The Overland Park Chamber Foundation recently announced the creation of the Ben Craig Leadership Center at the Chamber Foundation Building in Corporate Woods. Scheduled for completion this month, the glass-walled conference room honors community leader Ben Craig for his lifetime of service to the business and quality of life interests of Johnson County. The Center is a collaboration between the Overland Park Chamber Foundation and Central Bank of the Midwest. Joining Ben Craig for the announcement of his namesake conference room at the Chamber Building were Gary Nevius, Momenta PA; Bryan Biggs, Central Bank of the Midwest; Chamber Chairman Brad Stratton, Overland Park Wealth Management; Foundation President Mark McKinzie, Wallace Saunders; Tom Fitzsimmons, Central Bank of the Midwest; and Chamber President Tracey Osborne.

Chamber enhances website functionality

The Chamber recently refreshed the look and functionality of its website, which is now optimized for better functionality on mobile devices. The new web design makes it easier for you to register for events and search for Chamber members on your phone.

New features on the site include an interactive map where you can search for major employers and other categories and a large calendar where visitors can view both Chamber and member events.

Also added were features that provide members with improved online access to add news, jobs, events and special offers - all under the “About Our Members” tab.

The new site also provides social media share links that make it easy for you to repost, retweet and e-mail content on the site.

You can view the site at www.opchamber.org.
FROM THE CHAMBER PRESIDENT

All eyes on growth

I love the Chamber’s location in Corporate Woods. From my office window I witness the changing of the seasons, especially enjoyable as spring advances more rapidly each day. As I write this I see today more foliage than yesterday and bees hovering over the blooms I have missed over the winter months. Spring’s arrival also brings to our office a flood of information – year-end results as well as some first quarter numbers that provide us an opportunity to evaluate where we are as a community and state.

Statewide, we’re falling a little short. As we go to print with this newsletter, Kansas lawmakers are headed back to Topeka for Veto Session where they will grapple with continued shortfalls in our state revenues. Job growth isn’t reaching expectations. From February 2015 to February 2016, the Missouri side of the metro area added 13,900 jobs for a 2.4% growth rate. During the same period, the Kansas side of the metro area added 2,200 jobs, for a growth rate of only 0.5%. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Kansas saw zero growth in state employment for the fourth quarter of 2015.

From February 2015 to February 2016, the state of Kansas lost a total of 5,400 jobs.

In 2015, Kansas grew a mere 0.1%, while the nation’s economy grew 1.9%. Kansas ranked 46th nationally on an Index of State Economic Momentum, according to the Washington-based State Policy Reports. In 2015, Kansas saw a 1.9% improvement in personal income, 44th in the nation. By comparison, the national growth rate was 4%.

In the region the news is brighter. From 2011 to 2014, more than 31,500 jobs were created in Johnson County. In January 2016, Johnson County employment payrolls reached their highest level in a decade. Overland Park accounted for 24% of employment growth in Johnson County for the first two months of 2016. Overland Park’s unemployment rate in December 2015 was 2.9%, the lowest rate since 2000. Johnson County’s unemployment rate was also 2.9%, with the state of Kansas at 3.5% and the national average at 5.5%.

In 2015 we saw the highest construction value totals in Johnson County in ten years and Johnson County accounted for more than 25% of the state’s total sales tax revenue. Home sales are up 10% and home values are up 4.6%. More than 1,600 permits for new single-family homes were reported last year. Closer to home, for the first quarter of 2016, Overland Park has outpaced the first quarter of 2015 by $108 million in commercial permit valuation, and by 560,000 square feet. Residential and commercial growth locally has resulted in positive growth trends forecasted to continue.

Eyes are focused on Topeka to see how legislators will address revenue shortfalls (LLC pass-through fix?) and a proposed détente in the “border war.” Still in question is whether recent legislative action to address school funding will meet the Kansas Constitutional requirement for equitable funding. The Kansas Supreme Court will hear oral arguments May 10, leaving open the possibility for legislative action after the Court’s ruling which could come after sine die.

With several unknowns, our goal for the Veto Session is to focus on actions that drive a pro-growth environment in Kansas, one which focuses upon local control, balanced taxation, quality of life, public education that creates a strong workforce, and a strong infrastructure for our state.

