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VOLUME 2, NO. 8, JUNE 2, 2025

INSIDE



Royals buy mortgage of Aspiria campus in Overland Park

PAGE 3



10 Johnson County students headed for U.S. service academies

PAGE 2



Cyclists excited for new biking park planned for Shawnee

PAGE 4



Olathe officer awarded for valor in shooting at center of federal lawsuit

PAGE 4

Black & Veatch seeking \$280M incentive package for overhaul of Overland Park HQ

Kaylie McLaughlin
 STAFF REPORTER

Overland Park-based engineering firm Black & Veatch cleared its first major hurdle toward redeveloping its headquarters to be a mixed-use walkable district with office, housing and retail.

The \$1.12 billion project is one of the largest redevelopment projects the city has ever seen, and it falls within a key corridor Overland Park has identified as ripe for mixed-use projects. Plus, at roughly \$280 million in requested public financing reimbursement and exemptions, it's one of the largest incentive asks to ever come to the city.

Last month, the Overland Park City Council Finance, Administration and Economic Development Committee voted unanimously to advance the incentive application tied to the Overland Park Plaza II Redevelopment Project.

Members of the committee seemed excited about the prospect of the development. Councilmember Sam Passer compared its potential to Lenexa's mixed-use City Center development, which has seen rapid development in the past decade.

"It is a gathering space that would really add a tremendous element to Overland Park," he said. "I place tremendous value in that."

The vote is a key first step in estab-

lishing the incentives proposed for the redevelopment, which include a tax increment financing (or TIF) district covering the Black & Veatch property as well as neighboring properties.

The package of incentives would also include an overlapping special sales tax in the form of a 2% Community Improvement District and a sales tax exemption on construction materials.

All told, Black & Veatch is requesting roughly 280 million in incentives — \$227.7 million from the TIF, \$19.8 million from the CID and \$39 million from the sales tax exemption delivered via economic development revenue bonds.

The request is larger than the \$200 million incentive package Overland Park approved for the controversial \$2 billion Brookridge Golf and Fitness mixed-use redevelopment that's been slow to come to fruition near Interstate 435 and Antioch Road.

That amounts to about a quarter of public financing on the estimated \$1.12 billion price tag for Black & Veatch's portion of the redevelopment plan.

The preliminary plan, as proposed, would see to the development of a new 612,000-square-foot headquarters for Black & Veatch, the construction of nearly 400,000 more square feet of office space, nearly 1,900 residential units and a 160-room hotel. It also proposes 550,000 square feet of re-



Black & Veatch is looking to remake its Overland Park headquarters campus into a mixed-use development with office, housing and retail. File photo.

tail, nearly 6,000 new parking spots in structured garages and a public park.

It could also loop in vacant portions of the neighboring Galleria 115 development area as well as Nall Corporate Center, adding another estimated \$425.5 million to the price tag.

Located roughly around 115th Street and Lamar Avenue, the project falls within the city's OP Central area — a strategic investment area in the city's long-range plan that has historically been defined by large office users pri-

marily around College Boulevard and Metcalf Avenue.

Over the past several years, the underutilization of office developments that have for decades served as the economic backbone of the city has been a chief concern. That was a key part of the discussion at the finance committee, with Assistant City Manager Jack Messer referring to the situation with office buildings in Overland Park as "a significant threat." With that in mind,

See HQ on Page 3A

Mission pharmaceutical company ScriptPro laying off workers, citing tariffs, 'economic uncertainties'

Juliana Garcia
 STAFF REPORTER

One of the city of Mission's largest employers is laying off staffers, citing tariffs and "economic uncertainties."

ScriptPro, a pharmaceutical services company, is offering employees "voluntary separation" packages due to "these times of tariffs and other economic uncertainties," according to a statement from Chief Executive Officer Mike Coughlin.

ScriptPro's reduction in workforce announcement comes in the middle of President Donald Trump's ongoing global trade war as he pushes for multiple industries across the private sector, including pharmaceutical companies, to move production stateside.

Last month, Trump threatened to push for a 50% tariff on goods from the European Union beginning June 1, and a 25% tariff on iPhones made outside of the U.S., Reuters re-

ports. Over the long Memorial Day holiday weekend, Trump said he would delay imposing tariffs on the EU until July 9 as the White House and European officials negotiate.

A tariff is a tax on imported goods and services, which many economic experts say can result in higher prices and discourage domestic consumers from buying them.

In 2023, ScriptPro was the city's second largest employer in the city of Mission with 482 staffers. It was also the second largest property taxpayer, giving the city upwards of \$5 million in revenue, according to the city's 2024 financial audit report.

The company's workforce has been decreasing for years. ScriptPro's 482 employees in 2023 were already down from pre-pandemic numbers of 600 staffers in 2016.

Coughlin, who founded ScriptPro in 1994, said in a statement to the Post that the company needs to "be right

sized and nimble to adjust to fast moving market changes" amid "economic uncertainties."

ScriptPro started asking employees to opt into the company's layoffs through "voluntary separation."

Employees who decide to leave ScriptPro through "voluntary separation" are being offered different benefits like severance pay and outplacement services, Coughlin said.

"No company cares more about its employee team than ScriptPro," Coughlin said. "We pledge to do all we can to remain stable and the leader in our markets."

