

## A celebration decades in the making



Kansas Governor Laura Kelly joined Representative Sharice Davids, the Kansas Department of Transportation, Mayor Curt Skoog, Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen and other state and local officials to celebrate the opening of Kansas' first express lanes on the [U.S. 69 Express](#) corridor in Overland Park.

The completed project is the culmination of more than 20 years of collaboration, advocacy and planning by Federal, State, Local and Chamber representatives. [Read more](#)

## Chamber salutes business leaders



[Kristy Stallings](#), Overland Park Deputy City Manager, received this year's **Ben Craig Vision Award** for her decades of work that helped bring dozens of major projects and thousands of jobs to Overland Park.



Chamber Senior Vice President [Libbey Tucker](#) recognized [Courtney Kounkel](#), [Monarch Build](#), for serving as 2025 Economic Development Council Chair.

## Chamber Board

### Board Officers:

David Freisner, Chair  
Konza Global Wealth Group

Matt Sogard, Chair-Elect  
Overland Park Regional Medical Center

Hyleme George, 1st Vice Chair  
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Will Mann, 2nd Vice Chair  
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Matt Sheets, Secretary  
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Kristen Leathers-Gratton, Treasurer  
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Kim Winslow, Past Chair  
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### Board Members:

Phil Bressler, Rhycom Advertising

India Boulton, T-Mobile

Reagan Cussimano, The University of Kansas  
Health System

Brian Goldman Ruiz, Taco Naco

Gretchen Ivy, HNTB Corporation

Scott Kautzi, Q39

Pat Kellerman, Shamrock Trading Corporation

Courtney Kounkel, Monarch Build, LLC

Mike Levitan, Lane4 Property Group

Matt Makes, Turner Construction

Ryan Matthews, Kansas City National Security  
Campus

Rich Muller, VanTrust Real Estate

Billy Oades, Oades Brothers Tire & Auto

Ben Prell, MTC Holding Corporation

Cindy Shelton, Nifty Promotions

Dana Streck, WellSky Corporation

Josh Wetzig, DLR Group

Lily Zamora, Compass Minerals

### Ex-Officio Board:

Jim Holland, Fisher Phillips LLP

Matt Huderski, Shamrock Trading Corporation  
[2026 Economic Development Council Chair]

Lori Curtis Luther, City of Overland Park

Dr. Tony Miksa, Johnson County Community  
College

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, Chamber

Dr. Michael Schumacher, Shawnee Mission  
School District

Mayor Curt Skoog, City of Overland Park

Warren Wilkinson, Visit Overland Park

Dr. Ben Wolfe, Kansas State University Olathe

## Chamber staff

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, IOM, President & CEO

Celia Byers, Senior Director of Programming &  
Partnerships

Courtney Cavlovic, Workforce Development  
Coordinator

David Dyer, Membership Director

Craig Finn, Vice President of Finance &  
Administration

Izzy Hagen, Director of Marketing

Stan Lawson, Communications Director

Imani Lemon, Economic Development Coordinator

Katie Lindgren, Economic Development Director

Hannah Melton, Assistant Director, Member  
Services

Libbey Tucker, CECd, Senior Vice President of  
Economic Development

Wil Ullmann, Public Policy Coordinator

Kevin Walker, CCE, IOM, Executive Vice President  
& Chief Policy Officer

Serenity Wallace, Executive Assistant

Andrew Weisberg, Director of Talent

**Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE, IOM**  
Chamber President



## Get ready for a soccer summer!

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**The excitement is building as Kansas City prepares to welcome the world this summer for the world's largest soccer celebration – a series of events expected to bring unprecedented energy, visitors and opportunities to our region.**

With less than 100 days until this historic moment, it's crucial for local businesses, organizations, and residents to get informed and engaged. Fortunately, we have a wealth of resources to assist you in making the most of this global event.

First, the [Chamber's KC2026 resource page](#) is a one-stop shop of information. If you haven't heard about the Chamber's micro grant for small businesses, [find the link here](#). The grants are a great way to kick-start your soccer season preparations, but don't wait; the deadline to apply is March 15.

You'll also find important deadlines for hosting events and permitting, along with FIFA guidelines which have specific guardrails. So, check these out before you plan special events or promotions.

KC2026, the official host committee for Kansas City's efforts, provides comprehen-

sive toolkits for businesses eager to get involved and to prepare. Their [website](#) features news, event timelines and a "Get Involved" section outlines ways local companies can participate – from hosting watch parties and pop-up events to volunteering and engaging in city-wide promotional efforts. The committee regularly hosts informational workshops to increase business preparedness. Check out their "[KC Game Plan](#) Playbook" for specifics – [click here](#).