Business Perspective is published monthly by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce.
9001 West 110th Street, Suite 150, Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone: (913) 491-3600 • Fax: (913) 491-0393 • opcc@opchamber.org • www.opchamber.org
Wednesday, May 11
A Business Before Hours
Wednesday, May 11 - 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Hosted by
STRATFORD COMMONS
REHABILITATION & HEALTH CARE CENTER
12340 Quivira Road
This networking event is a great opportunity to see one of our community’s newest options for health care. With state-of-the-art equipment for physical, occupational and speech therapy, Stratford Commons makes the transition from hospital to home smooth. Clients are pampered with private suites, restaurant-style meals and spa services while getting stronger with features like one of Johnson County’s only AlterG anti-gravity treadmills to reduce recovery time.

Series Sponsor: Free for members; $10 for non-members
GRANTHAM UNIVERSITY
To register, click here or call (913) 491-3600

Wednesday, May 4
A Business Before Hours
Wednesday, May 4 - 12:00-1:30 p.m.
Hosted by
THE MIXX
11942 Roe Avenue
Hawthorne Plaza
Enjoy networking and delicious breakfast foods!

Series Sponsor: Free for members; $10 for non-members
GRANTHAM UNIVERSITY
To register, click here or call (913) 491-3600

Wednesday, June 8
A Business Before Hours
Wednesday, June 8 - 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Hosted by
LEADERSHIP OVERLAND PARK
11942 Roe Avenue
Hawthorne Plaza
Enjoy great food and conversations at this networking lunch overlooking the golf course at Brookridge!

$20 for Chamber members only. Space is limited.
To register, click here or call (913) 766-7605.

Sponsorships Available!
GOLF TOURNAMENT
September 8, 2016
Deer Creek Golf Club
For sponsorships: Celia at (913) 766-7603 or cfritzwatson@opchamber.org

Charity Trivia Night
Tuesday, May 3
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Barley’s Brewhaus
11924 West 119th Street
Join other young professionals at Barley’s Brewhaus for our 1st annual charity trivia night, benefiting Growing Futures Early Education Center! Come as a team – or join one at the event.
$7 for Chamber members; $17 for non-members
To register, click here or call (913) 766-7605.

Working Lunch
Wednesday, May 11
12:00-1:30 p.m.
Hosted by
CURTIN PROPERTY COMPANY
at Brookridge Golf & Fitness
8223 West 103rd Street
Enjoy great food and conversations at this networking lunch overlooking the golf course at Brookridge!

$20 for Chamber members only. Space is limited.
To register, click here or call (913) 766-7605.

LEADERSHIP OVERLAND PARK
General Membership Luncheon & Leadership Overland Park Graduation
Thursday, June 23
12:00-1:30 p.m. (check-in begins at 11:30 a.m)
Marriott Overland Park, 10800 Metcalf Avenue
Featured Speaker: Dr. Reggie Robinson
Following a distinguished career as a senior public manager and leader, Reggie Robinson became Director and Professor of the School of Public Affairs and Administration at the University of Kansas in 2014. Robinson’s career has included being inaugural director of the Center for Law and Government at Washburn University, serving as president and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents and Chief of Staff to University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway. He was a White House Fellow and Special Assistant to Attorney General Janet Reno in 1993, and subsequently served in a number of senior positions with the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Prior to law school at KU, he was an active duty field artillery officer in the U.S. Army.

To register, click here or call (913) 491-3600.
We are pleased to introduce these new Chamber members:

**Barsto Construction Inc.**
Dale Harris, Director of Business Development
1501 Burlington Street Suite 201
North Kansas City, MO 64116
(816) 421-5677
Fax: (816) 421-8417
dharris@barstoconstruction.com
www.barstoconstruction.com
Contractors - General

**Door to Door Organics**
Lyn Jenkins, Regional Marketing Specialist
4000 NE 33rd Terrace, Suite 3
Kansas City, MO 64117
(720) 452-5378
lyn.jenkins@doortodoororganics.com
www.doortodoororganics.com
Grocers, Delivery Service

**GrandMark Signs, LLC**
Joe Tindall, Founder & President
11080 Strang Line Road
Lenexa, KS 66215
(913) 245-0007
Fax: (913) 245-0008
joe@grandmarksigns.com
www.grandmarksigns.com
Signs, Marketing Services

**Huntington Learning Center**
Joe Lieberman, Owner
9004 College Boulevard, Suite 15
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 661-7122
Fax: (913) 221-7126
overlandparkks@hlcmail.com
www.overlandpark.huntingtonhelps.com
Educational Services, Tutors