ScriptPro officials did not respond to the Post's request for additional information including how many employees it hopes will take the voluntary separation packages.

The Kansas Department of Labor did not immediately respond to the Post's request for comment regarding whether ScriptPro alerted the state de-



ScriptPro in Mission is asking employees to participate in "voluntary separation" packages due to "economic uncertainties." Photo credit Juliana Garcia.

partment of its plans to lay off employees.

Additionally, the city of Mission declined to comment for this story, adding that it had not received any official notice from ScriptPro about layoffs.

The robotics pharmaceutical company got its start in 1994 with a prescription dispensing product, according to its website.

It now offers more than 200 products that help automate and manage pharmaceutical operations, according to its website.

ScriptPro products serve 2,500 retail customers as well as hundreds of hospitals and government agencies nationwide, according to the company.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT
MIDWEST TRUST COMPANY, SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE OF THE BARBARA V. O'HEARNE REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST
DECLARATION DATED JUNE 19, 1997
Plaintiff,
VS.
PATRICIA PRATER A/K/A PATRICIA ANN O'HEARNE PRATER, ET AL.,
Case No. JO-2025-CV-001235 Div. No. 6 K.S.A. Chapter 60
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SUIT
 THE STATE OF KANSAS TO: PATRICIA PRATER A/K/A PATRICIA ANN O'HEARNE PRATER, BRIAN DONAL O'HEARNE, MARILYN O'HEARNE A/K/A MARILYN EILEEN O'HEARNE NICHOLSON, JOHN O'HEARNE A/K/A JOHN STEPHEN O'HEARNE, ESTATE OF JOHN J. O'HEARNE, DECEASED, JOHN J. O'HEARNE TRUST DATED 7/14/2004, AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, TRUSTEES, CREDITORS, SUCCESSORS, AND ASSIGNS OF SUCH OF THE DEFENDANTS AS MAY BE DECEASED; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSES OF THE DEFENDANTS; THE UNKNOWN EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, CREDITORS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF SUCH DEFENDANTS AS ARE OR WERE PARTNERS OR IN PARTNERSHIP; AND THE UNKNOWN GUARDIANS AND TRUSTEES OF SUCH OF THE DEFENDANTS AS ARE MINORS OR IN THE MILITARY SERVICE OR IN ANY WAY UNDER LEGAL DISABILITY AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING ANY RIGHT TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE PETITION ADVERSE TO PLAINTIFF'S TITLE

AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CONCERNED: You are hereby notified that a suit has been filed in the District Court of Johnson County, Kansas by, Plaintiff, MIDWEST TRUST COMPANY, SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE OF THE BARBARA V. O'HEARNE REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST DECLARATION DATED JUNE 19, 1997 praying for judgment that said Plaintiff is the owner of the following described personal property: Liqueur clock, Gavel, Small Japanese screen, Two Oriental Scrolls portraying fish and ducks respectively, and praying that the Court determine all adverse estates or interests which are claimed in said property, and that Plaintiff's title thereto be quieted against you and each of you and that you be forever barred and excluded from any title, estate or interest in or lien upon or claim against the property above described and you are hereby required to file your written defenses to said petition on or before the 14th day of July, 2025, in said Court at the Johnson County Courthouse, 150 W. Santa Fe St., Olathe, Kansas 66061 in Olathe. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

EVANS & MULLINIX, P.A. David R. Schapker, KS #24596 7225 Renner Road, Suite 200 Shawnee, KS 66217 (913) 962-8700; (913) 962-8701 (Fax) dschapker@emlawkc.com Attorneys for Plaintiff -2- 4920-9227-5526, v 1 06/02, 06/09, 06/16/2025

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
PROBATE DEPARTMENT
In the Estate of Andrew M. Orth, deceased.
 Estate No.: JO-2025-PR-000576; Div. JCDROEGE, Chapter 59
 You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this court by Belinda L. Orth, as the surviving spouse and the sole heir of Andrew M. Orth, deceased, requesting:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Johnson County, Kansas and the following described real estate situated in Sedgwick County, Kansas:

LOT 139, CAMBRIDGE POINTE, 3RD PLAT, A SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF OLATHE, JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS.

NOTICE OF SUIT
 THE STATE OF KANSAS to the above-named Defendants and all other persons who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the District Court of

TY, KANSAS.

Lot 1, Diamond Addition and Lot 1 Diamond Third Addition to Wichita, Kansas, Sedgwick County, Kansas, except that part take for highway Condemnation.

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before the **2nd day of July 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** of such day in this Court in the City of Olathe in Johnson County, Kansas at which time and place the cause will be heard. This hearing will occur remotely. If you wish to participate in the hearing by video or conference call, please contact Division 8 at 913-715-3820 before the date of the hearing so you can be invited to join the hearing. Should you fail to do so, the Court will proceed and enter such orders as the Court determines appropriate.

/s/ Belinda L. Orth
 Belinda L. Orth, Petitioner

Submitted by:
/s/ Michael P. Dreiling, Jr.
 Michael P. Dreiling, Jr. KBE #19432
 2516 W. 79th Street
 Prairie Village, Kansas 66208
 Telephone: (913) 764-5011
 Fax: (913) 764-5012
 mdreiling@dreilinglaw.com
 Attorney for Petitioner
 05/26, 06/02, 06/09/2025

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RHONDA R. MONKE, Deceased.

