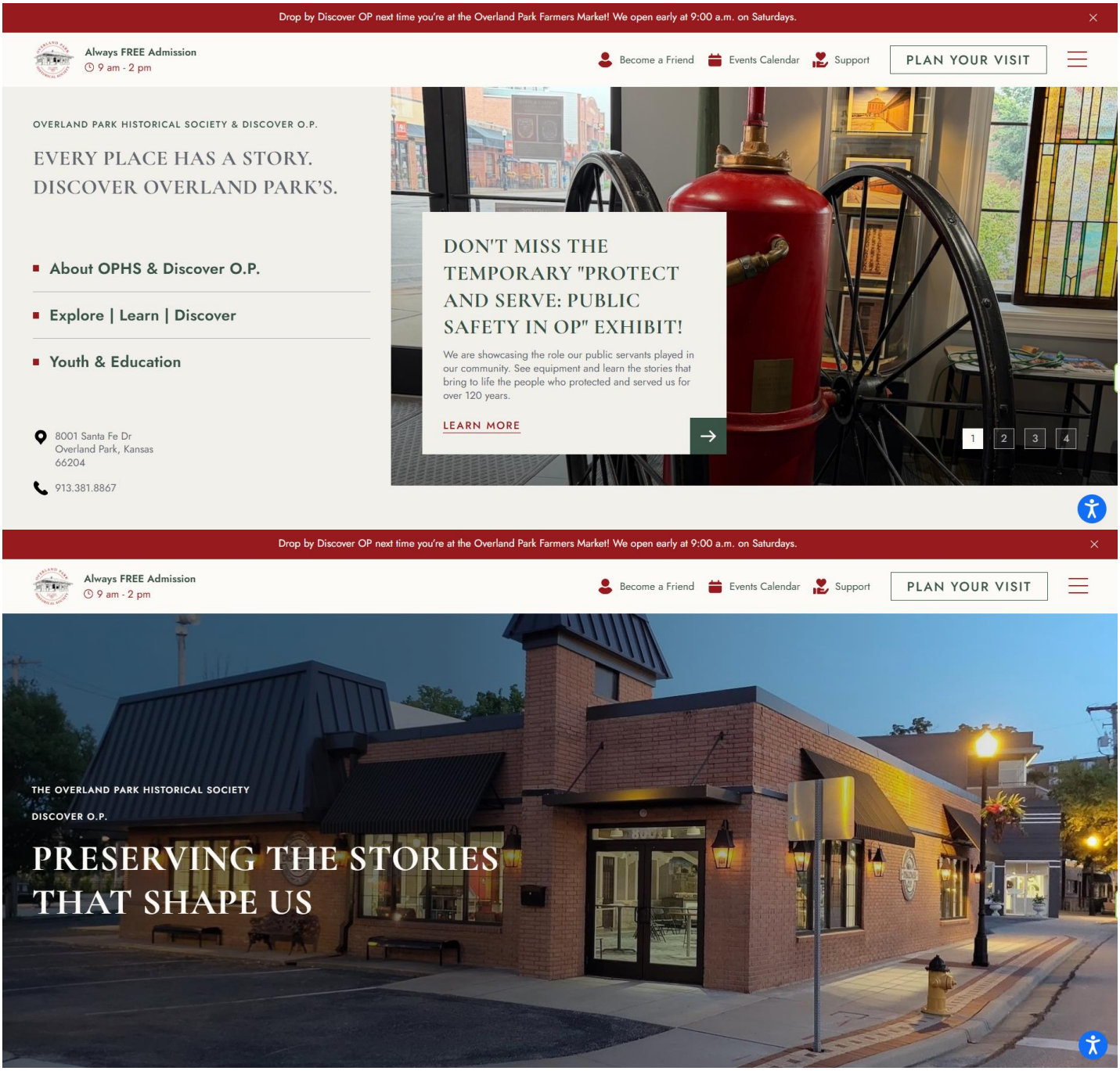
The OPHS News

The Newsletter of the Overland Park Historical Society

Volume 32, Issue 4 | **www.ophistorical.org** | Oct./Nov./Dec. 2026

A New & Refreshed OPHS Website Officially Launched

After several months of planning and development, OPHS is proud to announce the launch of a redesigned website. See page 2 for more information.



A New & Refreshed Website for OPHS

Recognizing the need to update our website to better reflect our future direction and goals for growing our audience and membership, the Board of Directors appointed a committee earlier this year to explore opportunities for a website refresh. Earlier this year the committee met with Lifted Logic, an Overland Park-based, award-winning creative and technical agency known for building highly customized websites and digital experiences for businesses across industries. Lifted Logic was willing to work with OPHS to provide us with an up-to-date website at a very affordable fee. The committee worked with Lifted Logic over the course of the summer to create the new website we proudly launched last month. The new website has all the features of the previous website and so much more, including history blogs, a calendar of events, more photos and easier navigation.

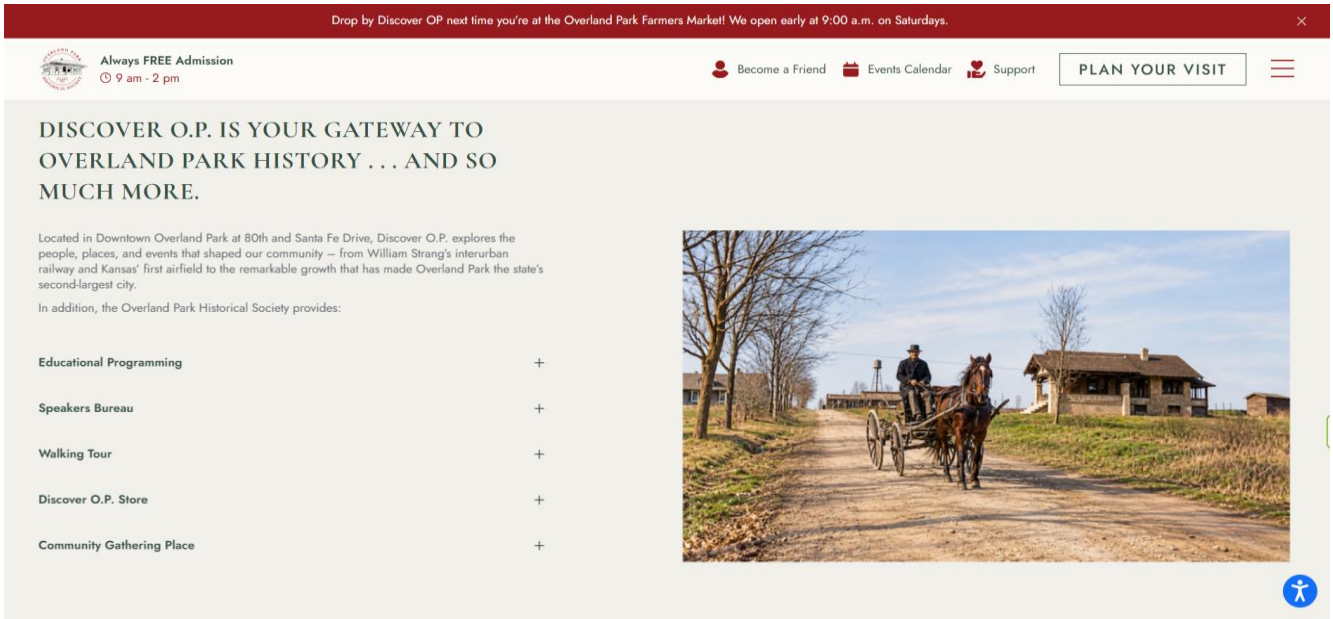
The new website also has a component that can be easily accessed and will allow the user to make a host of changes to the appearance of the screen, whether viewing the website on a cell phone, tablet, laptop or desktop PC. You can change the language to one of over 90 different languages, adjust colors and brightness, sizes of text, and so much more. You will find this special feature easily accessible by clicking on the blue circle icon in the lower right corner of any page on the website. The icon looks like this:



