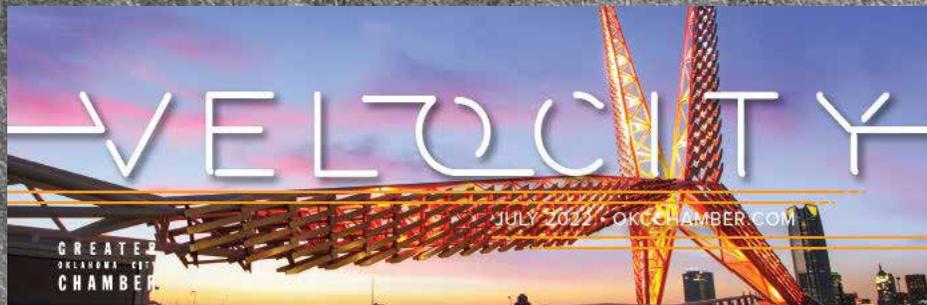


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OK COUNTY VOTERS APPROVE FUNDING FOR NEW JAIL; CHAMBER'S WORK DURING CAMPAIGN INSTRUMENTAL

Voters in Oklahoma County have spoken! A new county jail will soon replace the current jail, which has endured decades of overcrowding, infrastructure issues, health violations, and inadequate security and staffing.

On June 28, nearly 60% of registered voters living in Oklahoma County approved a \$260 million bond issue to construct the new jail. Officials expect the facility will be completed by the end of 2026. Although the exact

site where the jail will be built has yet to be determined, county and city officials said it should be located no more than 10 miles from downtown. The next step in the process is to form a citizen's oversight committee, similar to the one created for MAPS 4, whose purpose would be to help ensure the design and construction of the jail will be done correctly and transparently.

"First of all, I want to thank Oklahoma County voters for going to the polls on June 28 to not only vote for their favorite candidates in the primary election but also to cast their votes for funding a new county jail," said Roy Williams, president and CEO of the Greater OKC Chamber, which spearheaded the "Fix the Jail" campaign.

"It's no secret that the jail has been plagued for years with a variety of issues and obstacles that essentially

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

IMPACT OF DIVERSIFYING COMPANY SUPPLIER BASE TOPIC OF JULY 28 CHAMBER EVENT

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber invites you to attend the kickoff luncheon for our Corporate Community Strategy, "The Impact of Supplier Diversity: The Business Case for OKC Companies," July 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Vast, 50th floor.



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"It's no secret that the jail has been plagued for years with a variety of issues and obstacles that essentially cannot be fixed just by simply renovating the current

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

IMPACT OF DIVERSIFYING COMPANY SUPPLIER BASE TOPIC OF JULY 28 CHAMBER EVENT

A new Chamber effort to help local businesses rethink their strategies and purchasing goals through diversifying their supplier base will launch later this month with an informational forum.

On July 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Vast, the Chamber is hosting a kickoff luncheon for its Corporate Community Strategy, "The Impact of Supplier Diversity: The Business Case for OKC Companies."

The event will feature a keynote by Karen Box, president of the Southwest Minority Supplier Development Council (SMSDC), whose mission is to create opportunities and an environment for minority



business enterprises to grow and to actively add value for corporate members through positive business relationships. As SMSDC performs its commitment to certify, connect, develop, and advocate; the certified MBEs and corporate members develop and build relationships that positively influence their bottom line.

Box will share why diversifying the supplier base is an important decision not only for your company's health

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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Safia Franks, RN
Cardiology

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- OU Health Education Accelerator Program

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LEADERSHIP NOTES

'BEST-RUN CITY' ACCOLADE ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF OKC'S POSITIVE MOMENTUM

Recently, WalletHub released their annual list of “Best- & Worst-Run Cities in America.” Looking at what they term “operating efficiency” as a way of quantifying the “effectiveness of local leadership,” the study examined 38 different metrics grouped into six different overall service categories, then compared those scores to the city’s operating budget. The City of Oklahoma City ranked in the top 10 of the best-run cities – number eight, in fact – in this comprehensive study of the 150 most populated cities in America (in case you were curious, Washington, D.C. ranked last). Among our metrics, Oklahoma City scored particularly well in the Education and Economy categories.

Appearing on these types of lists is no accident. The City of Oklahoma City has proven to be responsive to residents, and not combative toward the business community. In fact, we are partners on many levels, and that shows in this latest example of our collective success. We are fortunate to have strong leadership in our mayor and city council and outstanding professional staff led by City Manager Craig Freeman.

Oklahoma City is no stranger to third-party accolades, and while one can debate the logic behind the methodology employed by some of the outlets that create these lists, the fact remains that this is the latest example of how Oklahoma City’s reputation as a city enjoying a renaissance and a great deal of positive momentum is neither a fluke nor a secret. It has taken cooperation between the city, its citizens and our business community to make it all happen, and is something we need to strive to continue in the future to ensure we can be the best we can and offer the kind of quality of life to all our citizens that results in better well-being and an even greater future for us all.