Case No. JO-2025-PR-000593
 Div. No. 8

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:
 You are notified that on May 20, 2025, a petition was filed in this Court by Dennis W. Vaverka, a friend of Rhonda R. Monke, deceased, praying for the appointment of Dennis W. Vaverka as administrator of the Rhonda R. Monke Estate, to serve without bond. All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

/s/ Dennis W. Vaverka
 Dennis W. Vaverka, Petitioner

PREPARED BY:
/s/ Kelly G. Jurgensen
 Kelly G. Jurgensen #21412
 SAGE LAW, LLP
 12980 Metcalf Ave., Ste. 500
 Overland Park, KS 66213
 Telephone: (913) 341-7800
 Fax: (913) 341-7804
 kjurgensen@sage.law
 05/26, 06/02, 06/09/2025

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
FILED PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 60

NICHOLAS BIBY, Plaintiff vs.

A 1978 Ford F Series automobile, VIN number: F14S-RAG7952, JEFF MELLEME, KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL, and any other unknown former owners of said vehicle or any parts thereof, the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of such Defendants as are existing; dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of such Defendants as are or were partners or were in partnership; and the unknown guardians, conservators, trustees of such of the Defendants as are minors or are in any-wise under legal disability, Defendants

NOTICE OF SUIT
 THE STATE OF KANSAS to the above-named Defendants and all other persons who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the District Court of

Johnson County, Kansas, by Nicholas Biby, praying that title to a 1978 Ford F Series automobile, with the following identification number: F14S-RAG7952, be quieted against the known and unknown defendants and that the Department of Revenue, Division of Vehicles of the State of Kansas be ordered to issue to the Plaintiff a Kansas Certificate of Title to this vehicle and for all proper relief, and you are hereby required to plead to the petition on or before the 30th day of June, 2025, in the District Court of Johnson County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

Nicholas Biby, Petitioner
 David W. Andreas
 Attorney at Law
 104 1/2 W. 9th, Suite 303
 Winfield, Kansas 67156
 Ph: (620) 221-1610
 Fax: (620) 221-1696
 E-mail: dwalaw@andreaslaw.kscoxmail.com
 Attorney for Plaintiff Pub 3x
 05/19, 05/26, 06/02/2025

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARGARET REA LERCH DIGBY, Deceased.

Div. No. 8
 Case No. JO-2025-PR-000550

NOTICE OF HEARING
 The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are notified that on May 12, 2025, a petition was filed in this Court by Leslie Digby Rizza, an heir of Margaret Rea Lerch Digby, also known as Peggy L. Digby, deceased, praying the determination of the descent of the following described real estate: Lot 10, LEAWOOD, a subdivision in the City of Leawood, Johnson County, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof. (commonly known as 8025 High Drive, Leawood, KS 66206), and all other property, real and personal or interests therein, owned by the decedent at the time of death; and you are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before June 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. of said day, in said court, in Olathe, Johnson County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. This hearing will occur remotely. If you wish to participate in the hearing by video or conference call, please contact Division 8 at 913-715-3820 before the date of the hearing so you can be invited to join the hearing. Should you fail to do so, the Court will proceed and enter such orders as the Court determines appropriate.

/s/ Leslie Digby Rizza
 Leslie Digby Rizza, Petitioner

PREPARED BY:
/s/ Erik M. Rome
 Erik M. Rome #25422
 SAGE LAW, LLP
 12980 Metcalf Avenue, Suite 500
 Overland Park, Kansas 66213
 (913) 341-7800 phone
 (913) 341-7804 fax
 erome@sage.law
 05/19, 05/26, 06/02/2025

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN LEE CRAWFORD, Deceased (Case No. JO-2025-PR-000472)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on April 17, 2025, a Petition for Issuance of Letters Administration Under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act was filed in this Court by Carolyn Roth, an heir, devisee and legatee, and Administrator for the estate of John L. Crawford, deceased.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Carolyn Roth, Petitioner

Respectfully submitted by:
 STOCKTON & KANDT, LLC

By: */s/ Riley T. Schumacher*
 Riley T. Schumacher, KS #29319
 952 E. Lincoln Lane

Gardner, KS 66030
 Telephone: (913) 521-2828
 Facsimile: (913) 856-5666
 riley@stocktonlaw.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER
 05/19, 05/26, 06/02/2025

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

PROBATE DEPARTMENT
 In the Matter of the Estate of: ROBERT J. WITHROW, deceased. Case No. JO-2025-PR-000580, Court 8

Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59

NOTICE TO CREDITORS THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on May 19, 2025, a Petition for Issuance of Letters of Administration Under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act was filed in this Court by Susan E. O'Bryan and Mark A. Withrow, heirs of Robert J. Withrow. All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate of Robert J. Withrow within the later of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

/s/ Michael S. Martin
 4800 Rainbow Blvd., #100
 Westwood, Kansas 66205-1932
 (913) 270-6600
 Attorney for Petitioners
 05/26, 06/02, 06/09/2025