Please note that our website address has NOT changed. It has been, and will remain:

www.ophistorical.org

Our thanks to Lifted Logic and our consultant, Vicki Lilly, for helping the Overland Park Historical Society take this important step in our organizational growth and community outreach. Please explore and enjoy our new website. It is the best way to receive information about upcoming events and activities at Discover O.P.!



President's Message

As I write this, it is "Election Eve" in America! I hope all who read this have, or will, vote to cast your lot for American Democracy. Over the preceding 250 years of our collective history how many elections local, state or national have written the history of our Nation? Some for better, some for worse. But however they went we made, and make, a deliberate choice of who, in this Republic, will represent the American People at every level of government. In short, "WE" the American People, make our own history when we exercise our Constitutional Rights, Civil Liberties and Right to Vote. History is made by our choices at every election.

Your Overland Park Historical Society is an intentional reflection of our local history. In our case, the local history of how Overland Park and its community over time came to be "US". Our local history is a direct reflection of the continuing day to day decisions made by elected and appointed leadership, educators, businesses, financial institutions, craft and trades people, those that protect us in Public Safety and every one of us that have lived here over time.

Our Depot is a developing repository of that history. A place to come and reflect on how our history brought us to today. A place to reflect on how we must build on that history to create our future. To understand that how we create that future depends on how we treat, reflect on and learn the lessons taught by our history. Our history exhibits the tools and decisions that built today. Our history today is the first draft of the blueprints of our community's future!

Your continuing support of the OPHS and its mission to preserve the history we must learn from is critical to our success, creativity, imagination, and growth. We are most grateful! Come see what we are doing and tell your friends about us too!

Rod Richardson, President OPHS

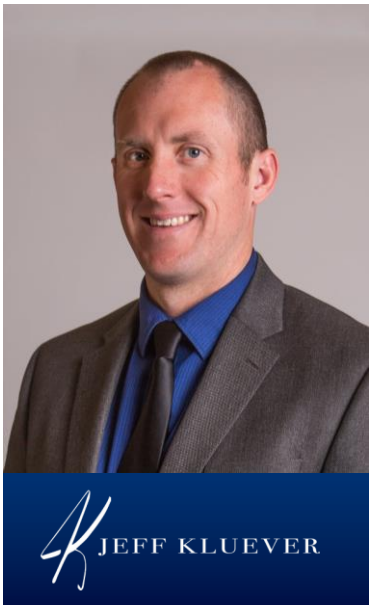
Upcoming Events:

November 14 General Meeting
10:00 a.m. – Noon

Our next membership meeting is November 14, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the American Legion Post at 7500 W. 75th St. Several topics will be discussed at this meeting, including the following:

- An overview of our current temporary exhibit, "Protect & Serve," on display through the end of 2026.
- A presentation by Brad Moore on the history of the Overland Park Police Department.
- Board nominations and election of slate of officers
- An update on the planning of our first Heritage Social, scheduled for August 26, 2027

November 19, 6 – 8 p.m.
Jeff Kluever, Author & Civil War Expert



Freedom Will Be Theirs by the Sword:
The Battle of New Market Heights

On September 29, 1864, fourteen Black men earned the Medal of Honor for their actions charging Confederate earthworks outside Richmond, Virginia, leaving hundreds of their own dead and wounded on the field. Learn the stories of former slaves and freemen who fought valiantly for a country that did not yet consider them citizens.

Jeff Kluever is an author, former museum professional, and Civil War battlefield tour guide. He lives in Norwalk, Iowa, and travels throughout the Midwest giving presentations on all aspects of the Civil War. Please plan to join us at Discover O.P. for this special presentation.

Upcoming Events:

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Make plans now to attend our annual Christmas Luncheon. In addition to a wonderful meal and socializing, there will be music, contests and raffle prizes! You won't want to miss this traditional event!



Menu: Ham, roast beef, vegetables, rolls and desserts, all prepared by the Sons of the American Legion.

Date: Saturday, December 12, 2026
Time: 12:00 noon – 2 p.m.
Location: 7500 W. 75th St. (American Legion Post)
Cost: $20 per person

You may purchase your reservation online by clicking this link:

https://forms.donorsnap.com/form?id=56e79618-6a61-4c22-95d7-774331f6547c

Alternatively, you may mail or deliver a check, payable to "OPHS" to our Discover O.P. headquarters at 8001 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204.

The deadline to secure your reservation is Tuesday, December 8.

Upcoming Events:

Learn about all our upcoming events via our online Events Calendar. Click the link below to stay up-to-date on activities at Discover O.P.:

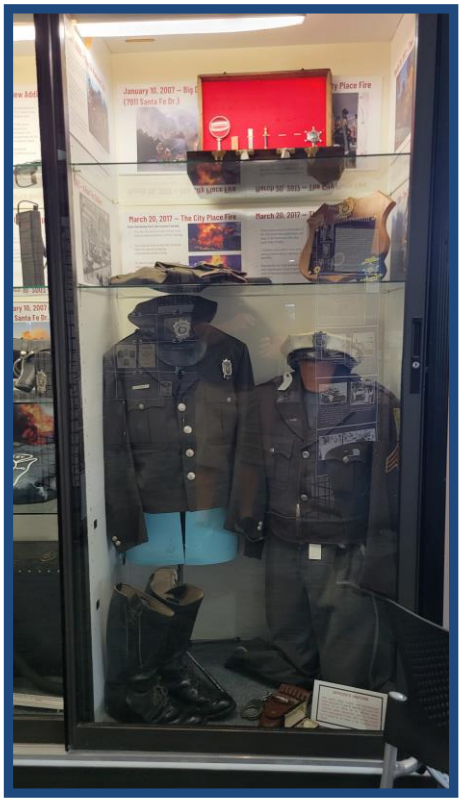
Programs and Events at Discover O.P.

