



MONTHLY ECONOMIC REPORT

AUGUST 2016

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

In the Works

Whole Foods Market will open in the **Waterside** development in Southwest Fort Worth on Wednesday, Oct. 12, the Austin company announced Friday. The 45,000-square-foot store will be the company's first Fort Worth location and its thirteenth in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and will employ approximately 120 people.

Fort Worth Business Press, August 13, 2016

The **Commercial Board of Adjustment** agreed to a variance Wednesday on a planned residential development by **Fort Worth Housing Solutions**. The project will now allow for construction of a 12-story, 265-unit apartment building and 600-car parking garage. The project may also include a 10-story, 200-room hotel to be located west of the apartment building, with a public plaza in between.

Star-Telegram, August 19, 2016

Three more tenants have been revealed at **Waterside** on Fort Worth's west side: **Steele City Pops** (which has locations in Fort Worth on Currie Street and at TCU), **CycleBar** (a premium indoor cycling studio that offers spa-like amenities), and **Aaron Brothers Art & Framing**. They are joining other major retailers such as **REI** and **Whole Foods**. All three will open by year's end.

Star-Telegram, August 21, 2016

A new two-story, urban-market **Tom Thumb** supermarket is the anchor of a new hotel-residential **Left Bank** project near the West Seventh Street bridge along the Clear Fork.

Star-Telegram, August 24, 2016

The **Shops at Clearfork** will include a new **Neiman Marcus** with a **Zodiac** restaurant (which should open in spring) and Florida-based **Doc B's Fresh Kitchen**.

Star-Telegram, August 24, 2016

Chef Marcus Paslay of **Clay Pigeon** will open a pasta concept, **Piattello's Italian Kitchen**, in the fall at the new **Waterside** shopping-residential community that is west of Clearfork off Arborlawn Drive.

Star-Telegram, August 24, 2016

Update on the **Neiman Marcus** restaurant inside the new store opening by spring in the Shops at Clearfork. The new **NM Café** will include a full-service bar and restore a tradition long gone from the old Neiman's store: Sunday brunch. It will have picture windows overlooking the shopping complex, going up now on Chisholm Trail Parkway.

Star-Telegram, August 26, 2016

Plans to build a senior living apartment in north Fort Worth are moving forward as the Fort Worth City Council voted unanimously Aug. 30 to approve zoning for the project. Property owner **Whitehead-Smith Investments Ltd.** is working on the apartment project with California-based developer **Amtex Housing**. The plan is to build a three-story, 160-unit apartment building named the **Harmon Senior Villas** at 12801 Harmon Road. Construction is expected to begin in early 2017. The property was previously unzoned but was designated with multifamily residential zoning after the council's vote.

Fort Worth Business Press, August 31, 2016

Expansions and Moves

One of Fort Worth's most prominent chefs is joining the city's most prominent retail attraction. Chef Jon Bonnell's **Waters** will close August 20th on Crockett Street and reopen next year in **Sundance Square**, pushing **Mercury Chophouse** elsewhere downtown. Waters will become the second seafood restaurant in Sundance, joining the more traditional **Daddy Jack's**. Water's is scheduled to open in January.

Star-Telegram, August 3, 2016

Salsa Limón and its historic chrome diner that was the taqueria's Cultural District "Museo" home will be moved intact to White Settlement Road. It'll reopen there this fall, after yet another new Limón opens downtown. Not many restaurateurs try to open two locations at once, but owner Ramiro (Milo) Ramirez is used to moving his trucks and taqueria with him. Late this month, the 1947-vintage chrome diner at 929 University Road will be loaded on a trailer and moved to 5012 White Settlement Road, in the new **River District** development. Until the diner is moved, Sala Limón Museo is still serving there from a truck parked in the driveway.

Star-Telegram, August 10, 2016

Serdar "Sam" Sensel's **Istanbul Grill**, one of Arlington's most popular restaurants, is making the big leap from south Arlington into **Sundance Square**. The new location will be in the Cassidy Building, 401 Throckmorton Street, Sundance and is expected to open by November.

Star-Telegram, August 17, 2016

River Oaks Café, a standby breakfast and plate-lunch café on Texas 183, is expanding to north Fort Worth. The newest River Oaks will open at 7355 N. Beach Street.

Star-Telegram, August 19, 2016

The newly relocated **Salsa Limón** diner is the first move-in for the **River District** and **Crystal Springs** residential-retail-entertainment project on White Settlement Road west of Rivercrest and the bridge over the Trinity's West Fork. A **Truck Yard** food truck park, a new **River House** restaurant, and a health café named **Nourish** have been announced for the former Crystal Springs Ballroom site.

Star-Telegram, August 24, 2016

Big D Barbecue is coming to Fort Worth. The busy Mansfield restaurant will partner to serve barbecue in the new **Cowtown Brewing Co** at 1301 E. Belknap Street. "We're not going to call it Big D, obviously," said Jordy Jordan. The Fort Worth location will serve a full barbecue menu for lunch and dinner daily, with a brewery on site. Jordan would like to open by next spring.

Star-Telegram, August 24, 2016

Texas Non-Surgical Orthopedic & Spine Center in east Fort Worth is moving and expanding after a local investor purchased the 7,500-square-foot Overlook Centre at 1200 Overlook Terrace just months before the medical center's lease expires at an adjacent property. The medical facility plans to move Sept. 1 to a 2,800-square-foot remodeled office space at **Overlook Centre**. In leaving its current office at 5601 Bridge St., the medical center will gain 800 square feet.

Fort Worth Business Press, August 26, 2016

Openings

Ramen and poke have arrived in the West 7th shops. Chef Jesus Garcia's **Oni Ramen** is open at West Seventh and Foch streets, marking both his return home and his new venture after an award-winning career as a sushi chef. Oni Ramen is open daily for lunch and dinner at 2801 W. Seventh Street.

