



ECONOMIC UPDATE

MAY 2011

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

In the Works

GE Transportation announced plans May 12 to open a 900,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Fort Worth that will ultimately bring in 500 new jobs and the potential for another 275 jobs. GE Transportation is a global technology leader and supplier to the railroad, marine, drilling, wind, and mining industries. The project represents an investment of approximately \$100 million.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 20, 2011

The **Historic Handley Railroad Museum** is moving ahead with a major building project after the group recently received its 501(c)(3) status. The organization plans to develop 1.2 acres at the corner of East Lancaster Avenue and Handley Drive in East Fort Worth into a park area that will display restored railroad equipment along with a public museum inside a restored boxcar that will feature railroad artifacts, equipment, and history related to this area and that of the nation.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 27, 2011

ACH Child and Family Services will host a ribbon cutting and building dedication May 18 for its new \$1.5 million Paul E. Andrews Family Welcome Center, located on its Wichita Street Campus in southeast Fort Worth.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 13, 2011

The Cupcakery and **Yumilicious** are set to open in the Cotulla building in downtown Fort Worth this summer. The Cupcakery has leased 1,248 square feet and Yumilicious has leased 1,500 square feet of space.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 5, 2011

Construction is expected to start in late summer on more than 300 apartments in two projects off West Lancaster Avenue, near the busy **West Seventh Street** corridor. The Lofts at West 7th, a 345 unit apartment community, has been near full occupancy since it opened in 2009.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 11, 2011

The **Fort Worth Housing Authority** wants to buy the former Knights of Pythias Hall in the Hillside neighborhood of Fort Worth and redevelop the property into apartments to help meet the affordable housing needs of workers in the central business district.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 9, 2011

Darden Restaurants is eyeing the Oncor Building in downtown Fort Worth for a location for the **Capital Grille**, its upscale steakhouse chain. The Fort Worth restaurant will be across from Ruth's Chris steakhouse.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 9, 2011

Expansions and Moves

Brightpoint Inc of Indianapolis announced May 17 plans to relocate its Touchstone Wireless operations from Bristol, Tennessee to its facilities in Fort Worth and Plainfield, Indiana. The announcement will add 200 jobs in Fort Worth.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 20, 2011

Fort Worth-based property and ad valorem tax firm **McCollum Consulting** has joined the U.S. Realty Tax Consulting Practice for Altus Group.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 26, 2011

Close to \$1 million in philanthropy has been raised to create the only full-service breast center in southwest Fort Worth at **Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Southwest Fort Worth**. With the expansion under way, the current 3,200-square-foot center is increasing to 6,800 square feet.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 20, 2011

Lili's Bistro in Fort Worth has completed its expansion and is ready to take on more customers. The popular south Fort Worth eatery features a new 1200-square-foot addition, including a 15-foot wine bar featuring more than 60 exceptional wines. A new dinner menu is expected to roll out next week, owner Vance Martin said.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 26, 2011

On the Dotted Line

Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth Inc. has acquired Big Inc. Print and Sign Co., a full-service signs and graphics printer, to benefit the agency's mission of providing job assistance to those in need, especially veterans. The company will be renamed GI Graphics and plans to train and employ veterans.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 1, 2011

Half Price Books has leased 11,202 square feet of space at 7546 Pebble Drive in Fort Worth.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 2, 2011

YSTA Services has leased 15,000 square feet of office space at 2320 Gravel Drive in Fort Worth.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 2, 2011

Baker Tankhead, a Fort Worth based maker of tank heads and other products has bought the 51,000 square foot industrial building at 10405 North Freeway.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 23, 2011

Openings

The **Botanical Research Institute of Texas** is opening a state of the art headquarters at 1700 University Drive in Fort Worth. Guests are coming from around the world to mark the opening on May 21.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 20, 2011

A new **Texas Roadhouse** is opening in southwest Fort Worth at 4720 SW Loop 820. The restaurant will employ 155 workers.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 26, 2011

