Chamber Board endorses school bond issue

The Chamber Board of Directors has endorsed Blue Valley Bond 2020, a bond election to issue $186,835,000 in bonds. Between January 8 and January 28, registered voters of the Blue Valley School District will be asked to complete a mail-ballot that authorizes the sale of bonds to reinvest in the district’s facilities and technology, reinforce school safety initiatives and reimagine facilities and educational programs. It is a no-tax rate increase for Blue Valley taxpayers. Residents should register by December 27 to automatically receive a mail ballot. For more information: www.bluevalleyk12.org.

Chamber Calendar

Public Policy & Advocacy Committee
Joint meeting with Kansas State Affairs Committee of the Kansas City Chamber
Tuesday, December 3 - 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street
$15 per person for members only; appetizers included.

2019 Annual Meeting
Thursday, December 5 - 11:30-1:30 p.m.
Marriott Kansas City Overland Park, 10800 Metcalf Avenue
Chamber members: $65 per person/$695 for table of 10
Non-members: $80 per person/$850 for table of 10
Presenting Sponsor: Security Bank of Kansas City

Wednesday Wake-up
Wednesday, December 11 - 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Fidelity Bank, 14435 Metcalf Avenue
Free and open to Chamber members only
2019 Series Sponsor: Fortune Financial Advisors

Young Professionals Holiday Party
Speakeasy Holiday Party benefiting HopeKids Kansas City
Tuesday, December 17 - 4:30-7:30 p.m.
The Cave at Promontory Apartments, 8961 Metcalf Avenue
$10 per person for members; $15 for non-members
Appetizers and 2 drink tickets included
To register for events, click here.

Ribbon cuttings & groundbreakings
Tuesday, December 3 - 10:30 a.m.
Lion’s Choice, 10313 Metcalf Avenue
Friday, December 6 - 10:30 a.m.
Falafel Express, 7805 West 151st Street
Thursday, December 12 - 11:00 a.m.
Tabard’s Ale House, 12030 Blue Valley Parkway
2019: The Year in Review

Thank you to all our Chamber members who engaged and helped drive a successful year. As a membership organization, it is our priority to deliver value to our members. The Overland Park Chamber strives to do that every day. As chairman, I have an opportunity to see how your Chamber staff performs and want to tell you it is at the highest levels every day. I also get to meet with owners and leaders of varying businesses doing business in Overland Park and leaders in the community.

For those of you who are engaged in the Chamber – I hear about the positives and value the Chamber brings to your companies and businesses. I would encourage everyone to pick one of the Chamber events you have not participated in and try it in 2020. I guarantee you will come away with new information and perspective. A key thing to know is that the Chamber is continually working for you with the goal of making you and our community prosperous.

This past year has been busy with completing the purchase of the Chamber building from our Chamber Foundation, continued work on Forward OP, and conducting a brand update for the Chamber. We will continue to move forward on these key initiatives that set the stage for future years.

I want to acknowledge the passing of Rick Worrel this year. Rick was past chairman of the Overland Park Chamber and tirelessly engaged in improving the community and advocating for businesses. There are very few people like Rick who have the passion and devotion to making a difference to all of those around them that Rick did. He will be missed.

As you read this column I ask that you consider how you are encouraging engagement in the community from yourself and your employees. We have a tremendous community that continues to improve every day, but it takes people who care and engage.

I hope 2020 is your best year yet.

Chamber leaders completed the annual DC Fly-in to meet with U.S. Congress members and U.S. Chamber representatives last month. Participating were Chamber Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy Kevin Walker; Chair-Elect Bobby Olm-Shipman, Saint Luke’s South Hospital; Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen; Public Policy & Advocacy Co-Chairs Mike Hockley, Spencer Fane LLP; and Tony Rupp, Foulston Siefkin LLP; and Chairman Mike Hess, HNTB Corporation.
2020 Chamber Board Officers
The Chamber Board of Directors announces the following board officers for 2020:

**Chairman:** Bobby Olm-Shipman, *Saint Luke’s South Hospital*

**Chair-Elect:** Bill Ferguson, *Central Bank of the Midwest*

**1st Vice-Chairman:** Tony Rupp, *Foulston Siefkin LLP*

**2nd Vice-Chairman:** Joan Wells, *Wellington*

**Secretary:** Doug Lynn, *Sprint*

**Treasurer:** Chris Wally, *Wally & Co.*

**Past Chairman:** Mike Hess, *HNTB Corporation*

2020 sponsorships available!
Gain visibility by partnering with the Chamber to sponsor events and programs in 2020. Sponsorships include Corporate Sponsor and Leadership Circle levels, two of the Chamber’s top sponsorship opportunities.

