



Panasonic project expected to create up to 4,000 jobs in Johnson County

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly announced Panasonic Energy Co., Ltd., plans to build one of the nation's largest electric vehicle (EV) battery manufacturing facilities of its kind in Johnson County, pending approval by Panasonic Holdings Corporation Board of Directors.

The planned project is expected to create up to 4,000 new jobs and result in an investment of up to \$4 billion, which represents the largest economic development project in Kansas history. The development will have ripple effects throughout the regional and state economy, supporting an estimated 4,000 additional jobs created by suppliers and community businesses and 16,500 construction jobs as cited in an indepen-

dent Wichita State University economic impact study.

"This project will be transformative for our state's economy, providing in total 8,000 high-quality jobs that will help more Kansans create better lives for themselves and their children," said Kansas Governor Laura Kelly. "Winning this project has shown that Kansas has what it takes to compete on a global scale — and that our pro-business climate is driving the technological innovation needed to achieve a more prosperous and sustainable future."

A key component of that undertaking was the enactment of the bipartisan Attracting Powerful Economic Expansion (APEX) Act earlier this year.

"Once Governor Kelly signed APEX into law," Kansas Department of Commerce

Secretary David Toland said, "the state gained the necessary economic development tool to pursue megaprojects that could transform the Kansas economy. Panasonic recognized Kansas as not just a contender, but as the ideal partner for this revolutionary project."

Panasonic Energy selected Kansas due to its business-friendly climate, robust talent pool and workforce skillset, support of technology innovation, strong transportation infrastructure, and central location. This builds on Kansas City's legacy manufacturing and automotive industry strengths.

Chamber Board

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ber Economic Development Council]

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Public Policy

Tracey Osborne Oltjen, CCE
Chamber President & CEO
[@traceylosborne](https://twitter.com/traceylosborne)



APEX transforms and protects

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**Four billion dollars. Four thousand jobs.
300 acres. 2.5 million square feet.**

A behemoth project, Kansas ultimately competed toe to toe with Oklahoma to win the heart of Panasonic to bring production of its electric-vehicle batteries to the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant in DeSoto. Ultimately, these Johnson County-produced batteries will power Teslas made in Austin, Tx.

Mega projects like this don't just happen. Competition is fierce, and to land them, there must be a match between the location, workforce and economics. Kansas has been a match on the first two factors, but for too long, we've missed the boat on these transformational projects because of the economics. Your Overland Park Chamber team advocated to help pass the Attracting Powerful Economic Expansion Act (APEX) to set the stage for Kansas to compete.

There is no doubt this is a very desirable location for people to live, work and play. Our workforce is well-educated and hard-working. Our central location and quality of life is an advantage. Our cost of living is a competitive edge. However, the competition for economic development projects of all sizes is very strong and there are many places in the United States that are equally attractive.

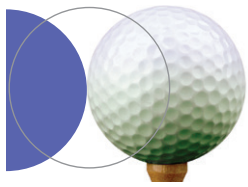
Like them or not, incentives are used in all 50 states and for Kansas to compete, it is necessary that we use them judiciously to stand out.

As with most projects, the company name and intended site location was confidential during negotiation, known only as "Project Ocean." It was clear this project could be an economic gamechanger for Kansas, and that we were in the hunt – but for the economics of the deal. It was time to demonstrate to this company (and others like it considering mega-investments) that Kansas is open for business and a great place to invest.

Over the years, the Chamber has worked with lawmakers and the Department of Commerce to improve the effectiveness of our economic development incentive tools. APEX was constructed to include the transparency and accountability we've advocated for in other incentive tools. With appropriate legislative involvement and limitations on how it can be used, APEX will have oversight like no other tool in Kansas.