The ALTON R. POPE FAMILY trust

First published in The Johnson County Post, Monday, June 2, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that Eric C. Pope and Elaine S. Roseberry are the acting Co-Trustees under the Alton R. Pope Family Trust under Trust Agreement dated March 14, 1996, the terms of which provide that the debts of the decedent may be paid by the Trustee upon receipt of proper proof thereof. The address of the Co-Trustee Eric C. Pope is 320 Camino Chico, Santa Fe, NM 87505. The settlor Alton R. Pope died on the 5th day of May 2025, a resident of Johnson County, Kansas.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to present their claims to the undersigned within four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or within thirty (30) days of actual receipt of this notice, and if their claims are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred against the Trustee and the trust property.
 Eric C. Pope, Co-Trustee
 Elaine S. Roseberry, Co-Trustee

SUBMITTED BY:
 Mark W. McKinzie #11080

WALLACE, SAUNDERS, CHARTERED

10111 West 87th Street

Overland Park, Kansas 66212

PHONE: (913) 888-1000 / FAX: (913) 888-1065

ATTORNEYS FOR TRUSTEE
 06/02, 06/09, 06/16/2025

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DAVID W. DIGBY, Deceased.

Div. No. 8, Case No. JO-2025-PR-000549

NOTICE OF HEARING
 The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned: You are notified that on May 12, 2025, a petition was filed in this Court by Leslie Digby Rizza, an heir of David W. Digby, also known as David Wallace Digby, deceased, praying the determination of the descent of the following described real estate: Lot 10, LEAWOOD, a subdivision in the City of Leawood, Johnson County, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof. (commonly known as 8025 High Drive, Leawood, KS 66206), and all other property, real and personal or interests therein, owned by the decedent at the time of death; and you are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before June 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. of said day, in said court, in Olathe, Johnson County, Kan-

sas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. This hearing will occur remotely. If you wish to participate in the hearing by video or conference call, please contact Division 8 at 913-715-3820 before the date of the hearing so you can be invited to join the hearing. Should you fail to do so, the Court will proceed and enter such orders as the Court determines appropriate.

/s/ Leslie Digby Rizza
 Leslie Digby Rizza, Petitioner

PREPARED BY:
/s/ Erik M. Rome
 Erik M. Rome #25422
 SAGE LAW, LLP
 12980 Metcalf Avenue, Suite 500
 Overland Park, Kansas 66213
 (913) 341-7800 phone
 (913) 341-7804 fax
 erome@sage.law
 05/19, 05/26, 06/02/2025

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF

LYLA ROSE MASTERS TO AMEND HER BIRTH CERTIFICATE

To remove stated father of no relation, Michael L Derby, and replace with biological

father, Frank W Turner IV

Case No. JO-2025-CV-000374
 Div. 6

PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 60

NOTICE OF HEARING - PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that Lyla Rose Masters, filed a petition in the above court on the 14th day of April 2025, requesting a judgement and order to change the stated FATHER on her birth certificate from "MICHAEL L. DERBY AGE 25" to "FRANK WILLIS TURNER AGE 25."

The petition will be heard in Johnson County District Court, 150 W Santa Fe street, Olathe, Kansas, on 2nd day of July, 2025 at 1:30 pm. If you have any objection to the requested birth certificate amendment, you are required to file a responsive please on or before June 30th, 2025 in this court or appear at the hearing and object to the requested name change. If you fail to act, judgement and order will be entered upon the Petition as requested by the Petitioner.

/s/ Lyla Rose Masters
 Lyla Rose Masters
 Petitioner, Pro Se

05/19, 05/26, 06/02/2025

NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE

In the District Court of Johnson County, Kansas, In the Matter of the Petition of Janine Montgomery to Change her Name, notice is hereby given that undersigned has filed a petition for change of name from Janine Nicole Clara Montgomery to Caoimhe Lin Levi pursuant to K.S.A. 60-1402. A hearing in the matter is scheduled for 9 a.m. on June 17, 2025 in Division 2. All interested parties must file a written objection, if any, at least seven days before the date of the hearing.

/s/ Janine Montgomery
 Janine Montgomery, petitioner
 05/19, 05/26, 06/02/2025

10 JoCo students are headed to U.S. service academies

Andrew Gaug
 STAFF REPORTER

Ten students from Johnson County will take the next step in their careers as they head out to U.S. service academies.

At a send-off event last week at Corporate Woods Founders Park, Rep. Sharice Davids and several Armed Forces veterans celebrated 13 students — 10 of whom are from Johnson County schools — who Davids appointed to U.S. service academies.

For at least two of those students, Josh Little of Olathe East High School and Sophia Marien-Brovont of Shawnee Mission East High School, who are both going to the United States Military Academy, it's about serving their country like their relatives did in the Armed Forces.

"My brother's in the Army right now. My grandpa served. I just always thought that's what I was going to do," Little said.

After doing a summer program at the United States Naval Academy, Marien-Brovont said she knew a service academy was the right fit for her.

"I went to West Point and just fell in love with the atmosphere, the people who were there and the connections you make for down the road," she said.