For information: Celia Fritz-Watson at (913) 766-7603 or cfritzwatson@opchamber.org.

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**Event Details:**

**Build your business network!**

**Wednesday Wake-up**

*A Business Before Hours*

**Wednesday, December 11**

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Join us at **Fidelity Bank** for warm conversations and hot coffee. Fidelity Bank is a fourth generation, family-owned institution with locations across Kansas and Oklahoma. Its commercial team helps businesses, large and small, meet challenges with confidence and empowers their progress through cash management, credit and capital services.

Free and open to Chamber members only.

To register, click here or call (913) 491-3600

**Hosted by**

**Fidelity Bank**

14435 Metcalf Avenue

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Thank you for your participation!
Thank you to these members who provided door prizes for our Good Morning, Overland Park! breakfast:

- Chick-fil-A 135th & 69 Highway
- Cosentino’s Market - Blue Valley
- DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas City-Overland Park
- Downtown Overland Park Partnership, Inc.
- Elite Martial Arts
- Employee Benefit Professionals
- Fortune Financial Advisors, LLC
- Goldfish Swim School
- Grease Monkey
- INTRUST Bank
- Jason’s Deli
- Johnson County Community College
- KC Hemp Co.
- KC Pretzel Boy’s
- Nifty Promotions
- Oak Park Mall
- Paint Nail Bar
- Parisi Coffee
- Q39
- Riordan Clinic
- Safely Delicious, LLC
- Scheels
- Sherwin-Williams Paint Co.
- Slush Your Mouth!
- Smart Home Lending
- The Arts and Recreation Foundation of Overland Park
- The Brass Onion
- Villa Medici
- Yoga Six
- Zaxby’s
**Diplomat Q&A**

Chris Curtis, Candlewood Suites

I work as the Director of Sales and Marketing for **Candlewood Suites** off 135th Street. Building relationships, and creating value for our clients, is the best part of the job. It’s really all about solving a problem that our clients face on a continual basis.

Q: Why are you a Chamber Diplomat?
A: I love the depth this Chamber offers its members. There is so much to do, it may seem daunting, but it is really an opportunity to explore which programs work best for your company.

Q: What has been your favorite benefit or moment as a member of the OP Chamber?
A: Being able to connect people. Networking is the name of the game, and helping different members connect with the right people, at the right time, is an awesome feeling.

Q: What is the best advice you’ve received?
A: “What does that have to do with me?” Best line I ever heard from a client. No matter how much stuff is going on in everyone else’s lives, you should always focus on what’s in front of you. It is easy to get distracted with things.

Q: What is your hidden talent or ability?
A: I speak Mandarin. Studied in high school, and I have stuck with it ever since.

Q: What book/movie are you recommending?

Q: What are you passionate about in life?
A: Food. I love everything about the combination, style, technique, or process used for great food. Add great company to that, and you’ve got a winning combination.

Q: Who is a role model for you?
A: My Mom. She has always been a positive role model for me. Pushing me, when I didn’t know I needed it, and supporting me even more when I did. It has never been a smooth road, but she will always be a beacon for me at the end. This one’s for you, Mom.

To find out about becoming a Chamber Diplomat, contact Stacey Cowan at (913) 766-7604 or scowan@opchamber.org.

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**Member Renewals**

*We thank these companies for reinvesting in the Overland Park Chamber in October 2019:*

**50+ Years**
- AT&T

**40-49 Years**
- JE Dunn Construction Company
- Varnum/Armstrong/Deeeter, L.L.C.

**20-39 Years**
- Axcet HR Solutions
- Crawford Sales Company
- Georgetown Apartments L.L.C.
- Hyatt Place Metcalf
- PC Partners, Inc.
- Southcreek Office Park
- SPX Cooling Technologies
- United Way of Greater Kansas City

**10-19 Years**
- Arvest Bank
- Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.
- Crowley Furniture
- Online Trading Academy
- SIMSdirect LLC
- Tickets For Less

**5-9 Years**
- Accrisoft
- Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball
- BluHawk Dental Group
- Burroughs Endodontics
- Google Fiber
- Honeywell FM&T
- Jason’s Deli
- KC Hemp Co.
- Kutak Rock LLP
- Mickey “The Cotton Candy Man”
- Mid-America Orthopedics Kansas City
- Naka-Kon Japanese Cultural Education Association
- StaffBridge Technology
- State Farm
- Tick Tock Escape Rooms
- Zaxby’s

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**Wednesday Wake-up**

*A Business Before Hours*

hosted on November 13 by

**HCA Midwest Health**

**OVERLAND PARK REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

Melissa Dacus and Michelle Phillips,
**Hampton Inn & Suites Overland Park South;**
Bekki Diefendorf,
**Panera Bread;** Jake Akehurst,
**Johnson County Community College.**

Attendees toured the hospital’s new electrophysiology lab to learn about the region’s most advanced technology robotic catheter ablation system to treat irregular heartbeat.
Welcome new members!