A New Exhibit Through 2026

PROTECT & SERVE:
PUBLIC SAFETY IN OVERLAND PARK

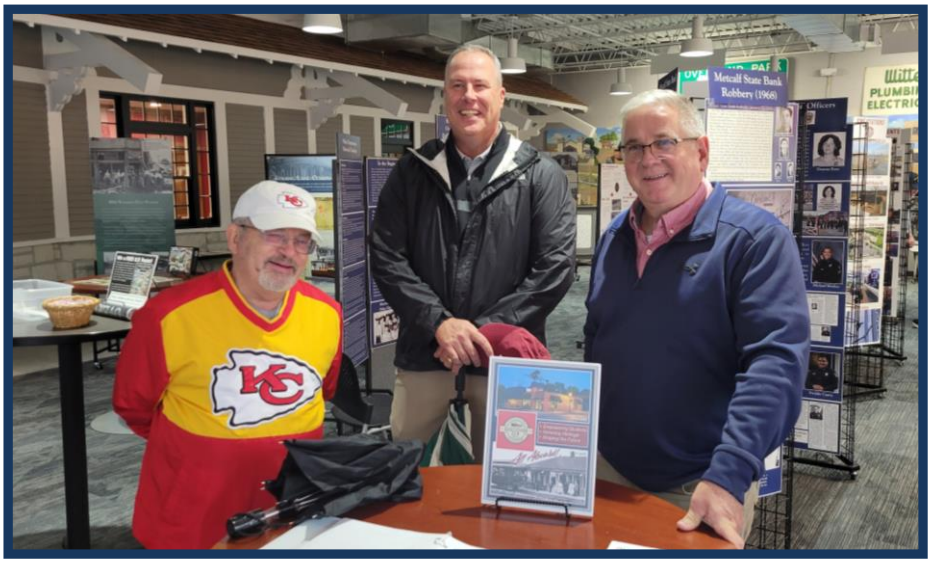
Police, fire, emergency services, and disaster response grew alongside the city. The Discover O.P. exhibition explores how public safety adapted to population growth, new infrastructure, and changing community needs.

October 28 was National First Responders Day, honoring those who answer the call in moments of crisis and serve their communities every day. In conjunction, the Overland Park Historical Society is paying tribute to our police, fire and emergency services with an exhibit titled **"Protect & Serve"** through the end of the year at Discover O.P. Please stop by and enjoy the histories of both the police and fire departments as well as many interesting artifacts on loan from these departments. The exhibit has been very well received by all who have visited, including former members of the departments. The exhibit can be seen during regular operating hours. We hope to see you soon!





A New Exhibit Through 2026









Top Left: OPHS board members Dave White and Jim Francis discuss the exhibit with Fire Chief Dehner.

Above: The police history timeline is explored by Mayor Curt Skoog and his wife, Amy

Left Center: Young visitors proudly wearing their junior helmets.

Lower Left: OPHS board members Jim Francis and Peggy Lee volunteered to assist with opening weekend. Jim was instrumental in helping making this exhibit a reality.

A New Exhibit Through 2026











The appearance at Discover O.P. of "Q41", a fire truck from Fire Station 41 on 75th Street, was a real draw for families on a recent weekend. Children were able to climb aboard and explore the interior of the fire truck, and receive a junior fire helmet, complements of the Overland Park Fire Department.

Recent Events Recap

August 15: Annual Indoor Picnic

Members of OPHS gathered at the American Legion for our annual Indoor Picnic. The food, as prepared by the Sons of the American Legion, was delicious and plentiful. The event marked the return of some faces not seen for awhile, so, it was great to catch up with our members. Many thanks to those who attended this traditional summer event!

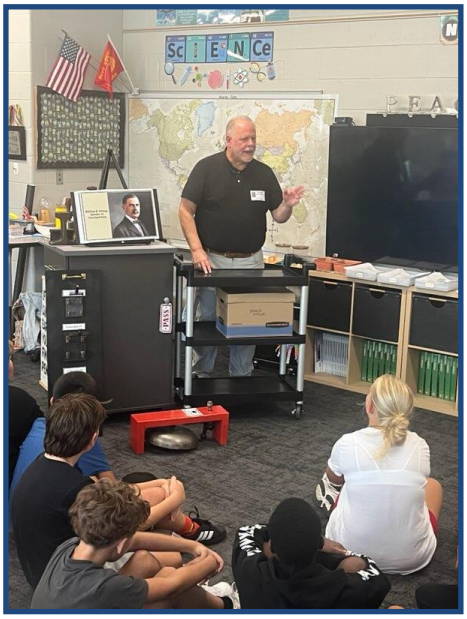




Over 60 members and guests gathered at the American Legion to enjoy the annual indoor picnic.

August 20: Benninghoven Elementary School

Executive Director, Brad Moore, and OPHS Vice-President, Bruce McRoberts, spent a full day at Benninghoven Elementary School in Shawnee, where they gave presentations on Overland Park history before three separate sixth grade classes. OPHS is continuing to expand our presence in local classrooms and providing these interactive presentations and Brad and Bruce are looking forward to more presentations in 2027!





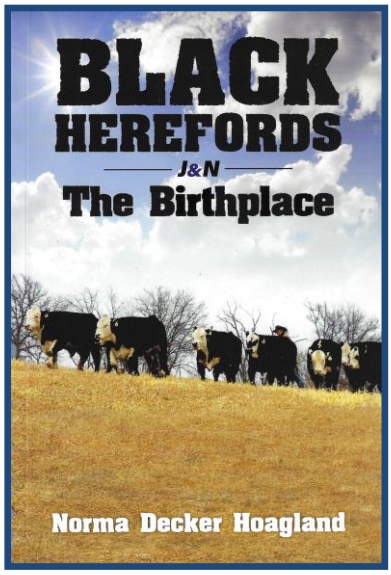


Sixth grade students at Benninghoven Elementary School learn about William Strang and the Strang Line.

Recent Events Recap

October 8: Author Norma Hoagland

Several guests came to Discover O.P. over the course of two days to meet author Norma Decker Hoagland and listen to a great presentation about her recently published book **Black Herefords, The Birthplace**. Joining Norma was her husband, Joe Hoagland, an Overland Park Native. Norma's publisher asked her to write a book about how she and Joe started a new cattle breed, only the fifth to originate in America. However, this book talk focused on their lives in Overland Park and the six terms Joe served representing the city in the state legislature from 1973 to 1984. Specifically, how Joe helped create the 911 emergency phone system for the area, the nation's first comparative negligence act, the small claims court and sentencing rules for violent gun crimes. Norma signed copies of her book, which can be purchased at Discover O.P. The Hoaglands are kindly donating all proceeds from the sale of the book back to OPHS. We thank Norma and Joe for giving part of their afternoon to visit with our guests. An enjoyable time was had by all who attended the event!





