

Chamber EDC recognizes business leaders

Last month, the Chamber EDC presented these annual EDC Honors awards:

- **Commercial Development Award** recognizing significant investment and reinvestment in the Overland Park economy
- **Business Hall of Honor** recognizing long-standing significant investments
- **Ben Craig Vision Award** recognizing those who have exemplified the work and dedication to our community of banker and longtime leader Ben Craig
- **NOVA Award** recognizing fast-growing companies

Photos of honorees are on page 7.

Presenting Sponsor:



Brenda Sharpe, [REACH Healthcare Foundation](#), received the 2025 Ben Craig Vision Award. It was presented to her by Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen; Chamber Senior Vice President Libbey Tucker; and Mayor Curt Skoog.



Mayor Curt Skoog presented his annual State of the City Address in a program and reception hosted by the Overland Park Chamber. If you missed the program, you can [watch a video here](#).



Chamber Chairman Josh Beck, [MarksNelson](#), a Springline company, introduced Mayor Skoog.

Chamber Board

Board Officers:

Josh Beck, Chair
MarksNelson, a Springline company
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, Christian Weld Consulting
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
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

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE
Chamber President
[@traceylosborne](#)



Opportunity NOW picks up speed

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Investors gathered last month to celebrate key milestones in the [Opportunity NOW](#) initiative. Bill Ferguson, [Central Bank of the Midwest](#) President & CEO and Chair of [Opportunity NOW](#), announced the initiative has just completed year two of its implementation and shared the top ten things to know about its progress thus far:

1. The staff team is nearly complete! Opportunity NOW's resources added a workforce development department, a marketing director, and a team of contract lobbyists to expand our capacity. The final Opportunity NOW hire will be posted this quarter.
2. Our first Workforce Summit convened employers and stakeholders, dove deep into AI as a productivity tool, and offered sessions about workforce culture, apprenticeships, and childcare to enhance the talent pipeline.
3. Workforce Study recommends data-driven solutions to Talent Council with the first-ever comprehensive local talent analysis. These recommendations guide our strategies to attract, anchor, and align talent.
4. Concierge services created to attract out-of-market talent. Our full suite of services helps you recruit talent – from

community tours, customized community data dashboards, welcome baskets, community onboarding, newcomer events and career assistance for trailing partners.

5. Overland Park selected as a Love, KS pilot city. We elevated Overland Park and our state's profile through a national campaign and local pop-up events targeting "boomerangs" to come home to Kansas.
6. \$46 million in new capital investment in 2024! The economic development team, together with the City of Overland Park and our partners, celebrated 368 new jobs and more than 1,000 retained jobs this past year. Check out the [Economic Development Council's annual report here](#) for more details.
7. Programming focused on small business success. We partnered with JCCC to deliver programming to help early and second-stage entrepreneurs plan for success, while our Small Business Council focused its programming on small businesses at all stages.
8. Marketing was strategic and targeted. We hyper-focused marketing resources on Highland Plaza's

(continued on page 5)

Upcoming events

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, March 12 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

[Life 88.5](#), 9225 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 120

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

Join us in the Listener Lounge of the Large Market Radio Station of the Year in 2024. Located in Corporate Woods, Life 88.5 is the only local CCM station in the metro. A listener-support non-profit, last year the station sponsored 113 community events.

Free for Chamber members.

[Register here](#)



SERIES SPONSOR



A Guide to High School Internships for Employers

Wednesday, March 12 – 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street

We're partnering with Olathe Public Schools to offer a complimentary lunch where you can learn about the power of high school internships and ways your business can engage with these opportunities.

This information session will include how to create an internship program if you don't have one.

Lunch is on us. Space is limited.

[Register here](#)



Young Professionals Luncheon CEO Unplugged Series

Thursday, March 27 – 12:00-1:30 p.m.

[WellSky Corporation](#), 11300 Switzer Road

This luncheon for young professionals features a panel of women leaders in male-dominated fields sharing insights on career and personal success. Lunch is included.