We are pleased to introduce these new Chamber members:

American Heir, Inc.
James Michael
11111 West 95th Street, Suite 245
Overland Park, KS 66214
(913) 638-7310
info@americanheir.com
www.americanheir.com
Legal Services

Delmar Gardens of
Overland Park
Marie Winter-Calvillo, Administrator
12100 West 109th Street
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 469-4210
mwcalvillo@delmargardens.com
www.delmargardens.com
Skilled Nursing Facility, Rehabilitation Services

Likens & Haines, P.A.
Jamea Haines, Partner
5370 West 95th Street
Prairie Village, KS 66207
(913) 383-6030
jhanies@likens-haines.com
Attorneys, Real Estate

Del Mar Gardens of Overland Park

Back On Track Chiropractic + Acupuncture
Dr. Callan Martin, Chiropractor
9904 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 276-0508
drmartin@backontrackkc.com
www.backontrackkc.com
Chiropractic Physicians-D.C., Acupuncturists

Madison Overland Park Townhomes
Charissa Mallory, Community Manager
13900 Newton Street
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 681-1572
overlandpark@maglp.com
www.madisonoverlandpark.com
Real Estate-Management, Apartments

Brain Balance
Ann Cahill, Executive Director/Owner
6414 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66214
(913) 627-9400
www.brainbalancekc.com
Educational Services, Youth Organizations and Centers
Refereed by Dr. Michael Cartwright, Cleveland University

Easyvet Clinic
Dr. Leeza Jones, Owner & Veterinarian
10130 West 119th Street
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 800-8862
info105@easyvet.com
https://veterinarian-overlandparkks.com
Veterinary Clinics & Hospitals, Animal Health

Falafel Express
Alexandra Leugoud, Owner
7805 West 151st Street
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 730-8991
falafel.express.kc@gmail.com
www.falafelexpresskc.com
Restaurants

McDonalds-87th Street
Rebecca Snyder, Marketing Manager
9717 West 87th Street
Overland Park, KS 66215
(913) 424-7914
rebecca.snyder@us.stores.mcd.com
www.mcdonalds.com
Restaurants, Food Service

McLain’s Markets Inc.
Kayla Cacy, Sales and Marketing Director
10695 Roe Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66207
(913) 242-8222
kayla@mclainsbakerykc.com
www.mclainskc.com
Restaurants, Caterers

Overland Aero
Phillip Miller, Owner
Overland Park, KS 66209
(913) 593-7970
Overlandaero@gmail.com
Aerial Photography, Photography

Strauss Peyton
Jonathan Braswell, Owner/Portrait Artist
11836 Quivira Road
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 649-1595
jonathan@strausspeytonkc.com
www.strausspeytonkc.com
Photography, Interior Design

Worlds of Fun
Erin Moffett, Account Executive
4545 NE Worlds of Fun Drive
Kansas City, MO 64161-9302
(816) 303-5133
erin.moffett@worldsoffun.com
www.worldsoffun.com
Amusement Places, Entertainment

Worth Clark Realty
Stephanie Harris, Real Estate Agent
10580 Barkley Street, #410
Overland Park, KS 66212
(913) 927-1967
homesbyharriskc@gmail.com
www.stephanieharris.worthclark.com
Real Estate - Residential
Refereed by Sidra Connell, Jason’s Deli

Some of our newest members were recognized with plaques at last month’s Wednesday Wake-up hosted by Overland Park Regional Medical Center. Receiving plaques from Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen and Chamber Membership Director Stacey Cowan were Tara Markley, Johnson County K-State Research and Extension; Jonathan and Kaela Braswell, Strauss Peyton; Clark Thompson, Network Tech; Mollie Lothman and Kayla Cacy, McLain’s Market; Neal Huston, Genesis Health Clubs; Jessica Foster, Revolve at OneFifteen; Dr. Callan Martin, Back On Track Chiropractic + Acupuncture; Margaret Bedwell and Nicole Satterwhite, Willoughby Design; Phillip Miller, Overland Aero; Mallory Hirner, Award Decals, Inc.; Jana Kaiser, Golden Belt Beef; Alan R. Stetson, Estate Planning Attorney; Mary Kaye Faubion, The Great Frame Up in Overland Park; Erin Moffet, Worlds of Fun.

The Chamber joined several businesses in participating in Scheel’s Trick or Treat event, which was attended by about 1,300 children and parents.
Diplomat Q&A
Heidi Williams, Spectrum Business
I am a small business account executive for Spectrum Business. I help small businesses with their phone, internet and cable needs.