We are glad to be partners in making Oklahoma City a success. It is only by working together that we can all be our best.



Roy H. Williams, CCE
Chamber President & CEO



Roy H. Williams, CCE
President & CEO

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“Q&A WITH BAR K'S DAVE HENSLEY: 'SO MANY THINGS HAPPENING'”

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President & CEO



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Editorial staff

Harve Allen, Nate Fisher,
and Cynthia Reid

Designer
Josh Vaughn

405-297-8900

thepoint@okcchamber.com

okcchamber.com

twitter.com/okcchamber

facebook.com/okcchamber

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ACOG release study on impact
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UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR

(Events are subject to change.
Consult okcchamber.com/events for
the most recent updates.)

JULY 14

State of the City
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Oklahoma City Convention Center
100 Mick Cornett Dr.
okcchamber.com/soc

JULY 20

Chamber Forum
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vast
333 W Sheridan Ave.
okcchamber.com/julyforum

JULY 28

**The Impact of Supplier
Diversity: The Business Case
for OKC Companies**
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vast
333 W Sheridan Ave.
okcchamber.com/dei

AUGUST 9

Chamber Connection
3 to 4:30 p.m.
RACK59 Data Center
7725 W. Reno Ave., Suite 304

AUGUST 10

State of the Schools
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
National Cowboy Hall of Fame &
Western Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St.
okcchamber.com/schools

AUGUST 17

Chamber Forum
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vast
333 W Sheridan Ave.
okcchamber.com/augustforum

SEPTEMBER 21

Chamber Forum
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vast
333 W Sheridan Ave.
okcchamber.com/septemberforum

CHAMBER FORUM

July Forum to provide updates on OKC Innovation District and Convergence Development; visitor economy on tap for August

Learn more about all the progress happening with Convergence and the OKC Innovation District during the next Chamber Forum July 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Vast, including the MAPS 4 projects, that will increase opportunities for entrepreneurs.

As part of the event, attendees will have the opportunity to hear from a trio of speakers as part of a panel discussion who represent various facets of OKC's expanding innovation ecosystem. Participants in the panel will include:

- Mark Beffort, Chief Executive Officer, Newman Robinson Park
- Katy Boren, President and CEO, Oklahoma City Innovation District
- Sandino Thompson, Partner, EightTwenty

AUGUST FORUM

During the August Chamber Forum on August 17, attendees will hear about the recovery of Oklahoma City's visitor economy and learn more about the exciting events taking place across the city. Serving on the August panel will be:

- Zac Craig, President, Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Craig Cress, Chief Executive Officer, USA Softball
- Harshil Patel, Vice President, Champion Hotels & Development
- Kari Watkins, President & CEO, Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

The cost to attend either the July Forum or August Chamber Forum is \$40 for Chamber members and \$50 for nonmembers. To register for the July Forum, please visit okcchamber.com/julyforum. Anyone interested in registering for the August Forum can do so at okcchamber.com/augustforum.

The Chamber Forum series brings thought leaders together to discuss major initiatives, programs and current issues that impact Oklahoma City's business climate, economy and community.

Special thanks to our Series Presenting Sponsor Cox Business and Series Corporate Sponsor ADG.

Garrett, McDaniel highlight Chamber's State of the Schools event

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber will present the 2022 State of the Schools, with featured guests Higher Education Chancellor Allison Garrett and Oklahoma City Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Sean McDaniel, on Wednesday, August 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

Garrett, chief executive officer for the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and the first woman to hold the position of Chancellor in Oklahoma, will provide an overview of higher education, including recent budget and legislative issues, the impact and recovery from COVID-19, and the vision for encouraging more graduates with in-demand degrees in STEM, health care and education.

McDaniel will deliver an update on the district, including the progress on Pathway to Greatness and EmbraceOKC, share highlights from the past year and discuss the impact the upcoming bond issue will have on the district's future.

The event will also feature a panel with McDaniel and other area superintendents as they discuss what is needed to help all students reach their potential, how Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds will be utilized, and how area districts are working to improve

the mental health of their students, teachers and staff. Joining McDaniel on the panel will be:

- Dr. Rick Cobb, Superintendent, Mid-Del Public Schools
- Dr. Angela Grunewald, Superintendent, Edmond Public Schools
- Dr. Robert Romines, Superintendent, Moore Public Schools

Individual tickets are \$60 for Chamber members and \$85 for nonmembers. To register or learn more, visit okcchamber.com/schools. Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,500. Contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at sellison@okcchamber.com for table sponsor inquiries.