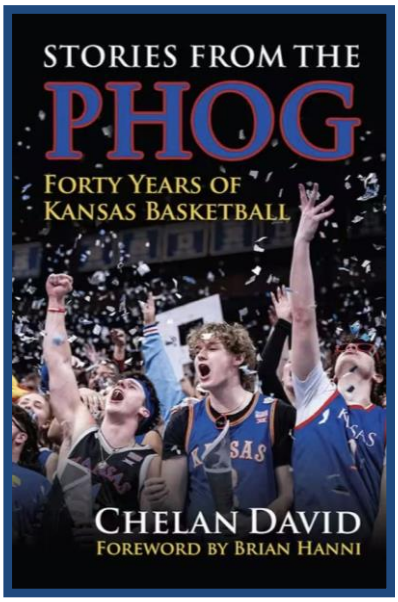




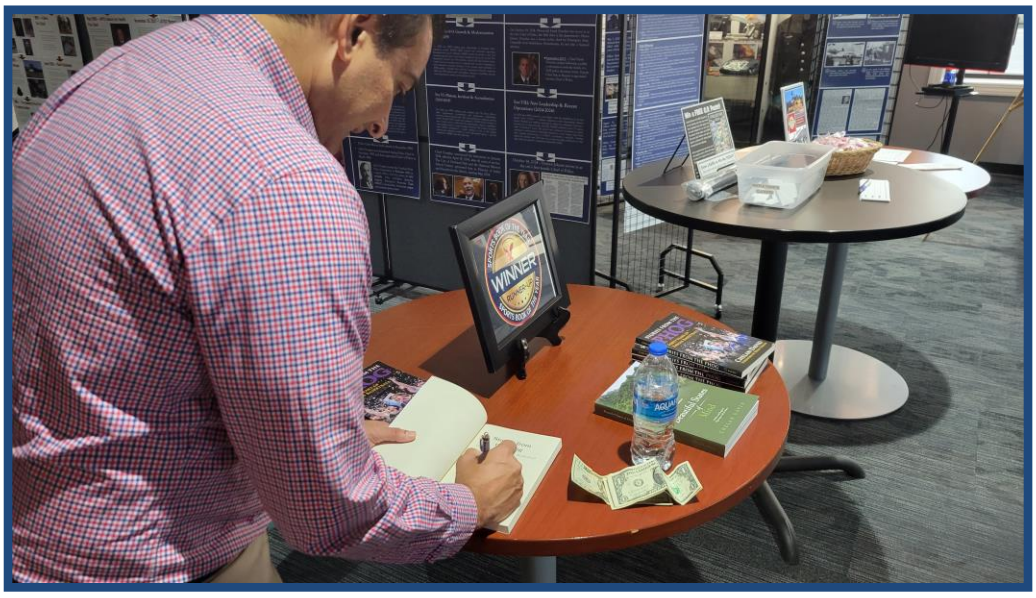
Recent Events Recap

October 22: Author Chelan David

Author David Chelan visited Discover O.P. and gave a presentation on his book **Stories From The Phog: Forty Years of Kansas Basketball**. David, who is a business solutions partner in the Customized Training program at Johnson County Community College, led a very engaging discussion about his love of all things KU basketball: from players to coaches to Allen Field House and beyond. David signed copies of his book, which can now be purchased at Discover O.P. Many thanks to David for visiting with us and leading us through a night of great KU basketball nostalgia. ROCK CHALK!









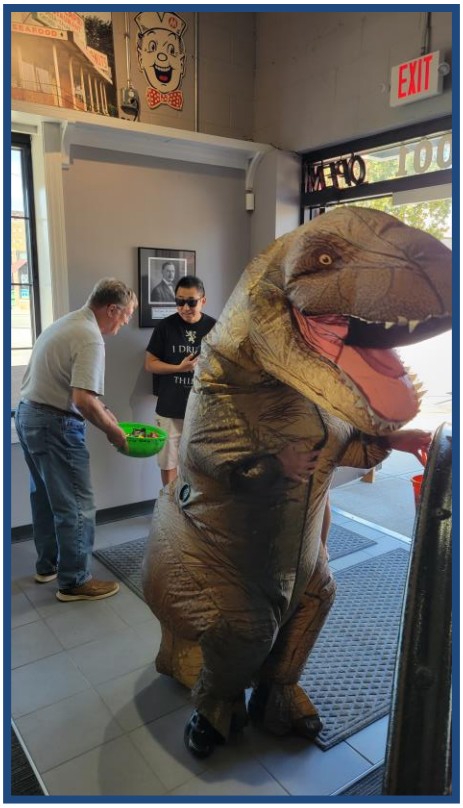
Recent Events Recap

October 24: Trick-or-Treat at Discover O.P.

The near-record warm weather on October 24 resulted in a big turnout for Downtown O.P.'s annual Trick or Treat event. The doors to Discover O.P. were propped open, and we were visited by over 300 costumed trick-or-treaters. Several costumes were very clever and homemade. Members of the OPHS Board of Directors enjoyed greeting the families and handing out treats!











2027 Online Membership Renewal

Renewing your membership to the Overland Park Historical Society for 2027 is now even easier with an online renewal option on the OPHS website!

You can purchase your renewal, at any level, using your credit or debit card by clicking on the link below:

Become a Member of the Overland Park Historical Society

Save time and postage by taking advantage of this online option and renew your membership within minutes. We appreciate your support!

Welcome New Members in 2026

Bryan Ptacek
David & Julie Bilyea
Vicki & Brooks Lilly
Cathy Kady
Judith & Henry Taylor
Deborah Crane
Gary & Kathy Bussing
Randy Downing
John & Mary Reed
Marsha Rhoads
Ron Williams
Natalie & Greg Wiley
Connie Cross
Shirley Jacobs

Joe Hoagland
Andy & Laurie Lynn
Sarah Wille
Thomas Mecca
Kirk Perucca
Mary Brown
Susie Huntsinger
Howard Smith
Ed Glenn
Jay Lehnertz
Tina Colt
Jim & Connie Walsh
Lee McClenaghan
Larry Menestrina

Thank You to Our Many "Friends" of OPHS! We Appreciate Your Support!