Moderator:

[Molly Salisbury](#), [Johnson County Community College](#)

Panelists:

- [Kristen Leathers-Gratton](#), [Affinis](#)
- [Morgan Schulte](#), [FNBO](#)
- [Libbey Tucker](#), Overland Park Chamber

[Register here](#)



SERIES SPONSOR



Member Orientation

Thursday, March 6 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

at the Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street

During this informal orientation, new members or new employees at Chamber member companies will meet Chamber staff, connect with others who are new to the Chamber and learn about valuable resources available to you and your business.

[Register here](#)



SERIES SPONSOR



Upcoming ribbon cuttings

Tuesday, March 4 – 10:00 a.m.

[Core Bank](#), 6900 College Boulevard, Suite 100

Thursday, March 6 – 11:30 a.m.

[Veterinary Emergency Group](#), 6347 West 119th Street, Suite H2

Wednesday, March 12 – 4:00 p.m.

[Rejuvv Luxury Spa](#), 15106 Glenwood Avenue

Friday, March 14 – 9:00 a.m.

[Nora Mental Health](#), 10551 Barkley Street, Suite 615

New! 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.

March 13 – [Self Care for Small Business Owners on the Go](#). Enjoy a mini nutrition/stretch session with Nick Briney, [Evexia Health & Performance](#).

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

If you are interested in presenting at an upcoming program, [click here](#).





The Johnson County Public Policy Council and Mike Kelly, Chairman of the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners, invite you . . .

State of the County

Tuesday, April 8 – 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Overland Park Convention Center
Address followed by a reception

[Register here](#)

Presented by  evergy

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS

All Sleek Services KC

Israel Rojas, Project Manager
(913) 333-2976
allsleek@allserviceskc.com
www.allserviceskc.com
Cleaning Services

B Stubbendieck LLC

Barb Stubbendieck, Business Strategist
(610) 306-9210
bastubben@gmail.com
Financial Planning Consultants & Services, Financial Services
Referred by Robert Glenski, FUEL

Corporate Housing of Kansas City

Autumn Thomas President
5440 West 110th Street, Suite 300
Overland Park KS 66211
(913) 392-8900
autumn@corporatehousing-ofkansascity.com
www.corporatehousingof-kansascity.com
Corporate Lodging, Apartments

ECHELON ARCH + DESIGN

Miranda Bruening, Principal & Owner
11020 King Street, Suite 205
Overland Park KS 66210
(620) 577-9300
admin@echelonad.com
www.echelonad.com
Architects, Interior Design

Grade-A Tree Care

Johnny Trueblood, Owner, CEO
3400 Robinson Pike Road
Grandview MO 64030
(816) 214-6255
info@gradeatree.com
www.gradeatree.com
Tree Care, Landscaping & Lawn Services

Healthcare IT Leaders

Ben Hilmes, CEO
6130 Sprint Parkway, Suite 150
Overland Park KS 66211
Ben.hilmes@healthcare-itleaders.com
www.healthcareitleaders.com
Healthcare, Information Systems

J&J Printing

Jeff Ferguson, Account Executive
16701 West 116th Street
Lenexa KS 66219
(913) 491-4774
www.jjprint.com
Digital Printing & Imaging, Printing

New York Life Institutional Life / Advanced Markets Network

Laura Ferri, Senior Administrative Assistant
6130 Sprint Parkway, Suite 400
Overland Park KS 66211
(913) 906-4000
laura_ferri@newyorklife.com
www.newyorklife.com/amn
Insurance

RoyCo Roofing

Ben Cloud, Roofing Professional
12641 Antioch Road, Suite 104
Overland Park KS 66213
(913) 232-0778
ben@roycoroof.com
www.roycoroof.com
Roofing