The Chamber and American Fidelity Assurance Company invite attendees to bring school supplies to the event, which will benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Oklahoma County. Supplies can also be dropped off at the Chamber office prior to the event.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and Host Sponsor Cox Communications, and School Supply/Centerpiece Sponsor American Fidelity Assurance Company.



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OKBIO TEAM RETURNS FROM BIOSCIENCE TRADE SHOW, ALREADY LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023 EVENT

The San Diego Convention Center was booming with wall-to-wall activity last month as thousands of bioscience professionals converged for the 2022 Biotechnology Innovation Organization International Convention (BIO). Among them was a large contingent from Oklahoma who joined forces as part of the Oklahoma Biosciences Association (OKBio) exhibitor booth.

A statewide membership organization, OKBio is the voice for Oklahoma's bioscience and life science community, promoting the industry's growth in the state through partnership building, education and outreach, networking, policy development and publicity.

Various Oklahoma companies and organizations were represented at BIO 2022, whether through simply sponsoring the OKBio exhibitor booth or actually having a physical presence to meet face to face with potential clients and other like-minded individuals. Those Oklahoma entities included Ascend BioVentures, ARL Biopharma, Echo Investment Capital, Cytovance Biologics, Emergent Technologies, Excitant Therapeutics, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, i2E, Oklahoma Blood Institute, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma State University, Moleculara Labs, Nature Technology, Pure MHC, the University of Oklahoma and Wheeler Bio.

The foot traffic throughout the exhibit hall was heavy and steady throughout the event, which boded well for the participating Oklahoma companies who were looking to promote their respective organizations throughout the duration of the event. The event also allowed them opportunities to schedule one-on-one meetings with prospective clients or potential strategic partners.

"I really wasn't sure what to expect as far as meetings, and it's just been incredible," said Dr. Tom Kupiec, CEO and owner of both ARL Biopharma, a pharmaceutical testing company, and DNA Solutions, a genetics testing

company. "Oklahoma's delegation is comprised of incredible people. It's a spirit of collaboration between the universities and between private and government entities, and it's an exciting time to be in Oklahoma."

Kupiec expanded on his thoughts about the importance of collaboration.

"In order to be competitive in the new scientific community, you need to be collaborative. And this venue gives an opportunity for business owners such as myself, technology transfer offices within the universities, both



Attendees visit the OKBio booth during BIO 2022 in San Diego last month.

OU and OSU, and other universities within the state, as well as government entities and nonprofits to work together for the common good to bring biotechnology to Oklahoma," Kupiec said.

OKBio's director, Dr. Meredith Wilkerson, who also serves as a venture advisor for i2E, said she has attended past BIO conventions but as an OU employee. This was her first as director of OKBio.

"In this new capacity, it's been really great to have BIO in person this year because I have gone to other state bioscience association booths and visited with them and to try and understand how they run their respective state bio associations – learn how they run their boards and how they impact their local bio, life sciences and biotech communities. It has also afforded me the opportunity to get some new ideas and start building relationships with some of the other bioscience associations," Wilkerson said.

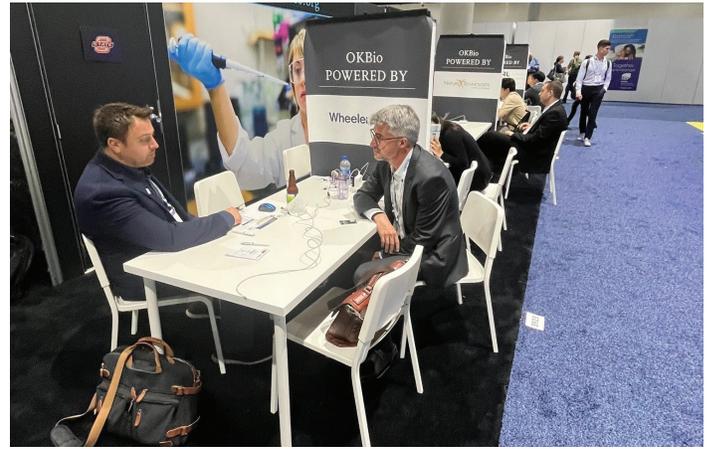
Dr. Henry Shin, co-founder and CEO at Excitant Therapeutics, a new spin-off company in Oklahoma that is trying to develop a drug for diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration, said he made

meaningful connections throughout the convention using the OKBio booth.

“This was my first time being part of OKBio,” he said. “To be part of a bigger presence helped me get more exposure for my company. Some of my new industry connections were possible only because my fellow OKBio participants were making referrals for other Oklahoma companies at the OKBio booth, to make sure that no visitors to our booth left any stones unturned.”

Shin said he appreciated the booth providing a physical space where he and other company owners could host meetings with clients, as well as many mini-sessions and workshops that happened during the BIO convention.