The question I've fielded the most is about transportation. There are some terrific collaborations happening in this arena, many here locally. We'll be able to utilize the [ConnectKC26](#) official bus service to get to the Fan Fest and to matches at Arrowhead Stadium. A new service provided by Johnson County and the cities of Overland Park and Lenexa and branded as Johnson County United, will offer "drop and ride" service to and from KCI with stops at the Overland Park Convention Center and Lenexa City Center. The pilot period begins May 1. The service isn't limited to trips related to soccer travelers, but is also intended to test whether public transportation to and from the airport is desired by the community. Find more details and additional local events and resources at [Johnson County United](#).

*(continued on page 5)*



# Upcoming events

## Wednesday Wake-up

**Wednesday, March 11** – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

[Bikanervala](#), 8669 West 135th Street

Make connections and foster lasting business relationships at our monthly networking coffee.

This event is a great opportunity to experience a variety of authentic Indian vegetarian food and traditional sweets plus Mango Lassi and milk flavored with almonds and pistachios.

Free for Chamber members.

[Register](#)



## Small Business Council presents Human vs. AI: Who wins Workforce?

**Thursday, March 26** – 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Overland Park Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street

Who does it better – human or AI? Join local business owners, entrepreneurs, talent professionals and innovators for an engaging roundtable on how artificial intelligence is transforming the way we hire, operate and plan for the future. This open discussion format features a human moderator, Anna Hennes of [Dovetail Talent Solutions](#), plus an AI sidekick ready to compete for the future of the human workforce.

Explore how AI tools are reshaping recruitment, streamlining operations and redefining long-term strategy for small businesses navigating rapid technological change.

[Register](#)



## Ribbon cuttings

**March 4** – [U.S. Bank grand re-opening](#), 4901 West 119th Street – 11:00 a.m.

**March 5** – [Groundbreaking](#) for [Mr. D's Donuts](#), north of 14521-14577 Metcalf Avenue – 2:00 p.m.

**March 6** – [Tap Ins at the Greenhouse](#), 9571 Metcalf Avenue – 2:00 p.m.

**March 26** – [Chamberlain University](#), 6130 Sprint Parkway, Suite 300 – 10:30 a.m.



## Mayor's State of the City

**Tuesday, March 10** – 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Boulevard

Join us to hear Mayor Skoog present his annual State of the City Address, followed by a reception with beverages and hors d'oeuvres.

[Register](#)

**Presenting Sponsor**



**Community Partner**



**Silver Sponsors**

**KUTAKROCK**

**TRUITY**  
A Better Way to Bank

**Bronze Sponsor**



## A Guide to Real World Learning for Employers

**Thursday, March 12** – 12:00-1:00 p.m.

OP Chamber, 9001 West 110th Street

Join us for a lunch and learn, hosted in partnership with [Olathe Public Schools](#), to explore the power of school district-businesses partnerships and the many ways employers can plug into their Career Pathways.

[Register](#)



## Young Professionals: Keys to Your First Home

**Tuesday, March 24** – 12:00-1:30 p.m.

[Bartlett & West](#), 10895 Grandview Drive

During this lunch program for young professionals, a panel of industry experts breaks down the home buying process in simple, practical terms.

Lunch is included.

[Register](#)

**Platinum Sponsor:** [Hill's Pet Nutrition](#)

**Bronze Sponsor:** [BHC](#)



## State of the County Address & Reception

**Tuesday, April 14** – 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center, 10401 South Ridgeview Road

Mike Kelly, Chairman of the Johnson County Board of Commissioners, will share the latest from Johnson County Government, followed by a networking reception. Connect with hundreds of business leaders and elected officials from throughout Johnson County.

