

- NOVA Award
- Commercial Development Award
- Business Hall of Honor
- Ben Craig Vision Award

Upcoming ribbon cuttings

Saturday, January 11 – 10:00 a.m.

Evexia Health & Performance, 11116 Antioch Road

Friday, January 17 – 4:00 p.m. (open house to follow)

Painting with a Twist, 8817 West 95th Street

Thursday, February 6 – 10:00 a.m.

Core Bank, 6900 College Boulevard, Suite 100

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Berry's Golf & Groove

Reggie Berry, Owner
9534 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park KS 66212
Berrysgolfandgroove@gmail.com
(913) 982-7441
www.berrysgolfandgroove.com
Entertainment, Amusement Places

Evexia Health & Performance

Nick & Britni Briney, Owners
11116 Antioch Road
Overland Park KS 66210
(913) 380-0938
www.evexiakc.com
Health & Wellness, Health and Fitness Program Consultants

Leadercast

Brian Morris, President/CEO
6800 College Boulevard,
Suite 500
Overland Park KS 66211
(913) 355-9977, ext. 7002
www.leadercast.com
Management Consultants

Red Beat Entertainment

Paul Seiz, Chief
Entertainment Manager
Kansas City Metro
paul@redbeatentertainment.com
(303) 396-7233
www.redbeat-entertainment.com
Entertainment, Event Services

Veterinary Emergency Group

Jeni Nezerka, Medical
Director
6347 West 119th Street,
Suite H2
Overland Park KS 66209
Overlandpark@veg.vet
(913) 297-3676
www.veterinary-emergencygroup.com
Veterinary Clinics & Hospitals

Thanks for reinvesting!

NOVEMBER MEMBER RENEWALS

50+ Years

Overland Park Funeral Chapel
Overland Park Regional
Medical Center
Wallace Saunders

40-49 Years

JE Dunn Construction
Company

20-39 Years

Children's Mercy Hospital
Kansas
Hepler & Associates
Hilton Garden Inn Overland
Park

Johnson County Funeral
Chapel & Memorial Gardens
Sandler Training

10-19 Years

Charlie's Car Wash
Chick-fil-A at Oak Park Plaza
Davidson Architecture &
Engineering
Erickson Solutions Group
KeyBank
Mirabile M.D. Beauty, Health &
Wellness
OMNI Human Resource
Solutions
Proshred Security
Residences at Prairiefire
Apartments
Talk of the Town Grill &
Bar-Leawood

5-9 Years

Active Family Chiropractic
American Cancer Society
Fiorella's
Phoenix Home Care and
Hospice

1-4 Years

Blue Valley Commodities, LLC
Charles River Labs
Community National Bank
Compass Minerals
FUEL
GRID Collaborative
Workspaces
KC Power Partners
Kolaches and Coffee
Marco's Pizza
NCRI - National Catastrophe
Restoration, Inc.
Overland Park Hawaii Fluid Art
Senior Helpers Overland Park
SpringHill Suites Overland Park
Leawood

Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome these new members since October 1:

- Able Appliance Repair
- Berry's Golf & Groove
- Bikanervala
- BkprPro LLC
- Braidilocks Salon LLC
- Commercial Restoration Company
- Digital Lagoon
- Evexia Health & Performance
- Florasource KC
- Forbidden Lotus
- Hammer & Nails
- Journal Communications, Inc.
- Keystone KC
- Leadercast
- NextGen Remodeling
- Nora Mental Health Kansas City
- Painting with a Twist
- Red Beat Entertainment
- Rejuvv
- Reticient Security
- Shawnee PARC Post Acute & Rehabilitation Center
- Skin and Hair Center
- Tabu Bridal & Formal
- TGIF Toastmasters
- The Binder Firm
- The Forge Initiative Inc.
- Thyme Out Consulting
- Tiff's Treats
- Two Maids Overland Park
- Veterinary Emergency Group
- White and Associates Real Estate Service



The Chamber helped Darren Jones, Branch Manager, and his team celebrate the grand opening of a new branch of [Farmers Insurance Federal Credit Union](#) at 7201 West 75th Street!

Darren invites you to stop by and learn about the world of not-for-profit banking. New members can receive a bonus up to \$150. For more info: (800) 877-2345.

37 selected for 2025 LOP class

The Chamber Foundation has selected 37 business professionals to participate in its 2025 Leadership Overland Park (LOP) program.

During ten full-day sessions beginning this month, participants meet local leaders and study aspects of the community including government, history, education, politics and current issues impacting the local community, region and state. Class members graduate in June.