Q: Who do you find is a best connection / partner for you in business?
A: Honestly, anyone who needs internet, phone, and/or cable … or that has a business service that uses those products.

Q: Why are you a Chamber Diplomat?
A: I love meeting new people and finding ways I can help them beyond what I can provide from Spectrum. Connecting people is the best part of my job/day.

Q: What has been your favorite benefit or moment as a member of the OP Chamber?
A: Meeting others who are like-minded in business/personal goals is a huge benefit of the Chamber.

Q: What is the best advice you’ve ever received?
A: Don’t give up! Make that extra call. Walk in that additional door. Believe in yourself! Fav quote: “Whether you think you can or you can’t, you’re right” by Henry Ford.

Q: What is your hidden talent or ability?
A: I actually grew and trained in ballet with ballet companies throughout the United States. Retired young and now I teach choreography around KC.

Q: What do you consider your greatest achievement (so far)?
A: My daughter, Deanna … even though she’s in her terrible threes, she is my world and I love every minute I have with her.

Q: Who is somebody you look up to as a role model and why?
A: JK Rowling, not just because I love the whole Harry Potter world … but she does so much for others and uses her success to bring good to the world.

Q: What is your motto?
A: Don’t let someone else dull your sparkle!

To find out about becoming a Chamber Diplomat, contact Stacey Cowan at (913) 766-7604 or scowan@opchamber.org.

BOLLYWOOD
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

City Councilmember Chris Newlin helped Tim Burkholder, store manager, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the opening of the newest ALDI, 15891 Metcalf Avenue. For more info: www.aldi.us.

City Council President Terry Happer Scheier, Councilmember Chris Newlin and Chamber Membership Director Stacey Cowan helped Megan Tjernagel, CEO of Eller Enterprises; Jeremy Murray, executive director; and other hotel reps celebrate a ribbon cutting for My Place Hotel, 8983 West 135th Street. For more info: (913) 897-8996 or www.myplacehotels.com.

City Councilmember Faris Farassati, Chamber Membership Director Stacey Cowan and Chamber Diplomats helped Liverpool jeans founder Ron Perilman and Oak Park Mall reps celebrate the opening of Liverpool Los Angeles, a pop-up store in Oak Pak Mall. For more information, click here or click here.

City Councilmember Faris Farassati and Chamber Senior Vice President Beth Johnson helped Denise Kruse, CEO; Stacy Rose, COO; and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the new offices of AdamsGabbert, 10975 Benson Drive, Suite 100. For more info: (913) 735-4390 or www.adamsgabbert.com.

Building Permits in Overland Park

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– City of Overland Park

Unemployment

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(These percentages are not seasonally adjusted)
– Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC)

Overland Park Retail Sales
August 2019
Thank you to our 2019 Sponsors!

Corporate Partners

AdventHealth
BLACK & VEATCH
Central Bank of the Midwest
EMPOWER™ RETIREMENT
Menorah Medical Center Overland Park Regional Medical Center

Sprint

Corporate Sponsors

Affinis Corp
CommunityAmerica Credit Union
Evergy
FNBO-First National Bank of Omaha
Foulston Siefkin LLP
JE Dunn Construction Company
Johnson County Community College
Kansas Gas Service
Saint Luke’s Health System
The University of Kansas Edwards Campus

Leadership Circle Sponsors

AdamsGabbert
Fortune Financial Advisors, LLC

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

Member News

During one of her “Sharice’s Shifts,” U.S. Representative Sharice L. Davids visited YRC Worldwide and traveled with a YRC driver to the Kansas Highway Patrol in Olathe to deliver child car safety seats donated by YRC for distribution to needy families.

During the holiday season, Harvesters encourages you to add a Check-Out Hunger donation to your grocery bill when shopping at Hy-Vee and Price Chopper stores.

Cleveland University-Kansas City has been awarded a $75,000 grant to construct a teaching and learning center on its Overland Park campus.

Johnson County Community College has received a grant for its Commercial Driver’s License training program to provide tuition-free scholarships for veterans and their immediate family members.

FNBO-First National Bank of Omaha recently awarded $1.04 million in community development grants, and more than $70,000 went to Kansas organizations to support workforce initiatives.

WaterOne has been recognized with a Sustainable Water Utility Management award.

George Katz is the new general manager of the Marriott Kansas City Overland Park.

Veracity Consulting, Inc., has hired Chris Barr as vice president of federal operations to lead a new office opening in Washington, D.C.

TPP Certified Public Accountants, LLC, has hired Hallie Webel as a staff accountant.

Steve Anchord, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, received Premier Inc.’s annual Illuminating Excellence Award.

To submit member news, click here.
To submit events, click here.