November 2019

Be an informed voter on November 5!

VOTEJOCO.com for candidate surveys, interviews and complete information on voting in Johnson County!

U.S. Representative Sharice L. Davids, Mayor Carl Gerlach and Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen joined hospital representatives to break ground for an expansion of AdventHealth South Overland Park at 165th and Antioch in Bluhawk. The new 193,000 square-foot, 85-bed inpatient hospital will provide access to a full suite of hospital and emergency services. The expansion will generate approximately 200 full-time equivalent jobs. For details, click here.

Chamber Calendar

Wednesday Wake-up
Wednesday, November 13 - 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Overland Park Regional Medical Center, 10500 Quivira Road
Free and open to Chamber members only
2019 Series Sponsor: Fortune Financial Advisors

Member Orientation
Tuesday, November 19 - 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street
Free and open to Chamber members only

Working Lunch
Wednesday, November 20 - 12:00-1:30 p.m.
Tabard’s Ale House, 12030 Blue Valley Parkway
$25 per person for Chamber members only
Presenting Sponsor: Spectrum Reach

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
Corporate Table Sponsor: $1,000 for preferred seating for 10
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

To register, click here.

For sponsorship opportunities, click here.

Think Like a FUTURIST

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Keynote Speaker:
Rebecca Ryan
Futurist & Economist
“Human Spark Plug”

Register at www.opchamber.org or call (913) 491-3600

Presenting Sponsor
SECURITY BANK
OF KANSAS CITY

To register, click here.

For sponsorship opportunities, click here.

Ribbon cuttings & groundbreaking

Friday, November 8 - 9:00 a.m.
Liverpool Los Angeles, 11591 West 95th Street in Oak Park Mall

Thursday, November 14 - 4:30 p.m.
My Place Hotel, 8983 West 135th Street

Thursday, November 14 - 5:30 p.m.
AdamsGabbert, 10975 Benson Drive, Suite 100

Wednesday, November 20 - 4:45 p.m.
Align by Design, 11740 West 86th Terrace
A broken record

I really enjoyed the Ken Burns series *Country Music*. The final episode covered country music’s evolution 1984-1996. It catalogued the clash of old versus new, reflecting the time period when by necessity of a lot of rural windshield time I added country music to my playlist.

There was the rise of Garth, and the diversity of stars from Vince Gill to Shania Twain to the resurgence of Johnny Cash as new kinds of music mixed with the rhythm of traditional sounds. Pure country blended with rock, pop and familiar twangs to create new sounds that weren’t universally appreciated. “New Traditionalists” found a way to please these resisters, and they found new fans, too. Think the straightforward style of George Strait, Randy Travis and the Judds.

The theme of the show was “Don’t get above your raisin’.” Perhaps you heard this from someone when you were growing up, most likely from a grandparent. Ricky Skaggs popularized a song by this title in which he complains that his girl “just ain’t what she used to be;” “she’s just a little high headed.” He implores her “be yourself” and “stay here on earth with me.”

Though our teens now aren’t humming this song and I doubt they hear the phrase “Don’t get above your raising” very much, I suspect they do hear variations of the theme, just as I did growing up. The clear messages I got were:
- Don’t forget where you came from.
- Work hard. Every day. No matter how much (or if) you get paid.
- Treat others as you wish to be treated.
- Never stop learning.
- Vote. Always.

We’ve been blessed to live and work in a place that is among the best communities in the nation. We’re so used to being named to the “Best of” lists, we almost don’t pause to celebrate when we make another one. As we head into this season of Thanksgiving, a full list of our blessings would be too long for this space – best in class school systems, colleges and universities, a thriving business community, quality health care, and arts, cultural and recreational opportunities galore.

What’s important to know is these things didn’t just happen.

Decades of strategic leadership from business, civic and government leaders have created this environment of success. We have a long history of collaboration and public/private partnerships that have built our community’s quality of life and economic foundation.

