When business leaders established the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce in 1967, one of their priorities was to broaden the tax base by creating an environment where companies could thrive and create jobs, transforming Overland Park from a mostly residential bedroom community into a self-sustaining city offering not only a superior quality of life but also a plethora of employment opportunities.

Numerous factors bring firms here

The Sun Newspapers, June 29, 1977

New image for Overland Park in Molamphy’s position paper

The Sun Newspapers, October 22, 1978

The country road that became College Boulevard, looking east from the area of Nall Avenue.

An early view of Buildings 20-24, the first buildings completed in Corporate Woods. Indian Creek Parkway runs along the lower portion of the photo.
LOOKING BACK AT BUSINESS GROWTH IN OVERLAND PARK

Chamber produces promotional piece

A four-color promotional brochure aimed at attracting offices of major national firms to Overland Park has been produced jointly by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce and the city.

The brochure cites the fact that Trans World Airlines, Xerox, Yellow Freight, Allstate Insurance and “...and nearly a hundred other major national companies have district, zone or regional offices in Overland Park.”

Photos show 13 office buildings which house major companies. Some are owned by the firms involved, others are commercial office parks.

Still using the phrase “Executive Country U.S.A.” the brochure also points out that the office buildings and office parks are on arterial highways, are surrounded by green space, and are close to “beautiful residential areas.” It also points out that “each location is within about 20 minutes of...the cultural, entertainment, and sporting activities” of the Kansas City metropolitan area.

O.P. growth is objective

“Our number one priority is to present a strong voice of business in all of our programs at all three levels — city, county and state,” Executive Vice President of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce Dick Molanopy said.

“We’re extremely concerned that business is not contributing as much as possible. Business can give us knowledge and experience that could be helpful in government decisions,” he said.

“Our overall goal is good economic development, first, developing a good business element and secondly, the economic development of creating more jobs for its citizens, of maintaining an adequate tax base to finance the needed services for its citizens.”

Once success of Overland Park and its Chamber of Commerce will be the expansion of the highway network along College Boulevard, Antioch, and Quivira Roads, Molanopy said. “(This) is a vital necessity if we’re going to broaden the tax base for businesses and industry.”

“Last year was a better year for the Chamber. By encouraging its members and their involvement...the organization was strengthened by the total business community and we expect the trend to continue,” he said.

Asked about ribbon-cutting by the Chamber in 1976, Molanopy said: “We try not to (do that sort of thing). It takes time, manpower, energy. We try to expand commerce with every resource we have rather than use them on ribbon-cutting ceremonies.”

Overland Park is experiencing single family residential growth. “Indications are the city hall will be issuing permits for 590 residential units — although they will not necessarily be occupied in 1977. If this results in a population increase of 1,000 that will be very unusual because of the lower birth rate,” Molanopy said.

Sun Publications, April 19, 1978

Chamber promotional materials from the 1970s

Above: Suburban Medical Center (now Overland Park Regional Medical Center) opened in 1978.

At left: An early view showing the YRC Worldwide headquarters building in the lower left and the Black & Veatch headquarters in the upper right of the photo.