



ECONOMIC UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2009

*Data provided by Strategic Insight Group
Intelligence Research Partner of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce*

In the Works

Janet Z. Capua, personal chef and owner of a catering company, has paired with **Samaritan House** to open **Z's Café** in the **Fort Worth Community Arts Center**, located at 1300 Gendy Street. Capua, along with son Carlo Capua, plans a grand opening on Friday, Feb. 13. The informal restaurant — reborn in the center's lobby — will once again serve artists, arts organizations and patrons, as well as the general public, who come to the facility for exhibitions, performances, workshops, classes, meetings and special events.

Fort Worth Business Press, Feb 2, 2009

Spencer's Corner sports bar and live band venue is gearing up to open its doors on March 13 in West Fort Worth's **Ridgmar Village** near **Ridgmar Mall**. Set to feature local and regional acts six nights a week, the bar's owner, Spencer Taylor, said all genres will be included.

Fort Worth Business Press, Feb 12, 2009

Local developer Clay Mazur, backed by a handful of investors, bought three properties two blocks south of the massive developments under way on West Seventh Street and has contracts pending on more lots to amass **LoLa**, a mixed-use project named for its location near lower Lancaster Avenue. Mazur, of **Mazur Capital LLC**, started construction on the first piece of LoLa — a 2,600 square-foot upscale bar called **Capital Bar** — a few weeks ago with plans to open the establishment by May. Mazur soon will begin construction on **Norwood Condos**, a nine-unit condo project with ground-floor retail, while he continues to gather properties in the area.

Fort Worth Business Press, Feb 23, 2009

A commuter rail line designed to take Fort Worth residents to and from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport is moving closer to construction. **The Fort Worth Transportation Authority** recently wrapped up the environmental phase of development on the rail line, called the **Southwest to Northeast Rail** project, which has been in the works since the mid-'90s. The commuter rail line is planned to run on already existing, lightly-used freight rail lines, and will start its service near Sycamore School Road in southwest Fort Worth, said Dick Ruddell, president of the Transportation Authority. The line will then move through the **Texas Christian University** area and into **Downtown**, then head northeast into downtown Grapevine, and end at the north entrance to D/FW Airport.

Fort Worth Business Press, Feb 23, 2009

Aldi — the German-owned discount grocery chain known for its low prices and no-frills warehouse format — has secured eight Tarrant County locations where it plans to build stores by the spring of 2010, the company said. The company is committed to building four stores in Fort Worth, and is also under contract on a site in Saginaw, which would bring the number of Tarrant stores to nine.

Star Telegram, Feb 24, 2009

Expansions and Moves

Dallas-based Hispanic grocer **El Rio Grande Supermercado** is working over-time to seal its Metroplex expansion plans, the latest of which includes a 45,600 square-foot location in southeast Fort Worth. El Rio Grande will open its first Fort Worth location at the intersection of Interstate 35 and Berry Street in the former Sack N' Save space at **Southtown Shopping Center**, located at 3037 South Freeway.

Fort Worth Business Press, Feb 16, 2009

Dixie House Café, a small chain of home-style restaurants owned by the local couple Dale and Theresa Simon, will be opening a seventh location in downtown Fort Worth in the **STS Tower**, near **Sundance Square**. The new location is expected to open in mid-April, said Dale Simon.

Fort Worth Business Press, Feb 20, 2009

On the Dotted Line

An out-of-state partnership picked up **Casa Villa**, a 140-unit apartment property in Fort Worth, for \$4.25 million last week. Located at 6100 Oakland Hills Drive, the property consists of 11, two-story brick buildings with pitched Spanish tile roofs. It was constructed in 1984 and renovated in 2006.

Fort Worth Business Press, Feb 2, 2009

TECH Fort Worth has signed its first international client, BAP Image Systems, a developer and manufacturer of high-speed cameras for scanners based in Germany. BAPis, which has its headquarters in Erlangen, Germany, and a research operation in Poland, has a large customer base in the United States and plans to use its new Fort Worth office to expand its clients and develop new uses for its technologies, according to TECH Fort Worth officials.

Fort Worth Business Press, Feb 11, 2009

Openings

Commercial real estate company **Lee & Associates** has opened an office in Fort Worth...The new Fort Worth office will offer full-service commercial real estate services. Rob Riner, a real estate broker with more than two decades of experience, will lead the Fort Worth office.

Dallas Business Journal, Feb 10, 2009

Out of Town Reporting

Los Angeles-based **Public Communications Services Inc.** has decided to move into the **Alliance Global Logistics Hub** in Fort Worth, Texas, to create a research, development and manufacturing facility within the industrial hub. "Public Communications Services selected this location due to its geographic location in the center of the United States and because of the strength of the telecom technology industry, not only in North Texas, but at the Alliance Global Logistics Hub," said Tommie E. Joe, president and chief operating officer of PCS.

Los Angeles Business.com, Feb 2, 2009

RadioShack Corp., the Fort Worth, Texas-based consumer electronics company has quietly opened a new concept store in the Dallas area. If successful, the ubiquitous RadioShack easily could convert some of its stores in each market, analysts said. It's called Point Mobl and it sells portable devices in an upscale decor of white fixtures and clean glass.

The Dallas Morning News, Feb 12, 2009

Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth has spent \$1.5 million to purchase a former Fort Worth-area Food Lion grocery store building, which the nonprofit plans to renovate into a thrift store — one of three such stores it hopes to establish by the end of the year. The store will be at 2100 Altamesa Blvd. About \$450,000 will be spent to renovate the space for thrift store operations, a donation drive-through and a small career center with computers. The career centers are expected to eventually be added inside all of Goodwill's stores.

Dallas Business Journal, Feb 20, 2009

Did You Know?

The recession may be making people pinch pennies in some areas of their life, but at the **Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo**, many people are still spending the way they would even if the economic outlook were as bright as the polished silver on a show horse's bridle. To date, attendance for the Stock Show, which started on Jan. 16, appears to be up from 2008, and entries are anticipated to be on the same level as last year.

Fort Worth Business Press, Feb 2, 2009

Fort Worth-based **Ben E. Keith Beverage Distributors** has partnered with Navistar, the manufacturer of International brand trucks, to design and develop a first-ever hybrid electric diesel engine tractor. The wholesaler is the first beverage distributor in the United States to use new green truck technology with its design and use of the **International DuraStar Hybrid** beverage tractor, according to company officials. The advanced technology is designed to conserve energy, decrease engine emissions and reduce Ben E. Keith's carbon footprint.

Fort Worth Business Press, Feb 6, 2009

Since the creation of **Fort Worth South Inc.** and a concerted effort to revitalize the city's **Near Southside**, the area has contributed \$1.4 billion in economic impact in Fort Worth and has seen its crime rate drop by 80 percent, according to Fort Worth South President Paul Paine. Citing data collected by Fort Worth South Inc., a non-profit, member-funded neighborhood revitalization initiative, Paine reported significant strides made for the area at the 8th annual Fort Worth South Inc. Banquet. "Together we are making a difference. We're bringing back that premier residential section of the city," he said. "Those ... beautiful homes are coming back."

Fort Worth Business Press, Feb 25, 2009