**Mutual of Omaha Bank**
Dianna Mullins-Miller, Community Bank Manager II
700 West 47th Street, Suite 120
Kansas City, MO 64112
(816) 751-6201
Fax: (816) 751-6211
dianna.mullins@mutualofomahabank.com
www.mutualofomahabank.com
Banks

**Potbelly Sandwich Shop**
Jay Dayton, Store Manager
11780 West 95th Street
Overland Park, KS 66214
(913) 660-0351
joseph.dayton@potbelly.com
www.potbelly.com
Restaurants, Caterers

**Reece Nichols - The Rob Ellerman Team**
Brent Sledd, Sr. Sales Executive/VP of Sales
11100 Antioch Road
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 558-5858
brent@reece Nichols.com
www.brentsledd.com
Real Estate - Residential, Real Estate

**SEOMike Consulting**
Michael Black, Owner
8249 West 95th Street, Suite 100
Overland Park, KS 66212
(913) 660-9532
hello@seomike.com
www.seomike.com
Internet Marketing & Advertising

**State Farm Insurance - Shaun Reeves**
Shaun Reeves, Owner-Agent
15050 Antioch Road, Suite 104
Overland Park, KS 66221-8503
(913) 897-3276
Fax: (913) 897-3277
shaun@sfreeves.com
www.sfreeves.com
Insurance, Financial Services

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**Member Renewals**

We thank these companies for their membership reinvestments in March 2016:

**Fisher & Phillips LLP**
Home Association Solutions LLC
Landworks, Inc.
National American University
nXio
Ritz Charles Overland Park, Inc.
Sandstone Creek Apartments

**Chick-fil-A Overland Park**
Comfort Keepers Home Care
Creative Planning Benefits, LLC
Enterprise Bank & Trust
The Forum at Overland Park
The Goddard School
Hinkle Law Firm LLC
MetroMedia, Inc.
Pawz at Play
Scott Rice Office Works
Searles Valley Minerals
TownePlace Suites by Marriott

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**New Members / Reinvested Members**

4 Wheel Parts
Beth Chirrick, Marketing Admin.
6900 West 119th Street
Overland Park, KS 66209
(913) 327-5265
kcan@4wheelparts.com
www.4wheelparts.com
Auto Repair & Service, Retail

Adelman Travel
Barbara Prestage, Business Development/Vacation Advisor
8170 West 135th Street
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 780-0500
bprestage@adelmantravel.com
www.adelmanvacations.com
Travel Agencies & Bureaus

Allegro Ballroom
Tamara Sanders, Owner, Professional Dancer
7105 West 105th Street
Overland Park, KS 66212
(913) 385-0707
allegro.ballroom@yahoo.com
www.allegroballroomkc.com
Dance Instruction, Event Space

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**20+ Years**
API Broadcast Advertising
Bank Midwest
Barley’s Brewhaus-Overland Park
Hampton Inn of Overland Park
Hosfield Benefit Services
Humana, Inc.
Johnson County Library
Johnson County Transit
Morgan Hunter
NSPJ Architects, PA
Overland Park Racquet Club
Pace Products, Inc.
Pearce Construction Company
Shawnee Mission School District
Time Warner Cable Business Class
TranSystems

**10-19 Years**
Associates Solutions, Inc.
COBLE MCCUNE Wealth Management
Leadership class learns about local government operations

Last month, the Leadership Overland Park class participated in sessions on local government and public safety and county government. Local Government and Public Safety Day included an overview of the Emergency Operations Center and fire training and police canine demonstrations. Class members heard presentations by Fire Chief Bryan Dehner, Police Chief Frank Donchez and Public Works Director Brian Shields. The class participated in a mock scenario. In the afternoon, they heard presentations by Deputy City Manager Kristy Stallings, City Manager Bill Ebel and City Council President Paul Lyons. Class members had the opportunity to have dinner with City Council members and attend a City Council meeting. On County Day, the class heard presentations by Johnson County Commission Chairman Ed Eilert, County Manager Hannes Zacharias and District Attorney Steve Howe. Lurena Mead, Johnson County Developmental Supports, led a panel discussion on services provided by the County. At New Century Airport, class members heard from Colin McKee, Johnson County Airport Commission.

Mayor Carl Gerlach, Chamber President Tracey Osborne and dozens of business leaders helped Matt Ryan, President & COO; and his team celebrate the grand opening of iFLY Indoor Skydiving, 10975 Metcalf Ave. Grand opening festivities are taking place today and tomorrow. For more information: (913) 305-4359 or www.iflyworld.com/kansas-city.