“I noticed a lot of people that requested meetings did not have booths of their own, so it was great to be able to offer a place here that is dedicated for me to host meetings, and I did not have to worry too much about time. Also, the convention had many panel discussions and educational sessions that shared industry trends and new insights to consider for my business. This was a great week of networking and learning.” Shin said.



David Schmidt, left, vice president of analytics at Oklahoma City's Wheeler Bio, visits with a BIO attendee inside the exhibit hall of the San Diego Convention Center. Oklahoma companies held more than 90 scheduled meetings at the OKBio booth during the nearly weeklong convention.

Next year's BIO convention will be in Boston June 5-8, and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, along with other OKBio members, will once again be in attendance to continue the goal of highlighting the state's bioscience and technology sector and helping sustain its upward trajectory.



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JAIL VOTE (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

facility. Building a whole new jail is truly the only viable option that makes sense, and we are thrilled that voters agreed with that assessment,” he said. “Oklahoma City’s business community wholeheartedly supported the plan to build a new structure, and the Chamber will continue to be involved in this and other justice-related matters and issues for the future.”

The county jail or Oklahoma County Detention Center, as it is officially called, was first built in 1991 and has since been besieged with various issues and problems, so much so that the U.S. Department of Justice eventually intervened and threatened to take over control of the jail if the county did not fix the problems.

Overcrowding has arguably been one of the most pressing issues facing the jail since its inception. Originally built to hold 1,200 detainees, the facility has throughout its 30-year history topped more than 2,500 detainees, including a one-time high of 2,617 in 2004. More recently in 2017, the jail had a one-day population of 2,237. But through the collaboration and cooperation of many partners, including the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Advisory Council, the Chamber, Jail Trust and Oklahoma County commissioners, those numbers have decreased significantly during the last five years, dropping to about 1,400 detainees earlier this year.



FixTheJail signs were sprinkled all around Oklahoma County urging people to vote during the June 28 election.

Despite fewer detainees than in years past and other temporary improvements at the jail, it does not diminish the fact that the 13-story facility needed to be replaced with a newer and more efficient structure that would be safer for everybody inside and outside the jail, and would provide detainees with better living conditions. The new jail, which will be just two stories, will also house mental health and substance abuse facilities, along with diversion programs, that will get people the help they need quicker in order to become productive members of society sooner.

SUPPLIERS (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

but also the health of our community. With a global supply chain crisis, expanding your supplier options is smart business and ensures your company can withstand any future disruptions.

During the event, attendees will also hear from a panel which will discuss their first-hand, local perspective of diversifying suppliers and how that has impacted their business and the communities that make up our city. Panelists will include:

- Phil Busey, Sr., founder, chairman and CEO, Delaware Resource Group
- Angie Christopher, vice president of human resources, 180 Medical

- Nedra Dickson, global supplier diversity and sustainability managing director, Accenture
- Indria Hollingsworth, senior regional diversity, equity, and inclusion manager of the south-central region, JE Dunn Construction
- John Lopez, president, Lopez-Dorada Foods

Register for the event at okcchamber.com. Tickets are \$40 for members and \$50 for nonmembers.

We appreciate the support of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Benefactors: American Fidelity Assurance Company, Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Devon Energy Corporation.

OKC CONVENTION CENTER TABBED FOR ULI AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

The Oklahoma City Convention Center has been open for about 18 months, and it is still garnering attention from coast to coast. During its Eighth Annual Impact Awards this past May, the Urban Land Institute of Oklahoma recognized the convention center as its 2022 Outstanding Public Initiative award winner for its innovative and architectural design. The facility was one of three finalists for the award.

ULI is a global nonprofit, nonpartisan research and education organization whose mission is to shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide. ULI Oklahoma boasts 365 members in 26 communities across the state.

“We are so thrilled the Urban Land Institute recognized the Oklahoma City Convention Center in this way. The facility has been a game changer for Oklahoma City since it opened, helping us attract many groups for meetings and conferences that we could not have gotten here otherwise. Everyone involved in the planning and construction of the convention center is to be commended for the hard work and forward-thinking ideas it took to see this wonderful facility come to fruition. We look forward to many more years of continued success,” said Zac Craig, president of the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau, a division of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber.

The CVB has worked hand-in-hand with ASM Global and other partners to attract world-class events to the convention center. Since its opening, the CVB has landed many top-quality events to the convention center, drawing thousands of attendees to Oklahoma City, who in turn have opportunities to enjoy some of the outstanding attractions, restaurants, nightlife and other amenities in OKC.

In a press release announcing their selection, convention center Assistant GM Barbara Beaton stated, “To receive this honor speaks to the hard work, persistence and commitment of MAPS 3 and ASM Global., the center’s management firm. We’re proud to have safely opened in January 2021 and will continue

to provide premier hospitality for our clients and their attendees.”