$100 Friend Level Members

Bill & Barbara Adams
Judy & Howard Becker
Jackie Beucher
Marilee Ciardullo
Deron & Tana Dixon
Randy Downing
Downtown OP Partnership
Dave & Marian Dyer
Sandra Foster
Jim Francis
Melanie Martin Ginter
Patty Glynn
William Grant
Tom Gray
Sheryl Gulley
Kristen Hansen
Lee Hauser
Joe Hoagland
Pat Horton
Shirley Jacobs
Peggy Lee
Vicki & Brooks Lilly
Mike McLain
Bruce & Karent McRoberts
Shirley Murray
Dick & Ruby Nelson
O.P. Real Estate LLC
Single Source Printing LLC
Howard Smith
John Stower
Larry & Kathi Thies
Jeff Thornburgh
Ruth Ann Troop
Janeice Vohland
John & Kathleen Walker
Bill Weiler & Sharon Calvin
Dick & Gay Williams
Marsha Rhoads & Ron Williams

$250 Trolley Level Members

Ed & Janice Eilert
Stacie Gram
Phil & Mary Griffin
Allison Hawk
Tom & Tracy Osborn Oltjen
Richard & Julie Paradise
Pleasant Valley Cemetery Assoc.
Sarah Potter
Sarah Yendrek Pringle
Rod & Pam Richardson
Mike & Lynn Simmons
Ken & Myrna Vardeman

$500 Barnstormer Circle Level Members

Carol Adler
Bill Angerman
Gary & Kathy Bussing
Rick Collins
Lisa Foitle
Gary & Deanna Marsh
David Westbrook

$1000 Strang Fellow Level Members

David & Barbara Comer
Jim & Charlene Conrad
Ed & Sharon Coulter
Elaine Gilbert
Alice & Mel Hawk
Gordon Kauffman
Paul & Marilyn Lyons
Brad Moore
Frank Reichart
Rotary Club of Leawood
Dave & Beverly White

You can purchase your renewal online, at any level, using your credit or debit card by clicking on this link:

Become a Member | Overland Park Historical Society

Thank You to Our Stewardship Circle Members!

Being a member of the Stewardship Circle is a commitment to community identity, a partnership with civic leadership, a stabilizing force for Discover O.P., and a legacy gift for Overland Park's future.

JANET LONG

SHIPLEY-WESTBROOK TRUST

SHAMROCK™

REGNIER FAMILY FOUNDATION

ED AND JAN EILERT

Central Bank

We invite members of the Overland Park business and philanthropic communities to secure the future of Discover O.P. by becoming members of the Stewardship Circle. Annual gifts ensure Discover O.P. remains sustainable, accessible, and professionally operated for years to come. Learn more about the Stewardship Circle by clicking the link below:

Giving Opportunities | Overland Park Historical Society

The El Dorado Apartments:
A Look At Strang's New York Home

At the time of the 1903 flood in Kansas City, William Strang, Jr., and his wife, Margaret, were living in a glamorous high-rise apartment complex in New York City. Named "The El Dorado," by its owner and developer, the complex consisted of two eight-story apartment buildings located on Central Park West between 90th and 91st Streets. With a commanding view of Central Park, the units in these apartments were highly sought after by affluent residents of the area. The Strangs were original residents when the complex opened in October 1902, resided there full-time until 1906, and then part-time until they moved to Overland Park permanently in 1910. It is not known which apartment or floor they occupied. Here is an interesting history of The El Dorado, reprinted from an April 3, 2023, blog titled **The Lost El Dorado - 300-302 Central Park West** by author, Tim Miller .

The Lost El Dorado - 300-302 Central Park West

Tim Miller, Daytonian in Manhattan



The original El Dorado Apartment complex, located at 300 & 302 West Central Park.

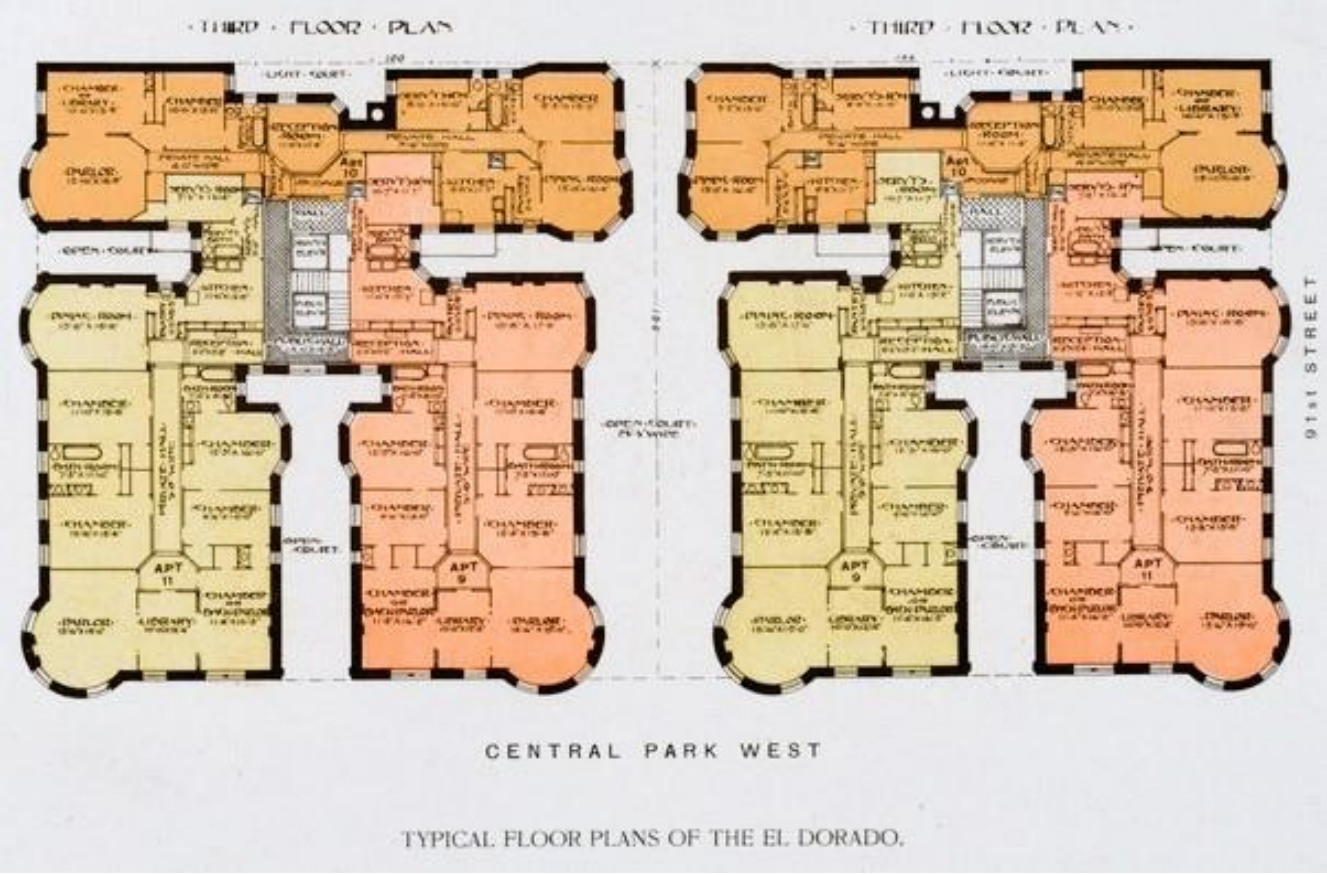
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The El Dorado Apartments (continued)

As the turn of the last century approached, fashionable residential hotels and apartment buildings rose along Central Park West. Their developers took advantage of the sweeping park views and the guarantee of unobstructed light and ventilation that the park provided. Joining the trend was John V. Signell, who hired the architectural firm of Neville & Bagge to design two identical, eight-story apartment buildings between 90th and 91st Streets in the spring of 1901. The firm's plans, submitted in April, estimated the total cost of construction at $760,000, a significant $25 million in 2023.