Those honored at the event include:

- Kaden Allen, from Saint Thomas Aquinas High School, who will attend United States Naval Academy Preparatory School
- Zurich Balda, from Blue Valley North High School, who will attend United States Merchant Marine Academy
- Connor Deady, from Rockhurst High School, who will attend United States Military Academy
- Max Doerfler, from Saint Thomas Aquinas High School, who will attend United States Military Academy
- James Dykes, from De Soto High School, who will attend United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School
- Laura Hickman, from Mill Valley High School, who will attend United States Air Force Academy
- Addison Holle, from Gardner Edgerton High School, who will attend United States Naval Academy
- Josh Little, from Olathe East High School, who will attend United States Military Academy
- Calum Lynn, from Olathe West High School, who will attend United States Naval Academy
- Sophia Marien-Brovont, from Shawnee Mission East High School, who will attend United States Military Academy
- Hank Newton, from Southern Coffey County High School, who will attend United States Air Force Academy
- Caleb Ochs, from Saint James Academy, who will attend United States Air Force Academy
- Presley Yows, from Louisburg High School, who will attend United States Naval Academy

Acknowledging the journeys that the students have been on to get to this point, such as navigating the difficulties made by the COVID-19 pandemic, Davids said she was encouraged by their dedication.

"You guys really have, at such a young age, already been through some really historic stuff. And I just think it is admirable and amazing to see that, that through all of those different experiences, that a piece of it is that you want to serve the country," she said.



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Deputy Editor: Leah Wankum

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Royals buy mortgage of Overland Park's Aspiria but say new stadium site has not been chosen yet

Kyle Palmer
EDITOR

The Kansas City Royals say they have purchased the mortgage of the Aspiria development in Overland Park, leaving open the possibility the team could eventually develop a new stadium there.

In a statement late Wednesday afternoon, the Royals confirmed their interest in Aspiria near 119th Street and Nall Avenue — once the Sprint World Headquarters campus — while also emphasizing that no final decision on a new stadium site has been made.

"The Kansas City Royals continue to explore all options throughout our community to develop a new stadium," the team's statement said. "We have not yet decided on a site, and any assertion to the contrary is inaccurate."

The statement continues:

"As part of our ongoing efforts, we have negotiated or made investments in multiple potential sites — both in Missouri and Kansas. One of these investments was the acquisition (by an affiliate of the Royals) of the mortgage on the Aspiria campus through an arms-length bidding process."

This doesn't mean the Royals — through its unnamed affiliate — now own Aspiria.

Instead, the team's affiliate organization controls the loan on the property, similar to when a residential mortgage gets sold to another mortgage company. The homeowner still owns the home, but the mortgage company could take control of the property if the borrower defaults.

Wichita-based Occidental Management purchased the former Sprint campus in 2019, and later secured a \$232.5 million loan from JP Morgan Chase to redevelop the site that it had renamed Aspiria.

Occidental has since secured extensions for the loan's maturity date twice. In 2023, a ratings agency downgraded

the Aspiria loan to a "loan of concern," citing in part Occidental's moves to work with JP Morgan to extend the loan's maturity.

The Kansas City Business Journal reported Wednesday that a loan backed by the Aspiria campus was purchased on May 9 for roughly \$164 million by an entity that was formed in late April.

The KCBJ report said Occidental CEO Gary Oborny told investors the company was "surprised" their Aspiria loan had been sold. Oborny also reportedly told investors Occidental was working to arrange a meeting with the Royals to determine their intentions.

Occidental officials declined to comment Wednesday.

The Royals' statement comes just days before lawmakers in Missouri are set to convene a special session in Jefferson City on Monday in which they are slated to take up possible tax incentives to entice the Royals and Chiefs to stay in Missouri.

Last year, Kansas lawmakers passed legislation aimed at incentivizing the teams to move across the state line. That bill authorizes Kansas to issue Sales Tax and Revenue, or STAR, bonds that would pay up to 70% of the cost of stadiums for one or both teams, which ultimately could cost billions of dollars.

Ever since Kansas's move last summer, there has been speculation on sites in Kansas the teams could be eyeing.

In March, a local sports talk radio host suggested on air that the Royals were closing in on a deal for a new stadium at Aspiria, prompting Occidental to issue a quick rebuttal.

"There is a lot of speculation out there. This is just a rumor, and we are not talking with the Royals about moving to the Aspiria campus," Occidental's president Chad Stafford said in a news release at that time.

The team says it remains "committed



The Aspiria campus near 119th and Nall in Overland Park. File photo.

to finding a generational home for the Kansas City Royals that our fans, our team and associates, and our regional community can enjoy for decades to come."

The team on Wednesday said it is still "evaluating multiple options at the same time."

"In fact, in the weeks since we purchased the [Aspiria] mortgage, we have continued to work through a strategic, diligent, and focused process in both states to ensure we can reach the best decision," the team said.

After rumors flew in March, Occidental's Stafford said the firm was "NOT in discussions with the Royals about being a potential new site for their sta-

dium."

He said the company is "committed to keeping Aspiria a mixed-use space" that includes entertainment, restaurants and office space.

The Aspiria campus was once envisioned for office development as part of the former Sprint World Headquarters.

In 2020, Occidental had the 200-acre campus rezoned for mixed-use development, effectively paving the way for a variety of uses.

That, so far, has included offices, entertainment venues and other types of operations. After T-Mobile merged with Sprint in 2020, the company took over the western portion of the cam-

pus.