Hailed as the largest single construction project in the city’s history, the \$293 million Oklahoma City Convention Center boasts more than 500,000 square feet of useable space, including a 200,000-square-foot exhibit hall on the first floor. Its sleek, modern design has captured the attention of numerous organizations and associations as their preferred choice for regional and national meetings, conferences, conventions and other events. There is even a 30,000-square-foot pre-function balcony overlooking Scissortail Park.

Arguably, one of venue’s most noticeable and talked about features inside the convention center is an award-winning public art installation called “Virtual Sky.” This art installation features strands of LED lights suspended from the ceiling that can be programmed to mimic various patterns as well as reflect Oklahoma City’s changing sky. The artwork is also visible to residents and visitors outside on the west side of the building. Materials used to build the convention center were selected for their energy efficiency and resiliency against the weather.



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OKC'S IDEA ACCELERATOR LAUNCHES SECOND COHORT; MORE INNOVATIVE IDEAS AWAIT



A program designed to help stimulate individuals in the heartland of America to begin thinking more like entrepreneurs in order to help solve everyday problems within their communities recently celebrated its first cohort of “builders” in Oklahoma City and has now started its second, summer cohort to generate even more innovative ideas.

The Idea Accelerator, developed by Builders + Backers and sponsored by Bentonville, Ark.-based nonprofit Heartland Forward and national sponsor Accenture, was first introduced to Oklahoma City last fall through a partnership between the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and the Inasmuch Foundation. The Idea Accelerator is the main pillar for the Builders + Backers’ groundbreaking Community Growth Program and Tool Kit.

Over the course of 90 days, builders of that first cohort participated in a bootcamp to teach them how to put their ideas into action. They also learned how to execute their ideas through a single experiment with the goal of eventually launching a business. Heartland Forward provided \$5,000 Pebble grants to each of the builders to test their ideas.

A few of the ideas that came out of that first cohort included an online app that allows shoppers to place their purchases from various online retailers into

one cart; the creation of a digital platform that allows landowners to list their property for use by private landowners; and a business that refills candles to reduce waste.

The second cohort, which kicked off June 16, will also feature several creative and innovative ideas that could someday turn into successful businesses:

- A software solution optimizing airport operations.
- Telemedicine for treating musculoskeletal injuries.
- A training program for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) political campaign staff.
- A software solution optimizing water usage by farmers.
- An app that promotes seamless search and visibility across social media platforms.
- A software solution helping parents choose the right video game console for their children.
- An app increasing the sales capacity for home-based bakery businesses.
- Testing a healthier alternative to sugar.
- A suite of tools to learn about hair products.
- Unique party supplies for everyday occasions.

“Our goal is to be able to bring a whole new group of people into entrepreneurship, teach them that they can run experiments and start seeing ideas come out of our program, but also see people in our cities who have the wherewithal to go launch their own businesses based on their ideas,” said James Atkin, head of public engagement and communities for Builders + Backers.

The Community Growth Program and Toolkit were first piloted in Tulsa, Okla., and Oxford, Miss., and have now expanded into other cities across the Midwest. Many of the builders selected for the program are women and people of color.

“We’re excited about the fact that we’re seeing high numbers of women and people of color in the program. That’s not an intentional goal, but it’s a reflection of the large surge of applications we’re getting from every corner of the community,” Atkin said.

The cohorts in Oklahoma City are part of Heartland Forward’s commitment to funding and supporting 1,000 builders across the heartland by 2023.

OKC CHAMBER URGES CITY RESIDENTS TO 'STAND TALL, SHOP SMALL FOR OKC' THIS SUMMER

Oklahoma City continues to weather the storm economically from the aftermath of the recent pandemic despite the gradual, and sometimes sudden, uptick in prices for various necessities such as fuel and groceries. But that doesn't necessarily mean OKC's business community is out of the woods just yet, especially for the thousands of small businesses scattered across the city who were hit especially hard over the last two years.

As July begins, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, through its "Stand Tall, Shop Small for OKC" campaign, is urging all Oklahoma City residents to spend money at small businesses around the city to provide a boost to those businesses during the summer months and beyond.

"Our small businesses provide so much to the economic well-being of our great city. Lumped together, small businesses typically employ the most people within any given community. In fact, studies even show that most new jobs are created by small businesses. Therefore, it is imperative we as a community continue to shop small in order to ensure the vitality of our small businesses, which will help keep our city thriving and growing," Chamber President and CEO Roy Williams said. For every dollar spent at a locally owned business, 67 cents stays in the community and directly pays for vital city services, he added.

"What makes Oklahoma City so unique and distinct, in some respects, are the variety of shops and restaurants encompassing our city limits," said Tammy Fate, senior

manager of retail development and recruitment for the Chamber. "By frequenting our local establishments and giving them the boost and support they deserve, we can all help ensure that our city's unique character and style continue to flourish."

