



ECONOMIC UPDATE

JANUARY 2010

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

In the Works

Residents in the **Alliance** area in far north Fort Worth will be getting a new hospital close to home in late 2011. **Texas Health Resources** plans to build a full-service hospital off **Golden Triangle Boulevard**, east of Interstate 35W.

Star-Telegram, Jan. 7, 2010

The **Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce** has started the new year working with several companies on potential moves to Fort Worth.

Star-Telegram, Jan. 25, 2010

A deal approved Thursday all but assures that the proposed **Southwest Parkway toll road** in Fort Worth will be under construction later this year. **The Texas Transportation Commission** agreed to use the state's gas taxes as collateral on two projects being developed jointly – Southwest Parkway and Texas 161 in Grand Prairie – even though those projects are toll roads.

Star-Telegram, Jan. 29, 2010

On the Dotted Line

Fuggedaboutit Liquor, owned by Valentinoz Inc., leased 2,170 square feet for a store in the **Westside Market Shopping Center** [at 9108 Camp Bowie West].

Star Telegram, Jan. 4, 2010

Lawyer **Leticia Vigil** bought a 2,080-square-foot building from Dr. Raymundo Davila [at 1323 Lee Ave., Fort Worth].

Star Telegram, Jan. 4, 2010

Fort Worth-based credit card processing company **First American Payment Systems** has acquired Vancouver, Canada-based International Automated Transaction Service, a division of Ticketmaster Canada. No purchase price was announced for the transaction.

Fort Worth Business Press, Jan. 5, 2010

Fort Worth-based **Atlas Properties** bought 56 condos in the 96-unit **Piazza Siena** development in Dallas's Oak Lawn area from the Chicago bank that foreclosed on the units last year.

Star-Telegram, Jan. 5, 2010

Independent property/casualty insurance brokerage firm McKinney Insurance Group of McKinney announced Jan. 6 that it has merged with **Higginbotham & Associates**, an independent insurance and financial services company headquartered in Fort Worth.

Fort Worth Business Press, Jan. 6, 2010

Trey Weir Media is opening at 1407 Texas St., the postmodern building with the shrubbery waves on the wall at the southeast corner of Texas and Summit streets.

Star-Telegram, Jan. 11, 2010

Bossard North American leased 15,000 square feet of industrial space in **Northpoint Trade Center** building three [at 201 Eight Twenty Blvd in Fort Worth].

Star-Telegram, Jan. 25, 2010

The **Tarrant County Regional Water District** has received \$101.6 million in financial assistance from the **Texas Water Development Board** to help with the design and planning of a 179-mile pipeline that will bring more water from East Texas to the Metroplex.

Star-Telegram, Jan. 28, 2010

A limited partnership of Fort Worth-based **Woodcrest Capital** is the new owner of the Gainesville Factory Shops outlet mall. Woodcrest Alliance bought the 319,653-square-foot mall off Interstate 35 in Gainesville...

Star-Telegram, Jan. 28, 2010

Openings

Following the success on Fort Worth's Magnolia Avenue, the owners of **Yucatan Taco Stand** have opened a new location in Southlake with bigger plans to franchise and expand the brand. The second Yucatan Taco Stand opened its doors on Dec. 11, 2009, at 2801 E. Southlake Blvd. in Southlake and a third location is under development on Preston Road in Frisco.

Fort Worth Business Press, Jan. 4, 2010

Watch out Railhead, Cousin's and Angelo's. There's going to be a new brisket barbecuist in town come Tuesday. Unless there's a hitch, that's the day the Stockyards branch of **Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que**, a Llano institution, will finally open...

Star-Telegram, Jan. 7, 2010

When **Cook Children's** opens up its newest outpatient clinic, scheduled to debut in May, the name alone will leave no doubt that the health care system is looking for new ways to deliver care. The **Center for Innovation in Community Health**, which will open in a renovated building on Eighth Avenue south of the medical district, is an evolution of the model Cook Children's has been using for some years with its Neighborhood Clinics.

Fort Worth Business Press, Jan. 11, 2010

Dennison, Texas, resident **Heather Schmitt** and her husband last month launched a Fort Worth chapter of **SeekingSitters**, a franchise-based operation that employs babysitters, who have undergone a background and personality check, for hire.

Fort Worth Business Press, Jan. 18, 2010

Southwest Bank announced Jan. 19 the opening of a new banking facility in southwest Fort Worth. The new Trail Lake Drive location, at 9,500 square feet, has been under construction for about a year.