November 5 is a critical election. Regardless of where you live in Johnson County you have important decisions to make on your ballot. There are races in our cities, Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees, Water District Board #1, our School District Boards...each of you has a ballot to cast. These local governing bodies are the closest to you and set the course for your taxes, education of our kids, our future workforce, and delivery of vital services like water, police, fire, and roads. Your vote determines how (or if) our community continues to grow and improve.

(continued on page 4)
President’s Message cont. . .

build. Do you believe that collaboration and strategic planning is important? Then be sure the candidates you support believe that, too. From time to time there are elections that shape the future and this is one of them. What our future looks like depends on the voters. We’ve compiled the candidates’ opinions on business issues in brief interviews and surveys. Check them out at www.VoteJoCo.com and vote. If my life was a country song it might be entitled Broken Record because I’ll remind you again and again that it’s our responsibility to be informed voters. Perhaps that’s why that Country Music episode resonated with me. When I think about how I was raised I know that providing a future for those who come after me begins with casting a ballot for those who will protect and enhance that kind of community. #votejoco

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.

Working Lunch

Wednesday, November 20

12:00-1:30 p.m.

Make new business connections during lunch at Tabard’s Ale House, a locally owned family restaurant. Enjoy a made-from-scratch eclectic menu and world cuisine! They also have more than 80 beers to from which to choose. Attendance at this event is an exclusive benefit for Chamber members only. Space is limited, so reserve your seat now!

$25 per person for Chamber members only.

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

Member Orientation

Tuesday, November 19

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

New members and new employees of existing members are invited to learn about Chamber resources and how to maximize opportunities available to members. Network with fellow members and meet Chamber staff and representatives of the Chamber Board, Economic Development Council and the City.

Register here or call (913) 491-3600.

Sponsored by

Lettiann & Associates

Spectrum REACH
**Diplomat Q&A**

Randy Harris, **Chick-fil-A**

I am the franchise owner and operator of **Chick-fil-A** at 135th and U.S. 69 Highway.

**Q:** Who do you find is a best connection / partner for you in business?  
**A:** Businesses in the hospitality or customer service environment.

**Q:** Why are you a Diplomat?  
**A:** I believe in the Chamber’s objectives around helping all levels/sizes of businesses with growth, connections and positive impact.

**Q:** What has been your favorite benefit or moment as a member of the Chamber?  
**A:** To develop long term relationships with other members via events.

**Q:** Where are you from / what brought you to Overland Park?  
**A:** I grew up in the Olathe area and graduated from high school in 1980. I joined the Navy before graduation and completed nuclear engineering training with service on submarines and aircraft carriers. I worked numerous positions and jobs, but finally found my dream career as a Chick-fil-A franchisee in 2007 and to the present.

**Q:** What is the best advice you’ve received?  
**A:** To lead through service, not because of your position.

**Q:** What recent book / movie are you recommending to others?  
**A:** Author Simon Sinek’s “Leaders Eat Last.”

**Q:** What are you most passionate about?  
**A:** Building leadership teams through investing time and strengths in mentorship, serving others and seeking excellence.

**Q:** Who is somebody you look up to as a role model and why?  
**A:** My father. I saw in him throughout life the living example of the entrepreneurial drive and tenacity.

**Q:** What has been your favorite journey?  
**A:** To develop my Chick-fil-A leadership to a level that allows my wife and I to travel three or four times a year.

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

Throw a holiday party stuffed with hours of game play, a flexible menu and plenty of event space.

topgolf.com/events
Welcome new members!