Earlier this year, Overland Park green lit a final development plan for some more retail near 115th Street and Nall, and construction on a new indoor go-kart facility and entertainment complex is underway, too.

In April, Wisconsin-based financial technology firm Fiserv announced its intention to lease out some 425,000 square feet of existing office space at Aspiria for a regional office housing roughly 2,000 full-time in-person employees.

Fiserv officials said that office could open as soon as later this year.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT ROLL PARK PLACE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Governing Body of the City of Leawood, Kansas, has received and accepted proposed assessments for tax year 2026 for the following improvements:

Construction of certain improvements to Nall Avenue, 117th Street, Town Center Drive and Roe Avenue, such improvements being more particularly described on Exhibit B attached to Ordinance 2490 and incorporated therein by reference. All such street improvements shall include, without limitation, any concrete curb and gutter, medians, asphalt pavement, storm drainage, sidewalks, pedestrian walkways or bikeways, traffic signals, street lighting, landscaping and other improvements and appurtenances as are required pursuant to the final plans approved by the City. The general location of the street improvements is depicted on the drawing attached as Exhibit C to Ordinance 2490 and incorporated therein. The City will approve the final alignment of such improvements after consultation with the petitioners and their engineers.

Construction of public storm sewers and structures, and bioengineered channel improvements to the creek channel that runs through property owned by the City, north and west of City Hall to stabilize the creek bank and improve flood control measures, all pursuant to plans approved by the City.

all as more particularly described in Ordinance No. 2490, adopted by the Governing Body on June 6, 2011, amending and restating Resolution No. 2410, as amended by Resolution No. 2806 and further amended by Resolution No. 3062 (collectively, the "SBD Ordinance"), authorizing the creation of the Park Place Development District (the "Improvement District"), and ordering the above referenced public improvements.

The cost assessed against the District is Five Million One Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,155,000) plus interest to accrue on such principal amount, all such properties within the District as identified in the SBD Ordinance, except as expressly excluded as provided in the petition and the SBD Ordinance, shall be assessed a fractional portion of such amount in the manner provided and in accordance with the SBD Ordinance; and

The assessment to be apportioned against the Improvement District shall be assessed as follows:

Street Improvements Assessment: The proposed method of assessment for reimbursement of the costs associated with the Street Improvements is to assess all properties that are included within the Improvement District a fractional portion of the cost of the Street Improvements. The fractional portion of the cost of the Street Improvements to be assessed against property within the Improvement District shall be determined based on the assessed value of the improvements (without regard to the value of the land) in the Improvement District. Each year an equal amount will be assessed against the property comprising the Improvement District. The assessed value of all of the improvements on each individual parcel shall be measured against the assessed value of all of the improvements in the Improvement District. The special assessment for Street Improvements for each parcel within the Improvement District will be calculated each year by multiplying the annual amount to be levied against the Improvement District by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the assessed value of improvements on each individual parcel within the Improvement District and the denominator of which shall be the total assessed value of

the improvements on all of the parcels within the Improvement District. For example, if in year one the total amount to be assessed against all of the property in the Improvement District for the Street Improvements is \$300,000, the total assessed value of improvements on all of the property in the Improvement District is \$1,000,000 and the assessed value of the improvements on Parcel X within the Improvement District is \$200,000, a special assessment of \$60,000 for the Street Improvements would be levied against Parcel X in year one (i.e., $\$300,000 \times \frac{\$200,000}{\$1,000,000} = \$60,000$). Every year, the special assessment for each parcel within the Improvement District will be recalculated based on the foregoing formula for the Street Improvements. Within any residential lot platted for condominium units, each platted parcel shall be assessed its proportionate share as determined on an assessed value basis, and each condominium unit within each improved parcel shall be assessed a share based on the assessed value of such unit against the total assessed value of the floor area of all condominium units within that improved parcel.

Storm Water Improvement Assessment: The proposed method of assessment of the costs associated with the Storm Water Improvements is to assess all properties that are included within the Improvement District a fractional portion of the cost of the Storm Water Improvements. The fractional portion of the cost of the Storm Water Improvements to be assessed against property within the Improvement District shall be assessed equally per square foot of land area against each parcel of real property located within the Improvement District. Within any residential lot platted for condominium units, each platted parcel shall be assessed its proportionate share as determined on a square foot basis, and each condominium unit within each improved parcel shall be assessed a share based on the square footage of the floor area of such unit against the total square footage of the floor area of all units platted on such improved parcel.

Owners of record of each lot, piece and parcel of property liable for any such assessment shall have a period of thirty (30) days from the date hereof to raise objection to the calculation of the amount of the assessment to be so levied by notice in writing given to the undersigned City Clerk at the address as set forth below.

The proposed assessment roll for the above improvement project is on file in my office for public inspection.

Written objections to the calculation of the amount of the assessment will be considered at the regular meeting of the Governing Body on July 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers at Leawood City Hall, 4800 Town Center Drive, Leawood, Kansas whereat the Governing Body shall consider and pass upon all of such objections to the calculation of each proposed assessment, if any, and may amend the proposed assessments as to any parcels, and thereupon, the City Clerk shall certify to the County Clerk the same as a special assessment against the lands described in the assessment rolls. The determination of the Governing Body of the amount of the assessment so certified shall be final and conclusive.