The twin buildings were given a single name, the El Dorado. Completed in October 1902, each had a two-story stone base, and six floors clad in red brick and trimmed in limestone. At each corner was a rounded, turret-like bay, and central light courts were given dramatic, soaring open archways.

The apartments ranged from 4 to 14 rooms, with rentals at $1,000 to $4,500 per year (a staggering $12,350 per month for the most expensive in today's money). The *Real Estate Record & Guide* said on October 11, 1902, "Special features are an automobile room in the basement, a safe in every apartment, and rooms for servants on the roof."



TYPICAL FLOOR PLANS OF THE EL DORADO.

Continued...

The El Dorado Apartments (continued)

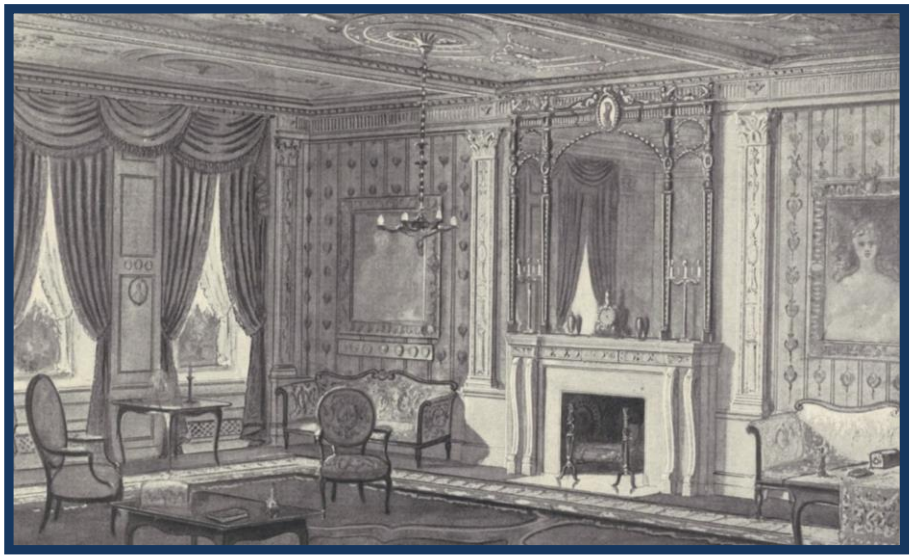
That the buildings had underground garages in 1902 testifies to the affluence of its intended tenants. Only the very wealthy could afford automobiles at the time. An advertisement touted the "extensive view of the lake and Central Park, its picturesque drives and bridle paths," and listed "every known modern convenience," saying:

Main bathrooms [are] *equipped with shower attachments; majority of suites have three tiled bathrooms and separate entrance for domestics. Tiled kitchen with sanitary garbage closets. Interior woodwork in each apartment is the best cabinet finish, and every apartment contains a combination safe. Parquet floors.*

The El Dorado also offered "continuous hall and elevator service," and "long distance telephone in each suite." Live-in servants were not only tactfully distanced in top floor rooms, separate from the apartments, but two of the four elevators in the buildings were dedicated for servant use.





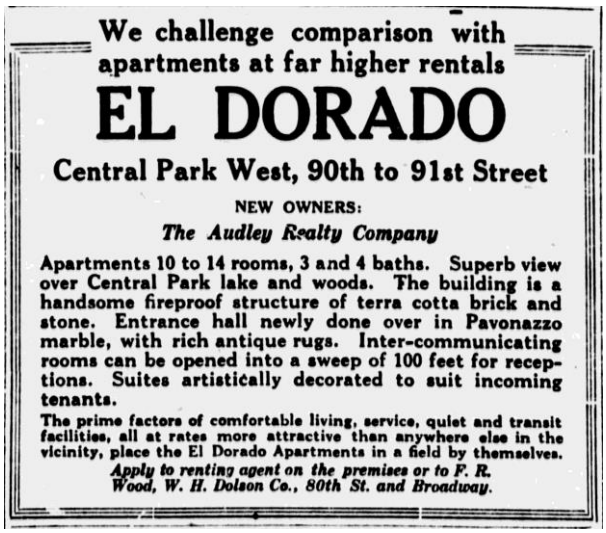




Continued...

The El Dorado Apartments (continued)





We challenge comparison with apartments at far higher rentals

EL DORADO

Central Park West, 90th to 91st Street

NEW OWNERS:

The Audley Realty Company

Apartments 10 to 14 rooms, 3 and 4 baths. Superb view over Central Park lake and woods. The building is a handsome fireproof structure of terra cotta brick and stone. Entrance hall newly done over in Pavonazzo marble, with rich antique rugs. Inter-communicating rooms can be opened into a sweep of 100 feet for receptions. Suites artistically decorated to suit incoming tenants.

The prime factors of comfortable living, service, quiet and transit facilities, all at rates more attractive than anywhere else in the vicinity, place the El Dorado Apartments in a field by themselves.

Apply to renting agent on the premises or to F. R. Wood, W. H. Dolson Co., 80th St. and Broadway.





The El Dorado Apartments

Central Park West's New Palatial Structure.

90th to 91st Streets, Entire Block Front.

NOW OPEN FOR INSPECTION

This new fire-proof apartment building is unequalled by any on the West Side. Its magnificent location, commanding an unobstructed view of the Park and City, and its accessible location make it an ideal home. The suites contain four, five, six, eight, nine, ten, fourteen, and fifteen rooms, unusually light, hardwood trim throughout (the larger apartments having three bathrooms), and equipped with every device and convenience known to modern architecture. The entrances are works of art. Special accommodations for servants with separate entrances and elevators. This building must be seen to be appreciated. Superintendent on premises. Leases now being made for October occupancy. Rents $1,000 to $4,500.

JOHN V. SIGNELL,

Owner and Builder, on premises.

Continued...

The El Dorado Apartments *(continued)*

The apartments filled with socially prominent residents. Among them was Fannie Ida Pritchard Helmuth, whose husband, Dr. William Tod Helmuth, had recently died on May 15, 1902. He had been the long-time chair of the surgery department of the New York Medical College. Fannie's early American ancestry entitled her to membership in the Society of the Daughters of Holland Dames, of which she was Director General. She was assuredly acquainted with residents Mrs. Wright Edgerton and Mrs. Addison Allen. All three women appeared in the 1904 *Club Women of New York*.

Charles Mortimer Hogan and his wife, the former Helen Clarke, were initial residents of the northern building. Born in 1854, at the age of 13 he was hired as an office boy by the John Wanamaker department store and in 1896 became secretary and general manager of the Siegel-Cooper Company. He was described by the *Yearbook of the Pennsylvania Society of New York* in 1906 as "one of the most notable department store men in the country."