We are pleased to introduce these new Chamber members:

**Academy Bank**
Derek Sommerer, Business Development Consultant
6976 West 135th Street
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 553-6795
www.academybank.com

**Genesis Health Clubs**
Neal Huston, Club Manager
6700 West 110th Street
Overland Park, KS 66211
(913) 491-4116
www.genesishealthclubs.com
Fitness, Health and Fitness Program Consultants

**Genesis Health Clubs - Metcalf Super Sport**
12075 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 338-2442
www.genesishealthclubs.com
Fitness

**Golden Belt Beef**
Stan Kaiser, Operations Manager
8020 West 151st Street
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 787-1776
admin@goldenbeltbeef.com
www.goldenbeltbeef.com
Retail, Gourmet Food Shops & Specialties

**Grease Monkey**
Scott Bowen, Owner
8200 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66204
(913) 381-9074
sooner.oil.llc@gmail.com
www.Greasemonkeyauto.com
Auto Repair & Service, Race Tracks

**Home2 Suites by Hilton**
Carmella Dooley, General Manager
7121 West 135th Street
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 229-9240
cdooley@kwbhotels.com
https://home2suites3.hilton.com
Hotels

**Journey Chiropractic**
Dr. Jessica Bohlke, Chiropractor & Owner
7418 West 121st Street
Overland Park, KS 66213
(712) 541-9370
journeychirokc@gmail.com
www.journeychirokc.com
Chiropractic Physicians - D.C.

**Liverpool Los Angeles**
11591 West 95th Street
Oak Park Mall
Overland Park, KS 66214
www.liverpooljeans.com
Retail

**Massage AMANI and Spa**
Monique Waters, Owner
7313 West 79th Street
Overland Park, KS 66204
(816) 210-2934
massageamani@yahoo.com
www.massageamani.com
Massage-Therapeutic, Corporate Wellness Program

**Network Tech**
Clark Thompson, New Accounts Executive
15633 South Mahaffie Street
Olathe, KS 66062
(913) 538-7700
clark.thompson@networktech.com
www.networktech.com
Technology, Information Security

**Radisson Hotel Lenexa Overland Park**
Chris Krouse, Director of Sales and Marketing
12601 West 95th Street
Lenexa, KS 66215
(913) 802-2500
www.radisson.com/lenexa-overlandpark
Hotels, Meeting Facilities

**Revolving at OneFifteen**
Jessica Foster, Community Manager
11450 Lamar Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66211
(913) 491-1515
manager@revolve115.com
www.revolve115.com
Apartments

**Sherwin-Williams Paint Co.**
Danny Hamilton, Store Manager
6311 West 119th Street
Overland Park, KS 66209
(913) 663-0192
Sw727619@sherwin.com
www.Sherwin-Williams.com
Retail, Paint

**Smart Home Lending**
Trish Reedy, Mortgage Loan Officer
11900 West 87th Street, Suite 115
Lenexa, KS 66215
(913) 271-2368
trishreedy@smarthomelending.com
www.SmartHomeLending.com
Mortgages, Real Estate

**Willoughby Design**
Megan Stephens, Managing Principal
602 Westport Road
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 561-4189
info@willoughbydesign.com
www.willoughbydesign.com
Advertising, Marketing Services

Some of our newest members were recognized with plaques at last month’s Wednesday Wake-up hosted by Saint Paul School of Theology. Receiving plaques from Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen and Chamber Membership Director Stacey Cowan were Jacquelynn Neat, Employee Benefits Professionals; Bobby Hartley, B&B Theatres Overland Park 16; Danny Hamilton, Sherwin-Williams Paint Co.; Greg Gibson, Evergreen Concepts LLC; Janis Dickey, Farmers Insurance - Matthew Meyers Agency; Sue Buckley, City Publications KC; Dr. Jessica Bohlke, Journey Chiropractic.

Please support fellow Chamber members who have made investments to enhance the prosperity of our community!
HOLIDAY SERVICES

For more details, click advertisement below.

NOTHING Bundt CAKES®

OVERLAND PARK
(913) 239-0252
THE SHOPPES AT DEER CREEK
13420 METCALF AVE
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213

MISSION
(913) 384-2707
6850 JOHNSON DRIVE
MISSION, KS 66202

LEE'S SUMMIT
(816) 525-9000
910 NW BLUE PARKWAY (SUITE Y)
LEE'S SUMMIT, MO 64086

TIFFANY SPRINGS - NORTH KC MO
(816) 382-3800
8930 NW SKYVIEW AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, MO 64154
City Councilmember Faris Farassati, Chamber EDC Director of Recruitment & Retention Tim Holverson helped Chance Crawford and other bank representatives celebrate a ribbon cutting for the newest location of **Academy Bank**, 6976 West 135th Street. For more information: (913) 553-6795 or [www.academybank.com](http://www.academybank.com).