The Stand Tall, Shop Small for OKC campaign will coincide with a similar statewide campaign planned for the weekend of July 15-17. Developed by the Independent Shopkeepers Association, "Weekend of Local" is aimed at encouraging Oklahomans across the state to shop and spend money at their local shops and restaurants that have survived the hardest year or two they have experienced as business owners. More details about the Weekend of Local campaign can be found at weekendoflocal.com.

"During the summer months, retail traffic slows and, therefore, revenue slows, especially right now when people are dealing with high gas prices. Shops are placing orders in anticipation of the holidays, so cash flow is very tight. Supporting local retail year-round allows retailers to rotate product variety and bring the latest and greatest merchandise into the shops. When

you shop local, your money stays in our community, pays locals a wage and allows these retailers to invest back in our community," said Traci Walton, Co-founder and CEO of PLENTY Mercantile.

The Chamber will promote its Stand Tall, Shop Small for OKC campaign and the various district activities on its social media accounts, which can be found on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram. People are encouraged to get downloadable social media assets, signage and more info at <https://www.velocityokc.com/shopsmallforokc>, use the #ShopSmallForOKC hashtag, and to follow the districts' social media accounts as well to keep up with their activities. A complete list of the districts, their top things to do and their attractions can be found at <https://www.visitokc.com/about-okc/okc-districts/>.



ACOG RELEASES STUDY ON IMPACT OF VIOLATING FEDERAL AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) recently released a study that showed the Oklahoma City area is in danger of violating federal ozone standards, which could ultimately cost the city anywhere between \$9.6 billion to \$15.2 billion over a 20-30-year period.

In their Cost of Nonattainment Study (CNA), which was funded through grants from the Federal Transit Administration with contributions from multiple stakeholders, including the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and City of Oklahoma City, ACOG researchers found that despite economic successes in recent years, the Oklahoma City metro has inched closer and closer to nonattainment of EPA air quality standards.

“The Chamber appreciates the opportunity to provide staff support to ACOG on their proactive, detailed study of how the Central Oklahoma Region can strategically avoid being designated in nonattainment of Federal air quality standards. As an economic development organization, we fully understand the high costs and regulatory burdens associated with falling on the wrong side of these standards and believe our area is better prepared than it was thanks to this important study,” said Derek Sparks, the Chamber’s senior manager of government relations.

According to ACOG, the organization launched the CNA study to “help local stakeholders better understand the multiple transportation and economic risks, along with the corresponding potential benefits of taking proactive steps or actions.” The study is particularly poignant since the Clean Air Act requires that the EPA designate areas as nonattainment if they are violating federal ozone standards. The eight-county Oklahoma City-Shawnee Combined Statistical Area Ozone concentrations have reached maximum allowable levels in recent years. Despite those shortcomings, Oklahoma City is one of the largest metropolitan areas still meeting EPA air quality standards, said ACOG Executive Director Mark W. Sweeney.

“With this study, our goal has been to utilize our resources as a regional planning organization to be innovative, forward-thinking and to prepare the area for all possible scenarios,” Sweeney said.

Three distinct sections comprise the CNA. Section one deals with the economic and opportunity costs to the Oklahoma City area from a nonattainment status over a 28-year period from 2022 to 2050. Section two examines the impacts a nonattainment designation may have on the transportation planning process, especially considering the requirements mandated by the Clean Air Act. Nonattainment would significantly hinder ACOG’s and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s ability to conduct and implement efficient planning for the whole region, potentially costing ACOG and ODOT upwards of \$145 million between 2023 and 2050, not to mention project delays.

Section three of the CNA study focuses on the Federal Highway Administration’s Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding. A nonattainment designation for Central Oklahoma will mean more federal dollars distributed to ACOG by ODOT for future planning; however, challenges will exist in the form of higher local matches for projects and if there are enough projects to support the funding increase.

To read the entire CNA study for the Oklahoma City area, please visit ACOG’s website at acogok.org.

OZONE ALERT DAY TIPS

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- **Cleaner Commute**
Choose a cleaner commute; share a ride to work or use public transportation. Bicycle or walk to errands when possible but be sure to avoid prolonged exposure or high-exertion as a heightened respiratory rate means you’re inhaling larger quantities of ozone.
- **Conserve Energy**
Conserve electricity and set your air conditioner to a higher temperature. Pre-cool your home during non-peak hours.
- **Outdoor Activities**
Delay gas-powered lawn mowing and landscape maintenance. Avoid outdoor burning and avoid using higher VOC household chemicals and paints.
- **Idling & Engine Run-Time**
Limit engine idling, avoid congested roadways and drive-thrus. Delay errands and reduce vehicle trips.
- **Refueling**
Refuel vehicles after dusk.