Our 2025 Leadership Overland Park class:

- Mandy Anderson, [Garver, LLC](#)
- Ethan Angrist, [Maxus Properties](#)
- Jeff Bartz, [OWN, Inc.](#)
- Molly Camis, [Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas](#)
- Lauren Cashman, The Independent
- Jonathon Cole, [City of Overland Park](#)
- Emily Dore, VML
- Josh Doss, [DLR Group](#)
- Clayton Drake, [UMB Bank n.a.](#)
- Erin Erkmann, [Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas](#)
- Nate Fain, Terracon
- Amy Fallon, [Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas](#)
- Kate Fields, [Hillcrest Transitional Housing of Kansas](#)
- Erica Froelich, [JE Dunn Construction Company](#)
- Sarah Gelvin, [Kansas City National Security Campus](#)
- Maria Gibbs, [WellSky Corporation](#)
- Jason Goin, [Blue Valley Recreation Commission](#)
- Alessandra Graber, [Edward Jones](#)
- Meron Hayden, [Blue Valley Unified School District 229](#)
- Micah Hildreth, [HNTB Corporation](#)
- Lindsey Hofelt, [FNBO](#)
- Kayla Holloway, [Johnson County Government](#)
- Scott Holsman, [Next Level Performers](#)
- Kerry Jo Katz, [Growing Futures Early Education Center](#)
- Lizzy Komaromi, [Turner Construction](#)
- Andi Milens, [Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City](#)
- Julie Myer, [University of Kansas Edwards Campus](#)
- Danielle Robinson, [Black & Veatch](#)
- Molly Salisbury, [Johnson County Community College](#)
- Rachel Shuck, [Shawnee Mission School District](#)
- Drake Stafford, [WellSky Corporation](#)
- Casey Strohl, [OakStar Bank](#)
- Brett Taylor, [McCownGordon Construction](#)
- Jen Wewers, Prairie Sky Counseling Center
- Sherry Wilkes, [Central Bank of the Midwest](#)
- Kati Wilson, Hoefer Welker
- Travis Wymore, Withers, Brant, Iggoe & Mullennix, PC

2025 Presenting Sponsor:



2025 Lunch Sponsor:



Three leaders join Chamber Board in 2025

We are pleased to welcome the following leaders to the Chamber Board of Directors in 2025.



Phil Bressler
Rhycom

[Phil Bressler](#) is Vice President of Client & Creative Services at [Rhycom](#), a full-service marketing agency. He was previously a co-owner of [MBB Advertising](#). He has worked with a wide range of companies from small local businesses, to non-profit organizations, to multi-billion dollar retail brands. Phil has been an adjunct professor for the Integrated Marketing Communications graduate program at [KU Edwards](#). He is active in the community and recently served as board president for [The Arts & Recreation Foundation of Overland Park](#).

[Gretchen Ivy](#), P.E., is a Senior Vice President and the Central States Office Leader at [HNTB](#)



Gretchen Ivy
HNTB Corporation

[Corporation](#) where she oversees the growth and development of clients, markets and people in five states. She has 26 years of experience in transportation infrastructure planning and policy development. She is active in her industry and also serves on boards of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the Kansas City Civic Council and is on the Steering Committee for KC Rising. In 2024, she was recognized as a Women Who Means Business by the [Kansas City Business Journal](#).



Cindy Shelton
Nifty Promotions

[Cindy Shelton](#) is a dynamic leader and entrepreneur with more than 34 years of experience in the telecommunications industry and nine years in the promotional products industry. As president and owner of [Nifty Promotions](#), she combines her extensive background in business administration, with a degree from [Ottawa University](#) and a Certified Advertising Specialist degree from the Advertising Specialty Institute, to help other businesses thrive. Cindy has a passion for creativity and marketing which shines through in her work. She leverages her vast experience to help clients elevate their brands.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

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Award Sponsor



Vibe / DJ Sponsor



Corporate Table Sponsors



2025 Chamber Chair Josh Beck, [MarksNelson](#), led a panel discussion in which several hospitality industry leaders shared their collaboration story. Panelists were Matt Britton, [Discourse Brewery & Taproom](#); Steve Robson, [Buffalo State Pizza Co.](#); and Tyler Wigger, [Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue](#).



2025 Chamber Chair Josh Beck, [MarksNelson](#), shared a conversation about resolving personal differences through finding common ground with Rev. Adam Hamilton, Resurrection, A United Methodist Church.



In his remarks as incoming 2025 Chair of the Board, Josh Beck, [MarksNelson](#), shared his perspective as someone who chose to live in Overland Park. He encouraged members to find ways to be a part of the power of partnership and to engage in the important mission of our organization.



Cindy Rock received a plaque of recognition for her service as 2024 Chair from 2025 Chair Josh Beck, [MarksNelson](#).

Investing in the community and future of Overland Park

CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

AdventHealth continues to be a strong investor in the health and wellbeing of Overland Park and surrounding communities.