The legislation includes numerous claw-back provisions to protect Kansas taxpayers should a recipient of APEX incentives – including Panasonic – not live up to their end of the agreement. This is a crucial component of our economic development incentives. A bonus in the legislation is a reduc-

(continued on page 6)



2022 Golf Tournament



Presenting Sponsor



Monday, August 15

Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate

10:45 a.m. Registration and lunch / 12:00 p.m. shotgun start

Awards Reception Sponsor



Lunch Sponsor



Golf Ball Flight Prize Sponsor



Soft Drinks Sponsor



Signage Sponsor



Hole Sponsors:

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- [OMNI Human Resource Management](#)
- [OneRequest, LLC](#)
- [Renewal by Andersen](#)
- [StretchLab Overland Park](#)
- [Wallace Saunders](#)
- [Worlds of Fun](#)

Our annual golf tournament is **SOLD OUT** for players and teams. However, you can promote your company with these opportunities:

- Activity sponsor
- Donate door prizes (minimum value of \$25 each) - due to the Chamber office by noon on August 5.

For details: Katelyn at kgravley@opchamber.org.

Upcoming events

Wednesday Wake-up

Wednesday, August 10 – 8:00-9:00 a.m.

[SnapIT Solutions](#), 7780 West 119th Street

Join us for networking over coffee and breakfast foods and learn more about one of our up-and-coming tech companies.

Free for Chamber members.

To register, [click here](#).

2022 Series Sponsor: [Fortune Financial Advisors](#)



Member Orientation

Thursday, August 18 – 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Overland Park Chamber, 9110 West 110th Street

Come learn more about how to take advantage of your benefits as a Chamber member.

Free for Chamber members.

To register, [click here](#).

2022 Series Sponsor: [Lettiann & Associates Real Estate Services](#)



OP After Hours

Tuesday, August 23 – 4:30-6:30 p.m.

[YaYa's Euro Bistro](#), 7021 West 135th Street

Enjoy an evening of networking, delicious appetizers and drinks and experience YaYa's charming and sophisticated space.

Free for Chamber members.

To register, [click here](#).

2022 Series Sponsor: [STAFFVIRTUAL](#)



OP Fireside Chat

Wednesday, August 23 – 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Overland Park Chamber, 9901 West 110th Street

Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen chats with Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Superintendent of the [Blue Valley School District](#), about education and our community.

Chamber members: \$10;

non-members: \$15

To register, [click here](#).

2022 Series Sponsor: [BHC](#)



Register for events at www.opchamber.org.

Primary on August 2!



Be an informed voter!

To help you learn about the candidates, the Johnson County Public Policy Council asked the candidates to provide their positions on important business issues. You can see their responses at these links:

- [United States Senate](#)
- [United State Representative - 3rd District](#)
- [Governor / Lieutenant Governor](#)
- [Kansas Secretary of State](#)
- [Kansas Attorney General](#)
- [Kansas Treasurer](#)
- [Commissioner of Insurance](#)
- [Kansas Representative - all seats](#)
- [State Board of Education](#)
- [Johnson County Commission - Chair and Districts 1, 4 and 5](#)

www.VoteJoCo.com



Mayor Curt Skoog joined the Chamber to help David & Georgia James and Jody & Tal Vanarsdale celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Pedego Electric Bikes](#), 6788 West 135th Street.

With more than 75 bikes across 15 models to choose from, you'll see what's so unique about riding a Pedego.

For more info: (913) 261-9671 or [click here](#).



The Chamber helped Joe Jeffries, President & CEO; Stuart Presley, District Manager; Peter Jones, General Manager; and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the opening of [Westlake Ace Hardware](#), 11200 Antioch Road.

For more info: (913) 213-1618 or [click here](#).



Mayor Curt Skoog and City Council President Paul Lyons joined the Chamber to help owners Travis and Kathy Wallace celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Wine Bunker](#), 5601 West 135th Street, Suite 2210.

For more info: (913) 708-5571 or [click here](#).



The Chamber helped Paul Bachelder, General Manager, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for [Club Car Wash](#), 8940 West 95th Street.

Take advantage of the grand opening special through August of a \$10 membership for three months.

For more info: (833) 416-9975 or [click here](#).