[Register](#)



# Welcome to the Chamber!

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS

### AesthetiCare Med Spa

Laurie Morrissey, Marketing  
9225 Ward Parkway, Suite 200  
Kansas City MO 64114  
(816) 338-7881  
[www.greatskinkc.com](http://www.greatskinkc.com)  
*Spa - Medical*

### Aspen Health and Wellness

Meghann Barrish, Director of Business Development  
6501 West 75th Street  
Overland Park KS 66204  
(913) 383-9866  
Mbarrish@ensignservices.net  
[www.aspenhealthwellness.com](http://www.aspenhealthwellness.com)  
*Rehabilitation Services, Skilled Nursing Facility*

### Aventura Senior Living

Amiee Seck, Executive Director  
5901 West 107th Street  
Overland Park KS 66212  
(913) 901-8200  
Amiee.Seck@spectrumretirement.com  
[www.spectrumretirement.com](http://www.spectrumretirement.com)  
*Senior Care & Living, Retirement & Lifecare Communities & Homes*

### Box N Haul Moving

Kyle Buhner, Owner  
Overland Park KS  
(913) 380-4285  
kyle@boxnhaul.com  
[www.boxnhaul.com](http://www.boxnhaul.com)  
*Movers*

### Budget Tree Pros

Galyna Saltkovska, Owner  
1203 East U.S. Highway 24  
Independence MO 64050-3107  
(816) 967-8131  
[www.budgettreepros.com](http://www.budgettreepros.com)  
*Tree Care*

### Creekside Orthodontics

Kaylee Bergman, Orthodontist  
4425 Indian Creek Parkway  
Overland Park KS 66207  
(913) 529-8620  
hello@creekside-orthodontics.com  
[www.creekside-orthodontics.com](http://www.creekside-orthodontics.com)  
*Orthodontists, Dentists*

### Epiphany Dermatology

Izabella Filippelli, Marketing Coordinator  
8505 College Boulevard  
Overland Park KS 66210  
(913) 541-3230  
[www.epphanydermatology.com](http://www.epphanydermatology.com)  
*Skin Care, Health & Wellness*

### Fiserv

Overland Park KS  
[www.fiserv.com](http://www.fiserv.com)  
*Financial Services*

### Flint Group Agencies

Carlos Ocampo, Account Director  
2101 Broadway Boulevard, Suite 121  
Kansas City MO 64108  
(816) 648-1452  
[www.flint-group.com](http://www.flint-group.com)  
*Marketing Consultants, Website Design*

### Gracie Barra Overland Park Jiu-Jitsu

Austin Cameron, Director of Operations  
9142 West 135th Street  
Overland Park KS 66221  
(913) 961-1850  
<https://gboverlandpark.com/>  
*Fitness, Martial Arts Instruction*

### Highspring

Daniel Fry, Regional Business Development Leader  
6701 West 121st Street, Suite 101  
Leawood KS 66209  
(913) 514-2923  
daniel.fry@highspring.com  
[www.highspring.com](http://www.highspring.com)  
*Business Consultants, Talent Management*

### Homestead of Stanley

Zach Foley, Marketing Manager  
14430 Metcalf Avenue  
Overland Park KS 66223  
(913) 794-3984  
MktgHomesteadOfStanley@midwest-health.com  
[www.midwest-health.com](http://www.midwest-health.com)  
*Assisted Living Facility, Senior Care & Living*

### Hustle & Ground

Joy Broils, CEO  
5440 West 110th Street, Suite 300  
Overland Park KS 66211  
(913) 229-5602  
jbroils@hustleandground.com  
[www.hustleandground.com](http://www.hustleandground.com)  
*Retail, Health & Wellness*

### Kansans for Lower Electric Rates

Paul Snider  
7500 College Boulevard, Suite 1400  
Overland Park KS 66210  
(913) 439-9723  
[www.kansasenergyproblem.com](http://www.kansasenergyproblem.com)  
*Energy Management & Conservation Consultants*

### Noble Dog Training

Benny Smith, Founder  
8101 East 80th Terrace  
Kansas City MO 64138  
(816) 688-3647  
Admin@nobledogtraining.com  
[www.nobledogtraining.com](http://www.nobledogtraining.com)  
*Dog Training*

### Payentry

Royce Martin, Human Resources Business Development Manager  
KC Metro  
(872) 351-5850  
rmartin@payentry.com  
[www.payentry.com](http://www.payentry.com)  
*Human Resource Consultants, Payroll Service*

### Schooley Mitchell

Dave Schukai, Strategic-Partner  
Overland Park KS  
(913) 335-0645  
dave.schukai@schooleymitchell.com  
[www.linkedin.com/in/dave-schukai](http://www.linkedin.com/in/dave-schukai)  
*Business Consultants, Facility Services*

### The Franchise Consulting Company

Angie Salmon, Consultant  
KC Metro  
(913) 558-8975  
asalmon@thefranchiseconsulting-company.com  
[www.thefranchiseconsultingcompany.com](http://www.thefranchiseconsultingcompany.com)  
*Business Consultants*

### The Salvation Army Family Thrift Store

Steven Combs, Director of Retail Operations  
11421 Metcalf Avenue  
Overland Park KS 66210-4015  
(913) 491-0775  
[www.kansascity.satruck.org/kansascityarc](http://www.kansascity.satruck.org/kansascityarc)  
*Charitable Organizations, Retail*

Refer a potential Chamber member to Dave at [ddyer@opchamber.org](mailto:ddyer@opchamber.org) and receive a credit when they join!