Hogan fell ill in the spring of 1905 and died just days later May 20 at the age of 50. His funeral was held in the apartment two days later. The esteem with which he was held was reflected in the Siegel-Cooper department store's closing its doors at 4:00 on the day of the funeral.

Because of the death of Mr. Charles M. Hogan, Secretary and General Manager, the Siegel Cooper Store will close at 4 o'clock Monday afternoon to permit the employes to view the remains at the late residence of the deceased, 302 Central Park West, before the body is taken to Camden, N. J., for interment Tuesday.



Continued...

The El Dorado Apartments

When the El Dorado was sold in December 1907, the *Record & Guide* saw the transaction as an affirmation of apartment house living. Calling the sale "of special significance at this time," the article said, "It shows that people of means are perfectly willing to invest in gilt-edge property, preferring this type of investment rather than the nerve-racking Wall Street 'securities.'"

The social prominence of the residents was reflected in ten families in the southern building and eight in the northern building being included in the 1911 *Dau's New York Blue Book* of society.

However, by the early 1920s, apartment buildings along Central Park West like the El Dorado were considered architecturally out of fashion. One-by-one they were being razed and replaced by modern, Art Deco style structures.

The end of the line for the El Dorado came in 1929, when developer Louis Klosk purchased the twin buildings, demolished them, and erected a modish 30-story replacement. Klosk gave a nod to the former buildings by christening his structure the El Dorado. The stock market crash forced Klosk into bankruptcy before the buildings were finished. A new owner bought the project in foreclosure. The current structure has been home to countless famous figures, more recently including actors Alec Baldwin, Faye Dunaway, Carrie Fisher, Michael J. Fox and Ron Howard.



The current El Dorado Apartments, which replaced the original buildings in the 1930s.

Remember When?

October 1996:

- Menorah Medical Center, Johnson County's first new full-service hospital in nearly a decade, opens at 119th & Nall.
- Mayor Ed Eilert unites with other area mayors to support the vote for a bi-state tax to renovate Union Station.
- Communications towers becomes one of the hottest neighborhood issues in Johnson County, with fears that towers "will turn our countryside into a pincushion."
- Children's Mercy Hospital announces plans to purchase the former Kansas Institute building at 5808 W. 110th St., renovate and expand it, and open Children's Mercy South.
- 24-year-old Overland Park resident, Kathryn Taylor, is the first African American woman to be crowned Miss Kansas USA.
- The City of Overland Park explores the possibility of leasing the former Amigo Merchandise Mart at 115th & Metcalf Avenue and creating a convention center and attached 286-room hotel.
- A freak winter storm dumps a half foot of snow and ice all over the metro. Schools close, power outages are numerous, and the estimated $4.8 million dollar cleanup will devastate the city's budget.

November 1996:

- The City of Overland Park seeks assistance from the National Guard in the cleanup of the debris from the sudden winter storm in October. The request is initially denied but ultimately granted.
- Overland Park Fire Chief Bill Jahnke asks the city council to pass an ordinance requiring any new homes of wood construction over 5000 square feet feature fire sprinkler systems.
- Overland Park resident and State Senator, Dick Bond, is honored as Johnson Countian of the Year at JoCo's Some Enchanted Evening event.
- The Overland Park Planning Commission gives preliminary approval for a 140,000 square foot retail center at 151st & Antioch, half of which would be a free-standing bowling center and restaurant. Nearby residents vow to fight the project.

Continued...

Remember When?

November 1996 (*continued*):

- After more than a year of lawsuits over poor design and improper drainage, the Blue Valley District Activities Complex near Blue Valley Northwest High School is finally completed with new sod.
- The Overland Park City Council approves a package of recommendations designed to ensure quality construction of homes in the city.
- After a punctured natural gas line caused a massive home explosion near 102nd Terrace and Antioch, many people try to determine who or what was responsible for the tragedy.
- Congregation Beth Torah opens its new synagogue in a 22-acre, heavily wooded site at 127th & Lamar Avenue.
- City Councilman Max Gordon announces he may run for Mayor as an independent candidate, regardless of what current Mayor, Ed Eilert, chooses to do.

December 1996:

- Despite objections of neighbors, the Overland Park City Council approves the final plat for the development of a bowling alley at 151st & Antioch, now named Incred-A-Bowl. Neighbors are considering filing a lawsuit.
- Johnson County Community College becomes the proud owner of the highest bond rating ever assigned to revenue bonds issued by any community college in the United States.
- The Kansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects gives two awards to local firm, Gould Evans Goodman Associates, for their designs of the recently completed Johnson County Central Resource Library and the W. Jack Sanders Justice Center.
- Enrollment surge prompts the Blue Valley School District to consider building a 4th high school near 165th & Antioch Road.
- Ed Eilert, citing Overland Park's unprecedented growth and prosperity, announces he will seek a fifth term as Mayor.
- Controversial Johnson County Commissioner, and former Overland Park Councilperson, Elaine Beckers Braun, announces she will seek re-election in 1998 in response to a prediction by Steve Rose that she wouldn't run.

Remember When?

October 1986:

- Plans are filed with the City of Overland Park for the razing of the Regency Park Hotel (formerly Glenwood Manor) at 92nd & Metcalf and replacing it with a shopping center and office buildings.
- Despite being dragged into the middle of a complicated lawsuit, the Overland Park City Council voted 7-0 to give the owner of the Telegraph Hill apartments until the middle of December to begin completion or demolish the project at 123rd & Antioch.
- Officials from the Blue Valley School District, Overland Park city officials, and nearby residents are pitted against each other in a controversial proposal to build a new middle school near 124th & Switzer.
- BMW Communities presents plans to the Overland Park Planning Commission for a major mixed-use development in the southern reaches of Overland Park called "The Villages". It will span from Metcalf to Lamar, 159th to 155th.
- The Overland Park Planning Commission recommended approval of two new hotels next to the Kansas City Merchandise Mart in the southeast corner of 113th & Metcalf. Only one, a Courtyard by Marriott, would be built.
- Downtown business owners meet with city officials to discuss options for relieving traffic on Metcalf, between 83rd and 75th St.
- Growth and drugs are the two things Police Chief Myrone Scafe blames on a 16 percent increase in serious crimes in Overland Park in 1986.
- The Overland Park City Council approves a plan to tear down the former Marsha Bagby Elementary School at 3300 W. 95th Street and replace it with a 120-unit senior citizens living facility and 90-bed nursing home called "The Forum."
- The Shawnee Mission School District spends $400,000 to convert the closed Broadmoor Junior High into a multi-use vo-tech center. The school board also announces intentions to sell both Old Mission and Indian Creek junior high schools, both of which had been considered for the vo-tech center.
- An open house and formal dedication of the new Blue Valley North High School at 123rd & Lamar takes place.

Continued...

Remember When?