Dated: May 19, 2025

/s/ Stacie Stromberg
Stacie Stromberg, City Clerk
City of Leawood, Kansas

OP committee advances major Black & Veatch HQ proposal

Continued from 1A

city leaders have emphasized mixed-use redevelopment opportunities in that area as it looks to reinvent the corridor. Overland Park has also looked at walkability as a priority in the College and Metcalf area, something the Black & Veatch plan intends to deliver on, according to city documents.

In all, Council President Holly Grummert, who sits on the finance committee, said she thinks Black & Veatch's plan for their headquarters redevelopment "really fits" with that vision.

"This is a unique place making opportunity," she added.

While the vote was unanimous earlier this week, it's not necessarily an indicator of easy passage ahead.

The bulk of the committee on Wednesday expressed some hesitation with the terms Black & Veatch has proposed, seemingly specifically held up with the fact that the firm is requesting 100% of the reimbursement increment in the TIF district when Overland Park policy usually caps at 90%.

Councilmember Melissa Cheatham suggested that if the city were to offer the full increment, then she'd like to see Black & Veatch foot the bill for developing the parkland the firm intends to donate to the city.

Additionally, some committee members said they wanted to see the firm make promises about sustainability and housing attainability, which would likely be handled during a subsequent redevelopment agreement.

Plus, as city staff pointed out, it is bizarre to receive an incentive application before a project has made it through the planning process. Black & Veatch only recently rezoning application for the property, which means all of that is still pending.

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Friday, June 27th | 5:30-9:30pm
Fireworks at 9:30!

Ex-Olathe officer given 'valor' awards for fatal shooting now at heart of federal lawsuit

Kaylie McLaughlin
STAFF REPORTER

A former Olathe police officer was cited twice for valor by professional law enforcement associations for the fatal shooting of a man with known mental health struggles.

Former Officer Conner Thompson received the two awards within the last year and a half. He is now named as a defendant in a federal lawsuit stemming from the same incident for which he was cited for valor: the shooting death of 27-year-old Brandon Lynch on New Year's Eve 2022.

On Dec. 31, 2022, Thompson responded to Lynch's home after Lynch's sister had called 911 to report a physical altercation. Lynch had a documented history of schizophrenia that Olathe Police were aware of, and Thompson had interacted with Lynch on previous occasions.

In an exchange that lasted just a few minutes, Thompson ultimately shot Lynch three times, killing him. A few months later, Johnson County District Attorney Steve Howe found that Thompson's use of force was "justified" and did not file criminal charges.

Thompson went on to receive the two valor awards from the Kansas City Metropolitan Area Chiefs and Sheriffs Association in late 2023 and the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police in May 2024. Both associations cited Thompson's actions on New Year's Eve in 2022 as the reason for the award.

Thompson resigned from the Olathe Police Department last summer after about five years on the job. He has since taken a job with a police department in a Seattle suburb.

Lynch's mother, Maria Varnas, filed a federal lawsuit against Thompson and the city of Olathe in spring 2024, just a couple of days after Thompson received the valor award from the state association.

The lawsuit alleges that Thompson's actions that night "escalated" the situation with Lynch in contradiction with the Olathe department's crisis inter-

vention training and "created" a scenario where deadly force was used. It also accuses the Olathe Police Department of having a custom of "excessive force."

When police arrived, Lynch's sister — who had called 911 — stepped out of the home. Lynch was reportedly armed with a knife. Thompson and one other responding officer tried unsuccessfully to use a taser to subdue Lynch and ordered him multiple times to drop his weapon.

According to District Attorney Howe's later report, Lynch took steps in the direction of the officers. Thompson then shot him three times.

Olathe Police reported that no mental health experts or co-responders were on the scene.

Last fall, after the defendants tried to have the civil case dismissed, Judge Julie Robinson of the U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kansas, ruled that Thompson was ineligible for qualified immunity — a legal doctrine that permits some government officials like police officers to avoid personal liability in some instances.

The judge also declined to dismiss the city as a defendant in the lawsuit, but she did dismiss one of the claims related to Thompson in his official capacity. Altogether, the ruling last year allowed the majority of the federal lawsuit to continue, setting up a possible trial for later this year.

Andrew Holder, an attorney representing Thompson and the city of Olathe, declined to comment on behalf of Thompson and the city. Sgt. John Moncayo, the public information officer for Olathe Police, also declined to comment, citing "ongoing civil litigation."

At the time of publication, attorneys representing Varnas had not responded to the Post's request for comment.

Both Gold Awards for Valor, given to Thompson after the fatal shooting of Lynch in 2022 cite the incident as the reason for the recognition.

These valor awards, given regularly,



Officer Conner Thompson (right) was sworn in with a department in Washington state. Photo via Kent Police on Facebook.

are intended to recognize bravery and exemplary service in the line of duty.

Previously, Officer Erik Clark, an Olathe school resource officer, was recognized with the Gold Award of Valor from the metro police association for his actions during a shooting at Olathe East High School in 2022.

During the 2023 ceremony where Thompson was recognized, the metro association also honored two officers from the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department with the Life-Saving Award for Valor in 2023 for resuscitating an infant who had stopped breathing. A deputy from the Clay County Sheriff's Office also received the Bronze Award for Valor for saving a suicidal teenager.