Fort Worth Business Press, Jan. 20, 2010

It's arrived, and Cowtown needed **Cowtown Diner**. Bring on flavorful comfort food with a trendy style served seven days a week, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Located in the former La Madeleine space on **Main Street** downtown, you'll be among working folks, policemen, cowboys, girlfriends, and families.

Fort Worth Business Press, Jan. 28, 2010

While staff put finishing touches on his new restaurant, **Cat City Grill**, Vance Martin weighed the relative merits of opening 24 hours *after* Valentine's Day.

In this grim economic climate, what's remarkable is that Martin, owner-chef of **Lili's Bistro** just down the street on Fort Worth's Magnolia Avenue, is expanding his business horizons at all.

And he's not alone.

Another Magnolia restaurant, **Scampi's**, is enlarging its serving area and adding a bar. . . From Austin comes . . . **El Arroyo**, in southwest Fort Worth. Add to that Dallas concepts expanding to Fort Worth, like **Tillman's Roadhouse** near **West Seventh Street**.

BJ's, a California chain featuring beer from Houston's Saint Arnold microbrewery, added area restaurants at North East Mall in November and yet another at **Alliance Town Center**.

Star-Telegram, Jan. 30, 2010

Around Town

At 114 years, the **[Fort Worth] Stock Show** is livelier than ever. It runs 24 straight days, and this year it also features more multicultural events, nightly live music, and regular updates on Facebook and Twitter.

Star-Telegram, Jan. 16, 2010

The **Amon Carter Museum** has acquired *The Potter*, a significant 1889 painting by George de Forest Brush.

Star-Telegram, Jan. 25, 2010

Out of Town Reporting

Novartis AG said Monday it plans to take over **Alcon Inc.** by paying \$38.5 billion for the 77 per cent stake it does not already own in a deal that would make it one of the biggest players in the global market for eye-care products... Alcon is based in Huenenberg, Switzerland, and has its U.S. headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas.

Carleton Place, Jan. 7, 2010

Moving forward, **ExxonMobil** intends to establish a new upstream organization to manage global development and production of unconventional resources, enabling the rapid development and deployment of technologies and operating practices to increase production. The new organization will be located in Fort Worth, Texas, at **XTO's** current offices.

Congressional Documents and Publications, Jan. 20, 2010

Behavioral Innovations is in the process of opening a new treatment center in San Antonio to help families of children with autism and other developmental disorders... The company also is in the process of expanding to Fort Worth and Wichita Falls in early spring.

San Antonio Business Journal, Jan. 21, 2010

In Texas, where **Guidepoint** operates its technology, product development, call center and consumer service operations, the Company will be moving into a new facility just west of downtown Fort Worth in February 2010. The new 8,800-square foot facility more than doubles the Company's capacity, with 75 call-center seats, a lab and vehicle work area, dedicated training facilities and product development offices.

TendersInfo, Jan. 22, 2010

Private developers are hoping to take a substantial amount of **Lake Sakakawea** water out to the oil patch, based on permit applications to the State Engineer's office... One of the applicants, **International**

Western Co., of Fort Worth, Texas, wants 18,000 acre feet, by far and away the largest application on the table. An acre foot is the equivalent of 326,000 gallons.

The Bismarck Tribune, Jan. 22, 2010

Trinity Portfolio Advisors is a brand new Registered Investment Advisory created by the managing partners of **Chalk, Cullum & Associates** of Fort Worth, Texas. It operates as a full-service asset management firm designed to oversee the market investments of high net-worth individuals through a series of specifically designed portfolio models, based on personal risk tolerance levels.

Business Wire, Jan. 26, 2010

Did You Know?

The **JPS Health Network** announced today in a release that it has been verified as a **Level 1 Trauma Center**, the only such center in Tarrant County and the highest designation for a trauma center... As a Level 1 Trauma Center, JPS is recognized as having services that can meet almost every emergency and trauma need. The services also meet criteria regarding capabilities and institutional performance.

Fort Worth Business Press, Jan. 7, 2010

Fort Worth, Grapevine, Bedford and North Richland Hills are among 15 cities and one county across Texas selected to receive \$6 million in **federal stimulus grants** for traffic signal projects... Fort Worth will receive \$750,000...

Fort Worth Business Press, Jan. 15, 2010

Fort Worth's **OmniAmerican Bank** will officially become public on Jan. 21... The proceeds from OmniAmerican's initial public offering are \$119 million, Carter said, the maximum the bank could raise.

Fort Worth Business Press, Jan. 20, 2010