Investing takes many forms at [AdventHealth](#), including monetary donations, aligning with community partners, and bringing needed services to meet growing demand.

In August 2024, as maternity wards in urban and rural areas continue to face closures, [AdventHealth South Overland Park](#) completed the expansion of its Birth Center to include up to 15 private birthing suites, an additional six experienced OB/GYNs, and introduces highly trained lactation consultant services to support breastfeeding and lactation needs.

Center of Grace, a multi-purpose, mission-driven organization in Olathe, and Pharmacy of Grace, which provides low- to no-cost medications to patients, each received a \$35,000 donation from AdventHealth South Overland Park and AdventHealth Shawnee Mission to expand their programs for vulnerable populations, focusing on health education, mental wellness and medication affordability and access.

Further strengthening its local investment in 2024, AdventHealth extended its partnership with

MidAmerica Nazarene University to address the national nursing shortage. This partnership, which includes AdventHealth Shawnee Mission and AdventHealth South Overland Park, ensures students gain valuable clinical experience and potential career opportunities at AdventHealth upon graduation. MNU is already the leading provider of nursing graduates to the AdventHealth system in Kansas City, making this collaboration a key strategy to meet the growing demand for healthcare professionals. "We could not be more pleased to be partnering with MidAmerica Nazarene University," said Dallas Purkeypile, president and CEO of AdventHealth South Overland Park.

In 2024, AdventHealth celebrated 50 years of providing behavioral health services to the region. With a \$15 million fundraising campaign underway, the hospital is expanding its behavioral health services to meet increasing demand. The first phase of this expansion, a 4,000-square-foot outpatient clinic, has already begun with significant donor support. This growth will provide more treatment options and support individuals through their mental health journeys.

Together, these initiatives proudly demonstrate our ongoing investment in Overland Park and the broader Kansas City area, enhancing healthcare access, education, and mental health services for local residents today, tomorrow, and the future.

Low-cost health insurance for members

The Chamber is pleased to offer additional value for your membership – cost-effective, high-quality health insurance solutions for your team, which also helps you attract and maintain employees.

The Chamber now offers to your employees and their families a health insurance plan through the Chamber of Commerce Executives of Kansas. This new plan, [Chamber Solutions](#), is for qualified member businesses with 2-100 employees in Kansas.

Chamber Solutions is an Aetna Funding Advantage Medical Plan and a level-funded product that offers the stability of a level monthly payment and stop loss protection with the ability to share in any claims funding surplus. Groups receive individually underwritten proposals.

Local brokers are encouraged to offer the plan and should contact Tim Shrout, Gallagher Benefit Services at (816) 507-3249 or Tim_shrout@ajg.com. To use your local broker, connect them with Tim for details.

For more information, contact the Chamber at (913) 491-3600.



Chamber Diplomats enjoyed their annual holiday lunch last month. We thank these volunteers for their dedicated service to the Chamber and their fellow members throughout the year!



This newsletter is distributed monthly 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



Corporate Sponsors

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Construction](#)

[Phoenix Home Care &
Hospice – New!](#)

[Security Bank of Kansas
City – New!](#)

[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.

New!



The Chamber is excited to introduce its new **Community Concierge** program to support businesses in attracting and recruiting top talent from outside the region.

From personalized community tours to thoughtfully curated welcome baskets, the program creates a warm and inviting first impression. Other resources include personalized online dashboards, networking coffee or lunch, newcomer events, and accompanying partner career support.

Detailed information, including a menu of services is on our website – [click here](#).

For more information, contact Andrew Weisberg, Director of Talent, at aweisberg@opchamber.org.

State legislature back in session

State legislators are back in Topeka and the decisions they make have real ramifications on how you operate your business.

As a Chamber member, you can be assured the Chamber team is paying very close attention to what is happening in Topeka so you can focus on what is critically important – operating and growing your business.

Our Chamber's **2025 State Legislative Platform** is [outlined here](#). We also have a brief that highlights our [top priorities](#).

We offer several ways to engage with our policy team.

- Monthly [Public Policy and Advocacy Committee](#) meetings are a great way to interact directly with lawmakers and other policy leaders.
- [This Week in Topeka](#) – a weekly report that offers timely updates on important legislation and other actions in Topeka that impact your bottom line.

To get involved or learn more about how we advocate for you, contact Kevin Walker at kwalker@opchamber.org or (913) 766-7602.



The Chamber Board recently recognized President Tracey Osborne Oltjen for her 20th anniversary leading the Chamber. Thank you, Tracey, for your two decades of leadership at our organization and in the community!

Recent Events

MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS

Chamber members enjoyed networking at last month's Wednesday Wake-up hosted by [Tiger-Rock Martial Arts of Overland Park](#).