November 1986:

- Some relief from traffic congestion on College Boulevard occurs when the Kansas Department of Transportation officially opens a new ramp to take westbound traffic on College to northbound US 69.
- With two months left to go, 1986 was already a record-setting building year in Overland Park, with the city issuing permits for an estimated $243 million in construction.
- The list of weapons that are illegal to possess in Overland Park was expanded to include nunchakus and stun guns. Other weapons already on the list include blackjacks, daggers, metal knuckles and throwing stars.
- The Overland Park City Council voted unanimously to approve a resolution of intent to issue up to $3 million in industrial reserve bonds to Burlington Northern Railroad for construction of a training facility at Johnson County Community College.
- A moratorium on apartment construction is lifted after a list of proposed designs is agreed upon.

December 1986:

- Three projects were ranked as “low priority” in the city’s 1988-1992 Capital Improvements Program: 1) a community swimming pool near 119th & Lowell, 2) the purchase of the Theater for Young America building in Downtown Overland Park, and 3) a satellite city hall facility in the south part of the city.
- A ground-breaking ceremony marks the beginning of the Jewish Community Campus, the largest single building project attempted by the Jewish community of Kansas City. The 40-acre campus will be located on 115th Street between Lamar and Nall.
- The Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees and the Johnson County Library Board reach accord on a plan to build a new central resource library on the campus. This comes after months of sometimes heated negotiations regarding placement and parking. Ultimately, the proposed location will be dropped.

Continued...

Remember When?

December 1986 (*continued*):

- City Council approves spending $60,000 for the purchase of 9-millimeter Baretta handguns for police officers. Police Chief Myron Scafe calls the new guns "more lethal" than the .38 caliber police specials officers have used since the department was formed 25 years ago.
- After voters rejected a plan to buy land along 135th Street for a future park, plans for an arboretum in Overland Park are back on the table for discussion.
- After several delays for various studies, plans for the new Regency Place shopping center at 93rd and Metcalf are approved. It will replace the Regency Park Hotel (formerly Glenwood Manor).
- A plan that would cost the city $38 million over the next 20 years to lease a convention center has been termed "not acceptable" by the chairman of the Overland Park Finance and Administration Committee. The city will now turn to exploring building and owning a convention center and hotel.
- With no objections from landowners or surrounding cities, the Overland Park City Council agreed to annex 160 acres of land east of Nall at about 155th Street.
- Construction is expected to begin next spring on the third hotel proposed in three years for a site at 106th and Marty. A ClubHouse Inn is planned for the southwest corner of the intersection.
- John Jennings, the first full-time undercover narcotics officer for the Overland Park Police Department, is fired after admitting to the theft of recovered stolen property.
- Fire Chief Jim Broockerd announces his retirement after 36 years.

October 1976:

- Metcalf 103 Shopping Center, located in the southeast corner of 103rd & Metcalf, celebrates its first anniversary.
- Construction starts on a 20,000-square-foot expansion of Nall Hills shopping center at the southwest corner of 95th & Nall. The expansion will connect the two existing wings of the center.
- Black and Veatch holds dedication ceremonies for its newest building, a seven-story, 276,000 square-foot structure at 114th & Lamar.

Continued...

Remember When?

October 1976 (*continued*):

- The City Council approves a zoning change to allow for a new sit-down, drive-thru restaurant at 105th & Metcalf. "Chutes" will use pneumatic tubes to deliver food to patrons at the drive-thru lane.
- The Shawnee Mission School Boards warns that declining enrollment will cause staffing problems and may force cuts in some school programs starting next year.
- The Overland Park Planning Commission unanimously denied a request to rezone an area at the northeast corner of Antioch and Hadly to allow for retail businesses and services. The site is currently occupied by Stonegate Pool, a privately-owned swimming facility. The city will begin discussions about purchasing the pool.
- Skateland South, a new roller-skating rink, opens in the Wycliff Shopping Center at 103rd & Mastin.

November 1976:

- Windmill Square, a 50,000 square-foot shopping center designed as a small European Village, opens at 97th & Metcalf.
- The City Council approves a pay raise for future mayors from $500 to $650 per month, a total of $7,800 per year. They raised the salary of council members from $250 to $400 per month, an annual rate of $4,800. The raised do not become effective until May 1979.
- Ground is broken for a new office for Ed Patton and Company, Realtors, at 6420 W. 95th St. The current offices, located in Mission, will relocate to the new two-story, 8,000 square-foot building in 1977.
- Ratskeller, a restaurant serving authentic German foods, opens inside a smaller structure located on the Manor Barn property at 7600 W. 95th St.
- Valley View State Bank celebrates the grand opening of their third branch location at 103rd & Mastin in the Wycliff Shopping Center.

Continued...

Remember When?

November 1976 (*continued*):

- Citizens protested before the Planning Commission a proposed interim policy regarding future development of land in flood plain areas.
- A new Milgram grocery store opens as the anchor tenant in the new Wycliff Shopping Center at 103rd & Switzer.
- The City Council agrees to issue general obligation bonds for $241,000 for the purchase of privately-owned Stonegate Swimming Pool at Antioch and Hadley.
- The Planning Commission gives unanimous approval to a rezoning request which will allow for a single-family subdivision and neighborhood shopping center at the southwest corner of College Boulevard and Antioch Road.

December 1976:

- A public hearing is held to consider the economic, social and environmental effects of widening 103rd Street to 4 lanes from US 69 Alternate, east 2.1 miles to Walmer Avenue.
- The Overland Park City Council passes a controversial ordinance banning fireworks in the city except for public exhibitions and displays. The ordinance passes after heated debate on a 6 to 4 vote.
- Following the deaths of four youths last summer, the City Council allocates $18,000 for improvements to certain storm drain areas outlined in a recent storm drain study.
- Overland Park Mayor, Dr. Jack Walker, announces that he will not run for re-election.
- The city agrees to spend $18,875 and adopt a “Dial-A-Ride” program for senior citizens, starting in 1977.
- One man is killed and nearly 100 are left homeless in the wake of a fire at the Four Seasons Apartment, 9518 W. 87th St. Fire Chief Jim Broockerd said, “I don’t think Overland Park has ever seen a fire this bad.”
- Entering the race to succeed Jack Walker as Mayor are 5th Ward Councilman, Ben Sykes, and 2nd Ward Councilman, George Fryer.

Then & Now





Voigts Building - 7950 Santa Fe Drive

DOP EVENT SCHEDULE

Save the Dates

Downtown OP Holiday Events

November 20 | 5-8pm

Mayor's Holiday Festival

November 28 | All Day

Small Business Saturday

December 5

Overland Park Holiday Market 8a-noon
Santa at Clock Tower Landing 10a-noon
District Wide Holiday Open House 10a-2p

December 12

Overland Park Holiday Market 8a-noon
Grinch at Clock Tower Landing 10a-noon

December 19

Overland Park Holiday Market 8a-noon
Snow Princeses at Clock Tower Landing 10a-noon

For more information on events in Downtown Overland Park, click this link below:

Events in Overland Park — Downtown OP