## President's Message continued . . .

Now is the time to start planning. Kansas City is unique because we've been chosen to host four Team Base Camps which also will bring thousands of their fans. Check out training sessions and playbooks, prep your staff on culture, spruce up your storefront, and collaborate with other businesses on joint promotions or events to celebrate this rare opportunity.

Together, let's showcase Overland Park's hospitality, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit to the world. Let's seize this once-in-a-generation moment to shine!



City Council Members Amy Antrim and Inas Younis joined the Chamber to help owners Benjamin and Elizabeth Stites and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [7 Brew Coffee Drive Thru Coffee](#), 8721 West 135th Street.

CREDO Coffee at 7 Brew is a locally, family-owned and community-focused part of the 7 Brew family, driven by a mission to build connections and spread kindness through every drink.

For more info: (479) 358-9274.



Chamber Vice President Craig Finn helped owner Emma Snider and her team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Stitch Salon - Luxury Extension](#), 6920 West 135th Street in Corbin Park.

Artistry, innovation and community come together at Stitch Salon. With more than a decade of experience in the Kansas City area, Emma collaborates closely with her talented team to provide personalized extension solutions. In the salon's inclusive environment, every stylist contributes her expertise to ensure you receive the highest quality service.

For more info: (913) 210-6277.

## LOP class studies health and social issues and education

**Our Leadership Overland Park class recently had sessions focusing on health and social issues and education.**

Class members visited locations throughout the community where they engaged with business and community leaders to learn about the many programs and services that help make Overland Park consistently ranked among the best cities in the country to live and work.

**2026 LOP Presenting Sponsor:**



A panel of Johnson County public school superintendents was part of Education Day for our Leadership Overland Park class.

Click below for more information.

LOCAL ART | LIVE MUSIC | GOURMET FOOD | FIREWORKS | SPRING BLOOMS

# A GARDEN SOIRÉE

# Stems

A Cause to Celebrate

AN EVENING OF CONNECTION, IMPACT, AND ENTERTAINMENT

Support the arts, gardens, and cultural programs that enrich Overland Park while connecting with colleagues and local leaders for an evening that celebrates community.

**MAY 16, 2026**  
OVERLAND PARK ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDENS

**Early Bird Sale: Save \$25 on Tickets until April 1**

Visit [www.stemssoirée.org](http://www.stemssoirée.org) for tickets and partnership packages today!

A Fundraiser For:

THE ARTS & RECREATION FOUNDATION OF OVERLAND PARK

# Skills-first approach to revolutionize workforce

Interested in expanding your talent pipelines, reducing time-to hire and increasing employee retention and satisfaction?

Join our next cohort of [Talent Reimagined](#) – a skills-first workforce approach designed to help your organization implement change management.

For details, contact Andrew at [aweisberg@opchamber.org](mailto:aweisberg@opchamber.org).

## Hill's Pet is home base for hundreds of employees

### CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

**For more than 75 years, Hill's Pet Nutrition has been a global leader in pet health driven by a simple mission: to enrich and lengthen the special relationships between people and their pets.**

While known for science-led nutrition, the company reached a major milestone in late 2023 with the move of its global headquarters to Overland Park.

Voted as one of Kansas City's "Coolest Offices" by the *Kansas City Business Journal*, Hill's modern, pet-friendly, employee-first environment reflects its commitment to sustainability, innovation,

inclusion, and well-being while also being a home base for hundreds of employees.

For Hill's, being a good neighbor means more than just business growth—it is about heart. Through its Food, Shelter & Love program, Hill's has provided more than \$300 million in food to shelters throughout North America. By joining the Chamber and engaging in local outreach, Hill's is leaning into its mission to transform lives. As the company celebrates its third year in Overland Park, it is honored to be a part of this community and looks forward to many more years of local partnership and pet-first innovation.

Learn more about [Hill's Pet Nutrition](#).



Hill's employees work in one of Kansas City's "coolest offices."