While touring the City of Overland Park’s Emergency Operations Center, Allegra Gassman and her fellow LOP class members learned about equipment used by public safety officials.

City Councilmember Dave Janson and Chamber Diplomats helped the Oades family and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for their third location, Oades Brothers Tire & Auto, 7540 Metcalf Avenue. For more information: (913) 232-7878 or www.oadesbrothers.com.

For more information, click the advertisement below.

Visit stemssoiree.org or call 913.322.6467 for more information.
RECENT EVENTS

**Wednesday Wake-up**
A Business Before Hours
hosted on April 13 by

**After Hours**
on March 30 at
Overland Park Xchange (OPx)
hosted by

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Victoria Kidwell, CorporateCare-Shawnee Mission Health; Bylee DeLaurier, Stop Hunger Now; Courtney Foy, InterUrban ArtHouse.

Johnnie Lomonte, Overland Park Funeral Chapel; John Frownfelter, Johnson County Funeral Chapel; Michael Tracy, OMNI Employment Management Services.

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Patty Zimmerman, Village Cooperative of Overland Park; Cathy Weaver, Miracles With Water; Cindy Shelton, Nifty Promotions; Chad Pollard, Kansas Christian College.

Revlyn Alpaugh tells attendees about her organization, Johnson County Young Matrons.

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Chamber representatives helped Patty, Laurie & Dan Santee celebrate the new location of Santee Floral Designs, Inc., at 7102 College Boulevard. Santee has been a Chamber member since 1993. For more information: (913) 642-7800 or www.flowerskc.com.

City Councilmember John Skubal and Chamber representatives helped Lisa Bright, Manager; and Barbara Prestage, Business Development; and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for Adelman Travel, 8170 West 135th Street. For more information: (913) 780-0500 or www.adelmanvacations.com.

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Membership Orientation
Our thanks to these members for their donations to this event:

- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Chick-fil-A Overland Park
- Adelman Travel
Dr. Roy Norton, Consul General of Canada, addressed the Chamber’s Public Policy & Advocacy Committee last month. Dr. Norton discussed the vision of the new Canadian administration, trade opportunities for Midwestern companies in Canada and the benefits of transnational and international economic partnerships.

Roshann Parris, Parris Communications, shared her remarkable experiences leading advance teams accompanying the President and First Lady to more than 60 countries in her presentation on “Life Lessons Learned” as the featured speaker in our Executive Leadership Series sponsored by First National Bank.
Thank you 2016 Corporate Partners and Sponsors for your continued support!

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Overland Park Regional Medical Center

Saint Luke’s South Hospital

Sprint

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First National Bank
JE Dunn Construction Company
Kansas City Power & Light
Kansas Gas Service
Saint Luke’s South Hospital
Stoltz Management
The University of Kansas Edwards Campus

To become a Corporate Sponsor, contact us at (913) 491-3600 or tosborne@opchamber.org.

Member News continued . . .

to Kobe Bryant’s final NBA game after another ticket broker reneged on tickets he had purchased with them. Mize Houser & Company P.A., was named a “Firm to Watch” by Accounting Today, the largest publication focused on the accounting industry. Adventist Health System, which includes Shawnee Mission Health, was recognized in Becker’s Hospital Review’s 2016 “150 Great Places to Work in Healthcare” list.

Overland Park Regional Medical Center received the Vermont Oxford Network 2016 Center of Excellence in Education and Training for Substance-exposed Infants and Their Families. The Cottonwood Group has been acquired by CBIZ, Inc.

Bank of Blue Valley has hired Michael Copeland as the Olathe market president.

United Community Services of Johnson County named Julie K. Brewer its new executive director replacing Karen Wulfkuhle who is retiring after 22 years.

Dr. Marlin Berry will leave his position as superintendent of Olathe Public Schools at the end of June.

The Shawnee Mission School District announced several new principal hires: Kathy Ambrose at Westwood View Elementary, Dominic Flora at Shawanoe Elementary, Ryan Kalis at Rising Star Elementary, Kristin Shipp at Prairie Elementary, Jennifer Woolever at Roesland Elementary, Heath Sigg at Trailridge Middle, and Dave Tappan at Shawnee Mission North.

Jim Wright has joined Terracon as national director of safety and health.

MarksNelson LLC has hired Chris Mattix, CPA, JD, as a senior staff accountant.

Johnnie Lamonte has been promoted to Location Manager at Overland Park Funeral Chapel.

To submit company news, click here or call (913) 766-7601.