City Councilmember Dave White, Chamber EDC Director of Recruitment & Retention Tim Holverson and Chamber Diplomats helped Aaron Turner, general manager, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the renovation of the **Hampton by Hilton Kansas City/Overland Park**, 10591 Metcalf Frontage Road. For more information: (913) 341-1551 or [click here](http://www.hilton.com).

City Councilmember Faris Farassati, Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen and Chamber Diplomats helped Case Dorman, CEO; and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Fiorella’s**, 9000 West 137th Street. The full-service event venue and catering operation in the former Ritz Charles space at offers a wide selection of cuisine. For more information: (913) 356-5700 or [www.fiorellaskc.com](http://www.fiorellaskc.com).

City Councilmember Faris Farassati, Chamber EDC Senior Vice President Beth Johnson and Chamber Diplomats helped Dr. Loren Liming, his family and team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Virtue Chiropractic**, 6511 West 119th Street. Dr. Liming uses state-of-the-art technology while offering a holistic approach to health and wellness focused on care for the entire body so clients can enjoy a higher standard of healthy living. For more information: (913) 240-4833 or [www.virtuechiro.com](http://www.virtuechiro.com).

City Councilmember Faris Farassati, Chamber Vice President Kevin Walker and Chamber EDC Director of Recruitment and Retention Tim Holverson helped Danny Hamilton, Store Manager, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **Sherwin-Williams Paint Co.**, 6311 West 119th Street in Overland Park. For more information: (913) 663-0192 or [www.Sherwin-Williams.com](http://www.Sherwin-Williams.com).
HOLIDAY SERVICES

For more details, click advertisement below.

Deck The Tables

WITH OUR NEW EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAY CATERING PACKAGE:
DELIVERY / SET UP SERVICE: $17.95 PER PERSON  |  FULL SERVICE: $25.95 PER PERSON  |  ON-SITE DINING: $30.00 PER PERSON

VISIT Q39KC.COM/CATERING TO VIEW THE FULL MENU.

MIDTOWN: 816.255.3753 EXT 3  |  SOUTH: 913.951.4505 EXT 3
Q39KC.COM  |  FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL @Q39KC
Sponsor Spotlight:

KCP&L and Westar Energy merged to bring you Evergy, evolving to create more savings, sustainable energy and solutions that meet your needs.

“This is an exciting time for our company,” Terry Bassham, president and chief executive officer, said. “Last year we merged KCP&L and Westar to form Evergy, and we are proud to start using our new name in the communities we serve. The merger has brought savings to customers through lower base rates and rebates. Together we are well positioned to be a leading energy company providing our customers with energy from renewable sources and offering innovative programs to meet their needs.”

Because electricity is an essential part of daily lives, the energy industry continues to evolve to meet the needs of its customers and the environment.

Evergy is focused on moving energy forward, offering innovative solutions and providing reliable and safe energy to you.

Evergy commits to energy solutions and choices

Ensuring you have choices to fit your lifestyle, Evergy strives to make your experience effortless and fulfilling as it works alongside you to offer innovative solutions and meet your needs.

Evergy provides energy and service efficiently

That means more savings for you, no changes to base rates in Kansas for at least five years and smaller, less frequent rate-change requests for all in the future.

Evergy embraces alternative energy sources

To generate more power with less impact on our environment, nearly half of the power Evergy provides to homes and business is emissions-free.