Shamrock Roofing and Construction

Tom McMahan, President
7899 East Frontage Road
Overland Park KS 66012
(913) 850-6556
Tom@shamrockroofer.com
www.shamrockroofer.com
Roofing, Remodeling & Repairing - Building Contractors

Tekkii

David Jackson, CEO
6450 Sprint Parkway, Suite H
Overland Park KS 66211
(816) 339-5100
hello@tekki.com
www.tekkii.com
Internet Marketing & Advertising, Website Design
Referred by Cindy Shelton, Nifty Promotions

The Oslo

Brenda Ross, Community Manager
13600 Antioch Road
Overland Park KS 66221
(913) 399-4200
info@theoslok.com
www.theoslok.com
Apartments

Tier 1 Pickleball

Samuel Smith, CEO
12501 Antioch Road, Suite 103
Overland Park KS 66213
(913) 940-7725
sam.smith@tier1pickleball.com
www.tier1pickleball.com
Retail, Sporting Goods

Whataburger - 135th Street

Matthew Johnson, Field Marketing - Kansas & Missouri
8420 West 135th Street
Overland Park KS 66223
(816) 298-8415
majohnson@wbhq.com
www.whataburger.com
Restaurants

Whataburger - 95th Street

Matthew Johnson, Field Marketing - Kansas & Missouri
9505 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park KS 66212
(913) 210-9147
majohnson@wbhq.com
www.whataburger.com
Restaurants

Refer a potential Chamber member to Dave at ddyer@opchamber.org and receive a credit when they join!

Thanks for reinvesting!

FEBRUARY MEMBER RENEWALS

50+ Years

Kansas Gas Service

40-49 Years

Copaken Brooks
Marriott Kansas City Overland Park
Stinson LLP

20-39 Years

Commerce Bank
Dana F. Cole & Company, LLP

Grandma's Office Catering
Heavy Constructors Association
Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City
Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc.
PNC Bank
WealthPlan Partners - COBLE MCCUNE Team
Zurich North America Commercial

10-19 Years

Academy Bank
Kansas City Regional Association of Realtors
KidsTLC, Inc.

MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital
The Club at Indian Creek
3&2 Baseball Club of Johnson County, Inc.
Quality Inn

5-9 Years

Arcadia at Overland Park
Edward Jones - Jim Easley
Metcalf 108

1-4 Years

Built Solutions
Discourse Brewery and Taproom
Fastsigns Blue Valley
GFI Digital, Inc.
Kansas Turnpike Authority
Novel Place Senior Living
OakStar Bank
Planted Local Lending
The Golden Scoop
The Stanley Agency, LLC

President's Message continued . . .

businesses when they were hit hard by the lengthy closure at U.S. 69/119th street, including a custom website, social media campaign and one-on-one marketing assistance to drive traffic to the center. Also new was our Small Business Season, which highlights local businesses and interesting holiday experiences.

- 9. Policy team scores pro-biz wins. Notable 2024 wins include workers' comp and unemployment comp reforms, new tools to fight organized retail crime and successfully fighting off attempts to weaken or eliminate valuable economic development tools that help our community grow, like HPIP and PEAK.
- 10. Your bold voice at all levels of government. Our expanded capacity means we attend every Planning Commission and City Council meeting and provide summaries of major actions taken. We meet with candidates and prospective candidates for office at all levels to represent your priorities. Whether from the lectern or behind the scenes, your agenda is regularly shared with public officials.

The business community's prosperity is foundational to Overland Park, so your voice must be represented. We're proud to share the [full report of our progress here](#).

If you'd like to know more about Opportunity NOW, contact me at tosborne@opchamber.org. This critical work is making a difference in our community, and I'd love to talk with you about how you can get involved.



City Council Member Sam Passer joined Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen to help Mark Rutledge, CEO; Scott Holland, President; and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new offices of [OMNI Human Resource Solutions](#), 7311 West 132nd Street, Suite 320.