Lucky Strike, a national bowling chain, has opened its 20th location in the West 7th residential, shopping, and office development area.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 12, 2011

Around Town

Energy Focus Inc. and Fort Worth's **Entech Solar Inc.** announced a broad commercial skylighting marketing agreement that will display Entech's patented skylights. Under the terms of the agreement, Energy Focus will provide engineering support and resell Entech's patented Collimating Skylights worldwide as part of its lighting energy solutions offering.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 17, 2011

A positive outlook in the commercial real estate market as well as the demand for retail and office space has **Sundance Square** mulling over the possibility of adding two or three buildings to Fort Worth's central business district. Sundance Square confirmed May 20 that it is undertaking concept and feasibility studies for the project.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 20, 2011

The **Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce** received an honorable mention as one of the economic development groups of the year by *Site Selection* magazine.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 2, 2011

Out of Town Reporting

Aerospace & Commercial of Fort Worth, Texas, won a \$68,212.08 federal contract from the Defense Logistics Agency's Defense Supply Center, Richmond, Va., for throttle control grip assemblies.

Targeted News Service, May 3, 2011

Mid-States Services Inc., which provides software solutions for correctional facilities, has signed a five-year lease for 97,800 square feet of space in Rutherford County. The Fort Worth, Texas-based business is new to Middle Tennessee.

Nashville Business Journal, May 10, 2011

AGH Industries Inc. of Fort Worth, Texas, won a \$32,725.44 federal contract from the Defense Logistics Agency's Defense Supply Center for stowage latch eyes.

Targeted News Service, May 10, 2011

Enhanced Coverage Linking of Fort Worth, Texas, won a \$59,440 federal contract from the U.S. Army Contracting Command for electrical non-rotating converters.

Targeted News Service, May 19, 2011

Lockheed Martin Corporation of Fort Worth, Texas, is being awarded a \$49,483,339 cost-plus-fixed-fee contract modification for retrofit installations, including retrofits associated with the Reliability and Maintainability Maturation Program, and Structural Retrofit Program Phase II.

InfoProd, May 18, 2011

Bell Helicopter Textron Inc of Fort Worth, Texas, won a \$3,576,029 federal contract from the U.S. Naval Supply Systems Command, Philadelphia, for aircraft wing assemblies.

Targeted News Service, May 20, 2011

Howell Instruments of Fort Worth, Texas, won a \$141,006 federal contract from the U.S. Air Force Materiel Command, Warner Robins, Ga., for the repair of circuit card assemblies and electronic components.

Targeted News Service, May 20, 2011

Aero Components Inc. of Fort Worth, Texas, won a \$99,884.50 federal contract from the Defense Logistics Agency's Defense Supply Center for structural supports.

Targeted News Service, May 23, 2011

Del Mar DataTrac Inc. has signed Fort Worth, Texas-based **Cendera Funding** for its DataTrac Originator point-of-sale solution. Founded in 1998, Cendera Funding is a retail mortgage banker specializing in the north Texas market that funded over \$500 million in 2010 loans.

California Newswire, May 23, 2011

Rudy & Associates of Fort Worth, Texas, won a \$150,000 federal contract from the Defense Logistics Agency's Defense Supply Center, Columbus, Ohio, for metallic tubes.

Targeted News Service, May 29, 2011

Did You Know?

The **YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth** has been selected as a candidate for the LIVESTRONG Community Impact Project, which brings proven cancer support programs to communities across the country. Finalists will be determined through an online voting campaign from through May 31.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 20, 2011

The number of people who tuned in to watch the 2011 **Crown Plaza Invitational** at Colonial this year spiked 22 percent on Saturday and 110 percent on Sunday, according to preliminary television ratings. According to the early numbers, television ratings for the Fort Worth golf tournament came in 22 percent higher than last year's on May 21 and 110 percent higher than last year's on May 22.

Fort Worth Business Press, May 24, 2011