Welcome to the Chamber!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS

AGENCYOF

Cameron Baraban
6600 College Boulevard, Suite 330
Overland Park KS 66211
(913) 626-9653
cameron@agencyof.com
www.agencyof.com
Internet Marketing & Advertising, Technology

Aspens Restaurant and Lounge

Aspen Vaughn, Owner
6995 West 151st Street
Overland Park KS 66223
(913) 413-0033
aspens@aspensrestaurantks.com
www.aspensrestaurantks.com
Restaurants

Club Car Wash-95th Street

Brittney Goran, Brand Manager
8940 West 95th Street
Overland Park KS 66212
(833) 416-9975
bgoran@clubcarwash.com
www.clubcarwash.com
Car Washing & Polishing

Five Star Painting

Kyle Fitzgerald
8100 Marty Street
Overland Park KS 66204
(913) 937-2441
kyle.fitzgerald@fivestarpainting.com
www.fivestarpainting.com
Remodeling & Repairing-Building Contractors

Gutter Cover of Kansas City

Paul Leone, Consultant/Estimator
1021-D NE Jib Court
Lee's Summit MO 64064
paul@guttercoverkc.com
(816) 258-5252
www.guttercoverKC.com
Home Improvements, Remodeling & Repairing-Building Contractors

Kim Hower & Associates LLC

Kim Hower
10404 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park KS 66212
(913) 649-2002
khower@amfam.com
www.amfam.com/agents/kansas/overland-park/kimberly-hower
Insurance

Mastermind Escape Games

Behman Zakeri, Owner
7810 West 151st Street
Overland Park KS 66223
(913) 827-0999
kcinfo@mastermindescapegames.com
www.mastermindescapegames.com
Amusement Places, Retail

Twisted Sugar

Jacob Zaugg, Owner
11929 West 119th Street
Overland Park KS 66213
(913) 232-9091
overlandparkks@twistedsugar.com
www.twistedsugar.com
Bakery, Ice Cream & Frozen Desserts

Westlake Ace Hardware-College & Antioch

Peter Jones, General Manager
11200 Antioch Road
Overland Park KS 66210
(913) 213-1618
www.wlake171@westlakehardware.com
www.westlakehardware.com
Hardware-Retail, Home Improvements

Thanks for reinvesting!

JULY MEMBER RENEWALS

40-49 Years

Oak Park Mall
Stinson LLP

20-39 Years

Ascension Living St. Joseph Place
Augco
Buchanan Clarke Schlader CPAs
Enterprise Center in Johnson County
GBA
Heavy Constructors Association
Hechler Orthodontics
Logan Logan & Watson, L.C.
MD Management
Morgan Hunter
Safehome, Inc.
United Way of Greater Kansas City

10-19 Years

Cleveland University-Kansas City
Holmes Murphy & Associates
Kansas State University Olathe
Parker Communications Group
Tekniq Data Corporation

5-9 Years

Bassett Home Furnishings
Coco Bolos Mexican Grill & Cantina
Fortune Financial Advisors, LLC
MW Builders, Inc.
Workforce Partnership

1-4 Years

Alzheimer's Association
Jackson Lewis P.C.
Lettiann & Associates Real Estate Services, LLC
Netrality Data Centers
Promontory Apartments
The Great Frame Up in Overland Park
The Single MOM KC

Recent Events

MEMBERS CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS



Dr. Carl Cleveland III and his team at [Cleveland University Kansas City](#) hosted our Wednesday Wake-up networking event last month. The monthly networking series is sponsored by David Freisner and [Fortune Financial Advisors](#).

LOP nominations due September 9

The Chamber Foundation is accepting nominations for the **2023 Leadership Overland Park (LOP)** class through September 9.

LOP is a six-month program beginning in January. It focuses on information, education and discussion of local and regional assets, challenges and opportunities.

Applications from nominees are due by October 14 and class members will be announced in December. The selection committee seeks a class representing diverse backgrounds, affiliations, and goals.

Founded in 1983, LOP has graduated approximately 1,000 alumni.

For a nomination form and details, [click here](#).

Osborne Oltjen in LEADERS magazine

An interview with Chamber President Tracey Osborne Oltjen was included in a feature article on the Kansas City Metropolitan Area in the July, August and September 2022 issue of LEADERS Online magazine.