According to a packet of remarks

from the metro association's citation in 2023, Thompson was commended with the Gold Award of Valor for his attempts to "conduct life-saving measures" after shooting Lynch, though they were unsuccessful. His former partner, Officer Tyler Willard, was also recognized.

Similarly, Thompson and Willard were recognized by the state association as well, which detailed "uncommon valor in the line of duty" for their actions on Dec. 31, 2022.

Dennis Shaw, the executive director of the state association and the retired chief of police from McPherson, Kansas, said in an emailed response to the Post's questions that the awards committee reaches out to state law enforcement agencies seeking nominations for

the annual awards. Then, the committee — made up of 15 active and retired police chiefs and other law enforcement professionals — makes selections for awards.

He said that the awards committee received just shy of 200 nominations last year and granted 58 individual awards as well as 12 citations for police units.

In regards to Thompson's award, Shaw said the association used information from the district attorney, who had cleared the officer of wrongdoing. He said that the federal lawsuit filed by Lynch's mother "is unknown to us."

The Post was unable to reach the Metro Kansas City Metropolitan Area Chiefs and Sheriffs Association for comment.

Cyclists excited for new bike park near Shawnee sports complex

Andrew Gaug
STAFF REPORTER

Plans to develop a park in Shawnee aimed at cyclists have received unanimous approval from the city council.

On May 12, the Shawnee City Council approved a roughly \$329,000 contract with a local design firm to create a master plan and market analysis study for the proposed 170-acre Rail Creek Park project. The vote was 8-0.

The city council approved the contract with the Kansas City-based Vireo LLC to start work on the nine-month project. It was previously budgeted at \$500,000 as part of the city's 2025 Capital Improvement Program.

The park, which would be located at 6103 Woodland Dr., has been on the city's radar for the past five years. Plans for it have been included in both the 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the 2021 Achieve Shawnee Comprehensive Plan. The area on Woodland Drive is currently used by bike riders and groups like Donderdag Youth Cycle Clinics.

"(It's) a park that will not only serve our residents in the Kansas City Metro Area, (but will also) create a destination park for cyclists and adventure-loving travelers in the Midwest and even nationally," said Tonya Lecuru, Shawnee's parks and recreation director. As part of its agreement with the city, Vireo will conduct market analysis, including site evaluation, workshops and focus groups with community stakeholders, and public listening sessions, as well as conducting an economic impact analysis and feasibility study.

Vireo will also create a master plan for the park, including a site plan, two architectural concepts, phasing diagram, revenue projections and a funding master plan.

During public comments at the city council meeting earlier this month, Melissa Sabin, a parent of a child with disabilities, said she was grateful residents will be involved to give their input.

"I think that is needed, and if you guys could just publicize (community engagement events) and really, just get people involved, I know I have a

whole community of people who would love to share some best practices or some inputs, at the very least," she said.

With the city council's contract with Vireo, a timeline is set for the park process, including:

- May — June: Background phase, including the start of the project, site tour for Vireo and review of previous documents
- June — August: Site studies phase, including Vireo analyzing the site and data, conducting visioning workshops and market analysis
- September — October: Master Plan refinement, with 60% of the master plan documents reviewed
- November — December: Draft Master Plan, with 90% of the master plan document reviewed
- January — February 2026: Final Master Plan for Council Approval, with 100% master plan documents for review and a presentation made to the city council.

Before voting, several city councilmembers had questions about funding.

Councilmember Kurt Knappen wanted to be sure that what the city council was approving was only for the first phase of the plan, which City Manager Paul Kramer affirmed.

"I just wanted to confirm that we'll have the ability to discuss (the project) and decide as we go along," Knappen said.

Agreeing with Knappen's clarifying question, Councilmember Mike Kemmling wanted to be sure he wasn't committing to multiple phases of the project.

"I kind of had some similar reservations just because of how large this was. But I think just this step here, taking a look, seeing what we're going to be in for (is good), as long as this doesn't commit us to the larger scope," he said.

Other councilmembers, like Jacklynn Walters, praised the first phase of the project for coming



A cyclist for Donderdag Youth Cyclocross Clinics bikes at Rail Creek Park. Image via Rail Creek Park Instagram page.

in under budget.

"I know there's some excitement around this project and even the potential of what it could draw to our city," she said. "I appreciate that it's coming in a little under proposed \$500,000 budget, so I'm thankful for that, and thank you (Tonya) for your hard work."

During the comment section of the discussion, several Shawnee residents, including those involved with the Donderdag youth cycling group, said they were excited to see it move forward.

Already training kids at the site of the proposed park, Donald Jonas, Jr., executive director of Donderdag, said it's been a good piece of land for kids to bike on.

"It's got humans thriving and living and growing on it, having a great time," he said.

A father of a child that went through the Donderdag program, Randy Braley said he was excited for the potential the park has.

"This will be a canvas for cyclocross and cyclists to use, but it will also be a green space for the rest of the community to use, engage and interact," Braley said.

Ultimately, Jonas said the park should get more people outside to enjoy nature.

"When you put up bike trails and bike spaces and bike areas for your citizens, you end up with a lot of people that get outdoors more," he said. "If you do it right, like the city and the chamber of commerce and the parks department is here in Shawnee ... It's really a beautiful and wonderful thing."