## Free marketing opportunity

**We are offering a new way to promote your business to Overland Park newcomers!**

The Chamber will host its first-ever [All in Overland Park](#) welcome event to help newcomers feel connected, informed and excited about calling Overland Park home.

We're looking for discount cards, free class passes, small product samples, branded merchandise or informational inserts for the event swag bags.

To participate, contact Izzy at [ihagen@opchamber.org](mailto:ihagen@opchamber.org).

## Thanks for reinvesting!

### MEMBER RENEWALS

#### 50+ Years

Capitol Federal Savings Bank  
Evergy  
Security Bank of Kansas City

#### 40-49 Years

Commerce Bank  
Copaken Brooks  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Stinson LLP

#### 20-39 Years

Agenda: USA  
Casa de Fuentes  
Everfast Fiber Networks, LLC  
PNC Bank  
Residence Inn by Marriott  
WealthPlan Partners

#### 10-19 Years

Kansas City Regional Association of Realtors  
Mazuma Credit Union  
MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital  
PGAV Architects, Inc.  
Quality Inn  
Residences at Prairiefire Apartments  
The Goddard School  
The Ranch at Prairie Trace  
3&2 Baseball Club of Johnson County, Inc.

#### 5-9 Years

Apartment Association of Kansas City  
Arcadia at Overland Park  
Aspiria  
Ball Event Center  
Club 27 Restaurant  
Cosentino's Market - Blue Valley  
Edward Jones - Jim Easley  
Fastsigns Blue Valley  
Fiorella's  
Mercer-Zimmerman Inc.  
Novel Place Senior Living  
OakStar Bank  
Riordan Clinic  
SnapIT Solutions, LLC  
The Vue

#### 1-4 Years

A.L. Huber General Contractor  
Adobe Acrobat  
AARP Kansas  
Bartlett & West  
Brinkmann Constructors  
Colliers International  
Cypress Realty LLC  
DMC Service, Inc.  
Fantastic Sams Cut & Color  
Flooring Systems Inc  
FUEL  
Healthcare IT Leaders  
Lewis and Clark Information Exchange  
Panasonic Connect  
Silver Lake Bank  
SSC CPAs + Advisors  
The DeBruce Foundation  
Wildwood Outdoor Education Center

**We encourage you to support these businesses that are investing in our community!**

This newsletter is distributed by the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, 9001 West 110th Street, Overland Park, KS 66210.  
(913) 491-3600 | Fax: (913) 491-0393  
[opcc@opchamber.org](mailto:opcc@opchamber.org) | [www.opchamber.org](http://www.opchamber.org)



# Congratulations to our EDC Honors Award recipients!

The Overland Park Chamber Economic Development Council recognized nine businesses and organizations and a longtime public servant for their contributions to economic growth in Overland Park at its annual EDC Honors Lunch. The lunch program was held at Johnson County Community College with Taylor Hemness KSHB, as the event emcee.

## Event Sponsors:



Photos by Lisa Wilson,  
TRU Imagery

## Nova Awards



## Arise Homes



## Ascentist Healthcare



## NVisionKC

## Integrated Controls and Engineering

## Business Hall of Honor Awards



## Jewish Community Center Campus

## Commercial Development Awards



## Block Real Estate Services / Galleria 115



## Varnum, Armstrong, Deeter LLC

## Kiddie Academy



## Stone Manor on 79th

To read more about this year's honorees, [click here](#).



## Corporate Partners



MENORAH MEDICAL CENTER  
OVERLAND PARK REGIONAL  
MEDICAL CENTER



## Corporate Sponsors

Affinis Corp

Empower

Evergy

FNBO

Foulston Siefkin LLP

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Company

Johnson County  
Community College

Kansas Gas Service

McCownGordon  
Construction

Security Bank of  
Kansas City

Security Benefit

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](mailto:tosborne@opchamber.org).

## Recent Events



Attendees at the Small Business Council's recent program heard from business owners and community partners about the art of networking and how to show up strategically, not randomly, and build a network through involvement in professional, civic, and philanthropic organizations. The program was led by SBC Co-Chair Rebecca Gubbels, [The Enterprise Center in Johnson County](#).

**Overland Park Young Professionals** recently volunteered with [Harvesters-The Community Food Network](#).

Keep up with Young Professionals on the [LinkedIn group](#)!



### MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS



Wednesday Wake-up hosted by [Evexia](#).



OP After Hours hosted by [AdventHealth Sports Park at Bluhawk](#).