LEADERS has been described as “the exclusive boardroom of the best and the brightest.” Its editorial mission is to give voice to innovative and thoughtful leaders with the aim of inspiring leaders across the globe.

In her interview, Tracey discussed the Chamber’s mission, successes and priorities as the resource, advocate, convener and changemaker that drives economic success forward.

To read the article, [click here](#).

President's Message continued . . .

tion in state corporate income tax for all businesses in Kansas and tools to attract critical suppliers to the mega project.

In discussions with lawmakers, we emphasized that Kansas must think big if we want to land these transformational “mega projects”. The future of all 105 counties in Kansas is inextricably linked. With the site unknown, it was still clear that the project would be a game changer for the entire state.

Locating in DeSoto at Sunflower turns largely unused, unproductive land into an economic engine that will help fuel the Kansas economy for years to come. Panasonic’s choice of Johnson County is a bonus that will drive continued attention and growth in our region, opening the door to a new, growing and sustainable industry into Kansas’s manufacturing mix. Diversification of our economy is not only smart, but necessary.

Saint Luke’s Rehabilitation Institute provides advanced rehabilitation for serious illnesses and injuries

CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Saint Luke’s Rehabilitation Institute on the [Saint Luke’s South Hospital](#) campus is the only comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital of its kind in the Kansas City region.

Experts guide patients along their journey to recovery with leading-edge technology and personalized treatment in a comfortable space close to home.

From inpatient to outpatient rehabilitation, the goal is simple: help patients gain back their independence. The hospital’s multispecialty care team creates a care plan based on patient needs, abilities, and goals. Patients work with a primary physiatrist and therapist throughout their stay to ensure comfort and continuity of care, and benefit from:

- One-to-one individualized therapy
- A suite of 17 advanced-tech robotic devices

- A world-class 100,000-square-foot facility
- Gyms and communal areas for music, art, and other recreational therapies
- An 11,000-square-foot outdoor garden featuring various terrain for mobility training

While treatments and outcomes depend on the patient, a wide range of specialized rehabilitation services yield recovery outcomes that match or exceed those of world-renowned facilities. In 2021, Saint Luke’s Rehabilitation Institute received the Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award for its performance in patient experience.

Learn more by visiting [saint-lukeskc.org/rehabinstitute](#). In-person tours are available 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday. To schedule, call (913) 296-5199.

City seeks input in plan

The City of Overland Park is looking for input as it begins its Comprehensive Plan update and you can apply for a position on the steering committee.

“Strong representation from all corners of Overland Park will help us understand unique challenges and opportunities our community will take on in the future,” said Mayor Curt Skoog.

The committee will be a diverse group of community members who meet regularly to provide guidance.

The new Comprehensive Plan will focus on strategic implementation steps to set the direction for the City’s growth and development in coming years.

For more information, [click here](#).



Saint Luke’s Rehabilitation Institute at Saint Luke’s South Hospital.

JE Dunn continues its commitment to our community

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Founded in Kansas City, [JE Dunn Construction's](#) blue tower cranes can be seen across the metro area and in cities across the country.

JE Dunn's continued growth nationwide has led to now operating in 26 offices, all serving a wide variety of commercial construction projects including healthcare, education, corporate environments, hospitality, industrial, and aviation.

Adding to a broad portfolio of 75 completed projects in Overland Park alone over the past 10 years, JE Dunn is acting as the construction manager for over \$120 million of [Blue Valley School District's](#) \$180 million bond that was issued in 2020.

Blue Valley School District enlisted JE Dunn to complete more than 30 projects by summer 2023 to meet its immediate needs. Among these are improvements to 35 schools and five administration buildings with the goal of reinvesting in aging facilities, upgrading technology, and providing a superior learning environment for students.



Blue Valley Antioch District Activity Complex.

The bond covers a variety of additions and renovations, including many middle and high school athletic improvements, auxiliary and competition gym additions, theater upgrades, and a 19,000-square-foot district athletic complex. Completed in September 2021, the new athletic stadium at Blue Valley West High School is fitted out with grandstand bleachers on home and visitor sides, a new press box, new restrooms, and ticket booths.