Evergy.com is available for customers to find company information and access secure account services. The company will continue to offer service updates and other information through social media – Evergy on Facebook and @evergypower on Twitter.
At last month’s Economic Development Investors Lunch, our Economic Development Council Investors heard from consultant Kate McEnroe. Her Chicago firm offers full-service location selection and economic development consulting that focuses on geographic and market position strategies that support the aspirations of companies, communities, and individuals. The opportunity to hear industry professionals is one of the benefits of being an Overland Park Chamber Economic Development Council (EDC) Investor. You can learn more about the EDC on the Chamber website at www.opchamber.org/economicdevelopment/about-the-edc or contact Chris Jackson at cjackson@opchamber.org or (913) 766-7605.

**Overland Park partners with Digital Sandbox to support entrepreneurs**

Overland Park recently became a partner with Digital Sandbox KC to catalyze smart and dynamic entrepreneurs. Funding from the City of Overland Park will support entrepreneurs based in our city.

Digital Sandbox KC is a proof-of-concept program that significantly and rapidly moves early-stage entrepreneurs from concept to commercialization. It is a unique collaboration among private, public, university/research and philanthropic organizations.

Beth Johnson, senior vice president of the Overland Park Chamber, will coordinate the program in Overland Park. “It is young, growing companies that develop the future leaders of Overland Park’s business community and drive new innovation,” says Johnson. “By providing a base of funding that accelerates smart, talented individuals and the teams they build to develop viable ideas into functioning businesses, Digital Sandbox KC plays a critical role in helping businesses scale and finding the best ways to integrate business with burgeoning new technologies.”

Since its inception in 2013, Digital Sandbox KC has provided project development funding for 121 area startups.

For more information, contact Beth Johnson at bjohnson@opchamber.org.

Wendy Doyle, president and CEO of the Women’s Foundation, was the featured speaker last month in our Executive Leadership Series, which is sponsored by First National Bank.

**Building Permits in Overland Park**

<table>
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<th>New Commercial</th>
<th>Institutional, Schools</th>
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<td>Square Feet</td>
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– City of Overland Park

**Unemployment**

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<th>Sept. 2019</th>
<th>Sept. 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Overland Park</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson County</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City Metro MSA</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of Kansas</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(These percentages are not seasonally adjusted)*

– Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC)

**Overland Park Retail Sales**

July 2019
Thank you to our 2019 Sponsors!

Corporate Partners

Affinis Corp
CommunityAmerica Credit Union
Evergy
First National Bank
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

Corporate Sponsors

Advent Health
BLACK & VEATCH
Central Bank of the Midwest
EMPOWER Retirement
FCA

Leadership Circle Sponsors
AdamsGabbert
Fortune Financial Advisors, LLC

Member News

Evergy is the new brand for the merger of Kansas City Power & Light and Westar Energy.

Johnson County Community College received a grant to provide tuition-free scholarships for veterans and immediate family members in its commercial driver’s license training program.

First National Bank has awarded $1.04 million in community development grants including more than $70,000 to Kansas organizations to support workforce initiatives.

The Overland Park Convention Center was named a top 20 convention center in the nation by EXHIBITOR Magazine.

The U.S. Department of Education recognized Shawnee Mission’s Corinth Elementary School and Blue Valley’s Lakewood Elementary School as 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools.

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

Johnson County Community College has been named a Top Performer in the 2019 Sustainable Campus Index.

Affinis Corp has named Kristen Leathers-Gratton as president.

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball has named Andrew Bazzelle as a senior manager and hired Michael Tyll as a staff accountant.

John Fuller has been appointed a DLR Group Managing Principal, making him one of four senior leaders overseeing 1,200 employees and 30 offices around the globe. He is the first managing principal in the agency’s 53-year history who is not an architect or engineer.

Michelle Zech is the new vice president of human resources business partner for the Mid-America Region of AdventHealth.

Riordan Clinic has hired Dr. Gael Wheeler D.O. in Overland Park.

Lisa Ragan, Safely Delicious LLC, won the Shirley Marx Pitch Competition at the Women’s Business Development Center’s Signature Conference.

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