Get in the #KNOWZONE: Text OZONE to 74121 to Get Ozone Alerts.

Source: ACOG website

STEPHENSON CANCER CENTER LAUNCHES CLINICAL TRIALS FOR NEW CANCER DRUG



OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center

OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center unveiled some historic news recently that could eventually help countless numbers of patients who may be suffering from various forms of cancers, including ovarian, endometrial and cervical cancer in women.

Dr. Doris Benbrook, a researcher at the OU College of Medicine, worked for more than 25 years developing a new cancer drug named OK-1. Her research for a new drug was performed entirely in Oklahoma without any assistance from any pharmaceutical company, something that is rarely seen within academic research institutions.

The National Cancer Institute has devoted millions of dollars in grants toward Benbrook's research, however. Her work has also been supported through grants from Oklahoma City-based Presbyterian Health Foundation and the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association.

"It is very exciting to reach the point where we can test OK-1 in a clinical trial," said Benbrook in a news release from OU Health announcing the historic news. "This drug

is not available anywhere else in the world right now. We believe it has tremendous potential for treating cancer without causing toxic side effects."

OK-1 is currently going through Phase 1 clinical trials to determine if the new drug has any severe side effects on humans at the highest doses. So far during pre-clinical studies, according to officials, OK-1 has proven it is effective without causing severe side effects or birth defects.

Following clinical trials, the next step will be to test OK-1 in combination with other cancer therapies already in the market as studies have shown the drug to be more effective when given with other cancer-fighting drugs.

GRAND OPENINGS

Congratulations to Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings! To see the schedule of upcoming Grand Openings or subscribe to the Grand Openings calendar, visit okchamber.com/grandopenings.

Mo' Bettahs

2081 24th Ave. NW
Norman, OK 73069

Ball Morse Lowe PLLC

531 Couch Drive, Suite 201
OKC, OK 73102-2246

ASTEC Charter Schools – Elementary School

2600 General Pershing Blvd.
OKC, OK 73107

Boom Town Creamery

605 NW 23rd St.
OKC OK 73103-1415



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Businesses who join the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber are part of the largest coalition of businesses in the state and make the Chamber's work in the community possible. Each member level is identified on the listing below.

PARTNER+

Flight

Advertising / Marketing

Mr. Christopher Lloyd.....(405) 429-7575
218 E. Main St., Suite 210
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-4221
www.flight.agency

ADVISOR

Catalysts Financial Services

Financial Services

Mrs. Karla Nelson.....(916) 247-7817
3560 NW 18th St.
Newcastle, OK 73065-5987
www.catalystsfinancial.com

ADVISOR

HUB International (Brian Harvey)

Insurance

Mr. Brian P. Harvey.....(405) 863-9842
13100 N. Western Avenue
Suite 115
Oklahoma City, OK 73114
www.BrianHarveyOKC.com

ADVISOR

Oklahoma State University - CEAT Engineering Extension

Schools - Universities & Colleges

Mr. Ed Kirtley.....(405) 744-1568
214 ATRC
Stillwater, OK 74078
www.okstate.edu

ASSOCIATE

Quick Urgent Care, LLC

Medical Clinics

Mr. Iftikhar Sandhu.....(405) 285-7222
1421 NW 122nd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73114-8028
www.quickurgentcareok.com

CORE

Butterfield Memorial Foundation

Foundations

Colonel Hal V. Hoxie.....(405) 604-4702
8308 N. May, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73120-4551
www.butterfieldfoundation.org

CORE

Chad Shephard Insurance Agency, LLC

Insurance

Mr. Chad Shephard.....(405) 562-9307
919 W. Britton Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73114
<https://agents.farmers.com/ok/oklahoma-city/chad-shephard>

CORE

Club Car Wash

Car Washing & Polishing

Mr. Colton Snyder.....(833) 416-9975
9124 N. Council Road
1591 E. Prathersville Road
Columbia, MO 65202-9614
www.clubcarwash.com

CORE

Communication Federal Credit Union

Financial Services

Mr. Chuck Russell.....(405) 577-0064
1600 S. Mustang Road
Yukon, OK 73099-0304
www.comfedcu.org

CORE

Continental Drive Away, Inc.