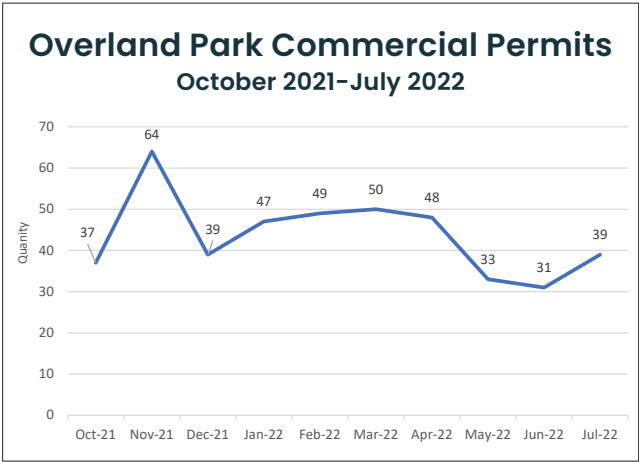
Continuing JE Dunn's partnership with [Shamrock Trading Corporation](#), JE Dunn also will break ground on the second of three office buildings for its Overland Park East Campus this year. The 12-story office building is expected to cost \$115 million and be completed in February 2024.

JE Dunn puts families, employees, and communities first while delivering quality construction and design phase services, which has earned the company honors, such as being named one of the Best Places to Work in Kansas City by *Ingram's* magazine and [Kansas City Business Journal](#). JE Dunn has also earned recognition as a U.S. Best Managed Company for the last three years.

Driving Economic Success

Unemployment			
	May 2022	Apr. 2022	May 2021
Overland Park	2.7%	1.8%	3.1%
Johnson County	2.1%	1.7%	3.0%
KC Metro MSA	2.7%	2.4%	5.0%
State of Kansas	2.3%	2.3%	3.5%

*(These percentages are not seasonally adjusted)
 – Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC)
 – U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*



Overland Park industries with greatest increase in employment change since 2017			
Industry	Empl.	Empl. Change	Annl. % Change
Transportation & Warehousing	73,965	13,177	4.0%
Construction	69,798	7,194	2.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	176,611	11,073	1.3%
Manufacturing	98,353	3,561	.7%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	103,546	3,213	.6%

Data as of 2021 Q4. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average. Observed under a 2-digit NAICS code.
Source: JobsEQ

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

Corporate Partners



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Company](#)

[Johnson County
Community College](#)

[Kansas Gas Service](#)

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Construction](#)

[STAFFVIRTUAL](#)

[The University of Kansas
Edwards Campus](#)

To add your name to this list,
contact Tracey Osborne Oltjen
at (913) 491-3600 or
tosborne@opchamber.org.



City Council President Paul Lyons joined the Chamber in helping Sanjay Patel and the project team break ground for a **Public Storage** facility at 112th and Glenwood streets.

For a rendering of the 136,000 square feet of climate-controlled units in a three-story building, [click here](#).



City Council President Paul Lyons joined the Chamber in helping Kelly and David Kley and their team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **StretchLab**, 6645 West 135th Street.

The benefits of a professional-assisted stretching routine include improving posture, reducing stress, better sports performance, an increase in range of motion and flexibility, a reduction in muscle and joint pain.

For more info: (913) 562-1349 or [click here](#).



Mayor Curt Skoog and City Council Members Fred Spears and Tom Carignan joined the Chamber to help Don Lenahan, General Manager, and his team celebrate a ribbon cutting for the \$15 million upgrade of rooms and amenities at the **Sheraton Overland Park Hotel**, 6100 College Boulevard.



City Council President Paul Lyons joined the Chamber to help Dr. Julie Bradford and her team celebrate a ribbon cutting for **GoodVets**, 4061 Indian Creek Parkway.

Services of GoodVets includes wellness and prevention, urgent and emergency care, diagnostics, and routine and advanced surgery.

For more info: (913) 407-0400.