Established in 1998 by Michael Tracy, OMNI remains in Overland Park thanks to the dedication of its new leaders, Mark Rutledge and Scott Holland, who support the community's exceptional people and organizations. Over the past 27 years, OMNI has built lasting partnerships locally, regionally and nationally, offering tailored solutions for every stage of the employee lifecycle.

For more info: (913) 341-2119 or [click here](#).

Recent Events

CELEBRATING WITH OUR MEMBERS



At our most recent OP After Hours networking mixer, Chamber members had the opportunity to explore [NextGen Remodeling's](#) full-service showroom – a one-stop-shop for a luxury design experience for your home or office remodel. Whether you're looking for a fully custom kitchen, bathroom or basement, or updates to your existing layout, NextGen Remodeling promises exceptional service, care, and stunning results every time.



Nearly 200 Chamber members registered to attend last month's **Wednesday Wake-up** networking event hosted by [AdventHealth Sports Park at Bluhawk](#).

It was a great opportunity to experience the 420,000-square-foot indoor sports and entertainment complex, which offers world-class facilities and exciting activities for everyone. It is designed to host a wide range of events, from sporting tournaments to corporate events, concerts and conventions. Its flexible event spaces can be configured to suit any occasion.

2025 Series Sponsor: [Farmers Insurance Federal Credit Union!](#)

Spencer Fane strengthens clients and communities

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Spencer Fane is a full-service business law firm focused on providing results that move clients and their businesses forward. With direct access to firm leadership and a different approach to client engagement, its attorneys instill confidence and certainty that clients' interests are the priority.



The professionals at Spencer Fane work to unlock and add value in new and inventive ways. This is their passion; it is what drives them. The firm's mission is to build, maintain, and leverage a diverse and inclusive firm that strengthens its clients and communities. The more diverse, equitable, and inclusive the firm is, the better equipped it becomes to rise above challenges and add new, creative, and fresh perspectives to the problems it solves.

Specifically in Overland Park, Spencer Fane has a team of more than 40 attorneys and other business professionals who serve as board members, volunteers, and emerging leaders for more than 30 local community and philanthropic organizations. This includes everything from Hope House and the [Blue Valley School District](#) BEST Committee to [United Community Services of Johnson County](#) and the MARC Head Start Advisory Board.

Spencer Fane's Overland Park team also supports groups as an office, including as a proud 2024 participant in the KVC Kansas Holiday Heroes Program. The team collected presents, gift cards and monetary donations to fulfill the wish lists of their sponsored kids.

In addition, the firm has multiple charitable grant programs including in Kansas City. The Spencer Fane Charitable Giving Program in Kansas City provides significant support to select local nonprofit arts organizations through a \$50,000 donation over three years.

Spencer Fane people are all in on connecting with and improving the communities in which they are immersed. Together, they build relationships, drive local development, and realize opportunities to make a positive impact on the communities in which they work and live.

For more information, visit spencerfane.com or follow @spencerfane.



The Chamber recently introduced a new business intelligence tool, [SizeUp Overland Park](#). Available at no cost for Johnson County businesses, SizeUp is a powerful data tool for businesses in any industry. Designed with entrepreneurs and small to medium-sized businesses in mind, it is also great for financial institutions.

SizeUp provides crucial insights including:

- Competitor performance and operations
- Ideal locations for new businesses or expansions
- Marketing opportunities
- Customer demographics
- Benchmarks for industry performance
- Potential buyer and supplier info

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. Or, connect your local broker with Tim.

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

Congratulations to our EDC Honors Award recipients!

Commercial Development Awards



AdventHealth Sports Park at Bluhawk – Kent Price, President, and Bart Lowen, Vice President of Development, Price Brothers; and Greg Jackson, General Manager.



DLR Group – Josh Wetzig, Overland Park Office Leader and Senior Engineering Leader; and Tom Mitchell, Global Business Development Leader.