Transportation - Logistics

Mr. Houston Johnson.....(202) 506-0822
1000 W. Wilshire Blvd., Suite 208
Nichols Hills, OK 73116-7030
www.continentaldriveaway.com

CORE

Dow Aero

Aircraft Components - Overhaul & Repair

Ms. Ronda Hudson-Dowding.....(405) 670-6800
6800 Camille Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73149-5210

CORE

McAlister's Deli - OKC NW Expressway

Caterers

Ms. Emily Koch.....(405) 832-0999
3221 NW Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
www.mcalistersdeli.com/catering

CORE

McAlister's Deli - OKC Westgate

Caterers

Ms. Emily Koch.....(405) 653-9460
6224 SW 3rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73128
www.mcalistersdeli.com/catering

CORE

Pigtails & Crewcuts North OKC

Beauty Salons / Barber Shops / Spas

Ms. Megan Conklin.....(405) 314-2046
1001 W. Memorial Road, Suite 109
Oklahoma City, OK 73114-2000
www.pigtailsandcrewcuts.com/northokc

CORE

West Village Association

Associations / Membership Organizations

Ms. Jane Jenkins.....(405) 235-3500
211 N. Robinson Ave., Suite 225N
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-7273
www.downtownokc.com

CORE

Ziba Salon and Spa

Beauty Salons / Barber Shops / Spas

Mr. Stephen Russell.....(405) 608-0582
5701 N. Western Ave., Suite C
Oklahoma City, OK 73118-1236
www.zibasalonspa.com

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

METRO	RANK	SENIOR POVERTY RATE	65+ HOME-OWNERSHIP RATE	% OF HOUSING COST-BURDENED SENIORS
MYRTLE BEACH- CONWAY- NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC-NC	1	6.10%	89.90%	26.20%
SALISBURY, MD-DE	2	6.20%	87.10%	27.00%
NORTH PORT- SARASOTA BRADENTON, FL	3	6.70%	86.00%	29.20%
YOUNGSTOWN-WARREN- BOARDMAN, OH-PA	4	7.80%	80.50%	22.90%
DAYTON-KETTERING, OH	5	7.40%	79.30%	28.00%
HARRISBURG-CARLISLE, PA	6	6.10%	78.00%	28.90%
NAPLES-MARCO ISLAND, FL	7	7.10%	87.00%	30.80%
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	8	7.30%	80.30%	23.10%
OCALA, FL	9	8.40%	88.10%	24.50%
BOISE, ID	10	8.20%	83.10%	26.40%

SOURCE: SMARTASSET, JUNE 2022

- SmartAsset ranked OKC No. 8 among the top metros where senior adults are most financially secure.
- The study by SmartAsset analyzed data for the 100 U.S. metro areas with the largest 65-and-older populations, considering factors such as retirement income, housing costs and poverty among seniors.
- The OKC metro area ranked No. 8 out of the 100 places with 7.3% of seniors living below the poverty line, 80% owning their home and 55% with private retirement income. OKC ranked No. 4 in the percentage of seniors who are housing-cost burdened at 23%.

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and regional data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division at greateroklahomacity.com or contact Eric Long, Research Economist at 405-297-8976 or email him at elong@okcchamber.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Get regional demographic data, consumer expenditure information, labor force data for the Greater Oklahoma City Region and more at greateroklahomacity.com.



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LOOK INSIDE!

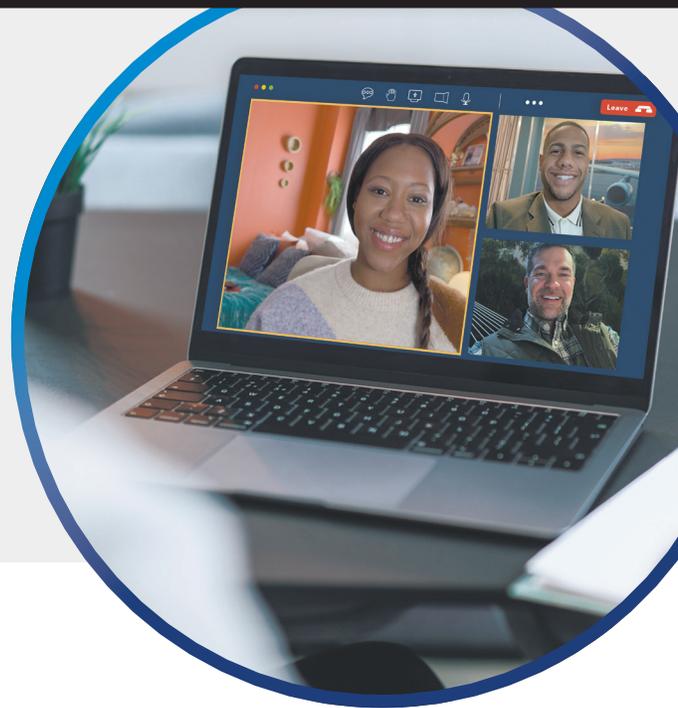
- 4** July Forum to provide update on OKC Innovation District
- 6** OKBio team returns from bioscience trade show
- 11** Chamber urges city residents to 'Stand Tall, Shop Small for OKC'
- 13** Stephenson Cancer Center launches clinical trials for new cancer drug

**GREATER
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