OakStar Bank – Charles Wooten, Regional President; Carrie Drumeller, Senior VP and Retail Banking Center Manager; Casey Strohl, Assistant VP of Commercial Lending; and Derek Haverkamp, Senior VP of Commercial Lending.



Security Bank of Kansas City – Stacie Eighmey, Executive VP & Chief Retail Officer; and Tom Davies, Executive VP and Director of Wealth and Institutional Relations.



Shamrock Trading Corporation – Matt Huderski, Vice President of Real Estate.



OWN, Inc. – Jay Green, Office Leader; Pam Fortun-Young, Land Development Manager; and Greg Parker, Public Infrastructure Manager.

NOVA Awards



AgencyOf – Cameron Baraban, CEO.



WellSky Corporation – Bill Miller, Chairman and CEO.



Price Brothers – Lena Price, Vice President and Partner; and Kent Price, President and Partner.



Prelude Agency – Partners Matt Johnson, Bryan Rich and Ryan Chamberlin.



1840 & Company – Bryan DiGiorgio, CEO.



Occidental Management, Inc. – Chad Stafford, President.

Corporate Partners



Corporate Sponsors

[Affinis Corp](#)

[Allen, Gibbs & Houlik,
L.C. – New!](#)

[Empower](#)

[Everg](#)

[FNBO](#)

[Foulston Siefkin LLP](#)

[JE Dunn Construction
Company](#)

[Johnson County
Community College](#)

[Kansas Gas Service](#)

[McCownGordon
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.

LOP class studies development

In their most recent session, Leadership Overland Park (LOP) class members received an in-depth look at the many facets of economic development in Overland Park.

Hosted in the beautiful new offices of [OakStar Bank](#), the class heard from speakers discussing the real estate landscape, entrepreneurship and workforce development. In the afternoon, they toured [Shamrock Trading Corporation's](#) newest tower and heard presentations on FrameWork OP, long-term city planning and public/private partnerships that have reshaped the

Metcalf Avenue corridor. A panel of business development specialists shared entrepreneurship resources and the day concluded with Doug Davidson, County Economic Research Institute, who discussed “Using Data to Tell our Story.”



KU Edwards is vital community resource

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

[KU Edwards Campus \(KUEC\)](#) provides strong academic programs to meet the needs of students and businesses, and is a vital resource for the community as well.

The KUEC is proud to have been a valuable part of the Overland Park community for more than 30 years.

First and foremost, the mission of the Edwards Campus is to educate students through in-demand academic programs that not only meet area workforce demand but also provide an opportunity for upward mobility for graduates.

KU's School of Professional Studies is located at the Edwards Campus. It offers

programs, research activities, and learning initiatives designed for transfer students and adult learners seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees and those pursuing graduate degrees for careers advancement.

Online, in-person, and hybrid classes provide flexibility for full or part-time working professionals who are juggling multiple responsibilities. Students receive academic support, scholarship opportunities, expert advising, and professional connections.

KUEC stays ahead of the evolving needs of the workforce by maintaining close ties to business leaders in the area to provide companies with skilled, KU-educated employees. Edwards Campus students are workplace ready at graduation.

In addition to strong academics, KUEC serves the Kansas City community in other ways. The campus itself is a treasured resource for thousands of people who pass through the doors. In the past year, the campus served as venue for:

- Two outdoor children's concerts featuring one local favorite (Mr. Stinky Feet) and one nationally-known artist (Laurie Berkner), filling the KUEC quad with many happy guests.
- Speaker events, covering a range of current topics and issues.
- [Sciflix](#) Friday night movies – fan favorite.
- Training, professional development, and education-related events in the KUEC state-of-the-art conference center brought to campus approximately 40,000 people from community, government, and business groups, including Honeywell, the Jewish Federation of GKC, KUMed, and Northwestern Mutual.
- [Professional Edge](#) – an educational webinar series taught by graduate faculty and open to individuals and businesses attracted 50 attendees to the first event in February.



For more information, visit www.edwardscampus.ku.edu.