Star-Telegram, August 5, 2016

Tuk Tuk Thai, on West Seventh Street, is the second location for a Berkley, California restaurant. Tuk Tuk replaces the second **Happy Bowl**, which remains open at its original White Settlement Road location. Tuk Tuk is located at 3431 W. Seventh Street.

Star-Telegram, August 5, 2016

Chicken Salad Chick, the first Texas location of an Alabama-based chain that describes itself as “the nation’s only Southern-inspired, fast-casual chicken salad restaurant concept,” has opened in the **Presidio Junction Shopping Center** northwest of the intersection of the southbound Interstate 35W access road and North Tarrant Parkway in far north Fort Worth. Meggie and John Schissler run the Fort Worth store and say they plan to open two more locations in the Fort Worth area.

Star-Telegram, August 5, 2016

Sur La Table opens their doors for the first time on August 11 from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. They stock all conceivable cooking appliances and equipment for the professional chef, as well as those kitchen do-dads and gadgets that the rest of us didn’t know we needed, but can’t live without. Plus, the French theme makes cooks at all levels feel even more proficient and stylish no matter what’s on the menu. Sur La Table is famous for their tastings, recipes, hands-on cooking classes, and equipment demonstrations. They have four days of festivities planned to celebrate the grand opening of their newest **Waterside** location’s Grand Opening Weekend.

Fort Worth Business Press, August 9, 2016

FunkyTown Donuts is opening on Fort Worth’s south side. Owner Brandon Moors opened his shop because he realized Fort Worth lacked any specialty donut shop. FunkyTown is located on 1000 Eighth Avenue, Suite 101 in Fort Worth.

Star-Telegram, August 15, 2016

HG Sply Co, the post-paleo bar-and-grill from Dallas, has fine-tuned its menu and is open in Fort Worth as of August 22nd. It’s open for lunch and dinner (with brunch beginning soon) at 1621 River Run, on the river off South University Drive behind Silver Fox Steakhouse.

Star-Telegram, August 19, 2016

Travis and Emma Heim opened **Heim Barbecue** on Magnolia Avenue on August 6th. This restaurant has had one of the busiest openings in Fort Worth in years and has earned statewide attention. Prior to opening on Magnolia Avenue, Heim Barbecue was based out of a food truck.

Star-Telegram, August 19, 2016

Business partners Salman Arab and Niraj Shrestha opened **Bru City** this month along Trinity Boulevard near the intersection with Eules Main Street. The store is part gas station, part convenience store and part brewpub.

Star-Telegram, August 20, 2016

West of Clearfork off Arborlawn Drive, **Waterside** is the new shopping-residential community anchored by a **Whole Foods Market** and built around “the grove” on what was formerly Lockheed Martin employees’ park and recreation area. California-based fast-bake concept **Blaze Pizza** is already open, along with the regional **Taco Diner** chain, Colorado-based **Tokyo Joe’s** (just opened) and Plano-based **Zoë’s Kitchen**.

Star-Telegram, August 24, 2016

A new **Uncle Julio's** will open by midweek in far north Fort Worth at 9201 North Freeway.

Star-Telegram, August 24, 2016

The new **El Cerrito** in Lakeside is awaiting permit okays, but is expected to open within a few days inside the former Vance Godbey's. 8601 Jacksboro Highway.

Star-Telegram, August 24, 2016

The **Texan Diner** is open, and greater northwest Fort Worth was ready. The Texan is new, but the favors are familiar. **Vickery Boulevard Café** chef Curtis James opened the Texan as a second location, with new dinner hours and a new name.

Star-Telegram, August 31, 2016

Around Town

Dallas/Fort Worth Airport is partnering with **Grab**, an e-commerce company, to bring mobile pay to the airport's restaurants and shops. If the airport board approves the partnership on Thursday, the airport will bring testing mobile pay in a couple of months and hopes to have it available early next year. "It may be difficult to order and wait but if you can order ahead and you can go to a special line to pick it up, we're hoping that will help our passenger experience," said Zenola Campbell, the airport's vice president of concessions.

Star-Telegram, August 3, 2016

The **Amon Carter Museum of American Art** has a colorful addition to its atrium. The installation of **Plexus no. 34** – about 80 miles of thread constructed to depict a rainbow – is complete and will be on display Tuesday through Sept. 2, 2018. The piece is part of the **Plexus** series by Dallas-based artist Gabriel Dawe, whose work has been featured in places like the Renwick Gallery at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Fort Worth Business Press, August 15, 2016

Uber will launch a food delivery service on Monday covering much of the Fort Worth central city. The new service is dubbed **UberEATS**. Customers will be able to order food using their smartphones roughly within the boundaries of Loop 820. **UberEATS** is available in roughly two dozen other cities in the United States, including Dallas, Austin, and Houston.

Star-Telegram, August 25, 2016

The Fort Worth City Council voted unanimously Aug. 30 to acquire 1.35 acres of land at 1616 Hemphill Street to be added to the existing 1.7-acre **Fire Station Park**, located beside the **Fire Station Community Center** at 1601 Lipscomb St. The city acquired the land from owner **Piedmont Hemphill Partners, LP**, for about \$1.4 million. Funding for the acquisition came from Southside tax increment financing.

Fort Worth Business Press, August 31, 2016

Out of Town Reporting

GE Transportation, a division of **General Electric Co.** (NYSE: GE), has signed a lease for 16,573 square feet within Hillwood Commons I at **Alliance Town Center**, which was developed last year to help meet growing demand for office space in the north Fort Worth corridor.

Dallas Business Journal, August 4, 2016

Galderma is demonstrating its commitment to the local community by participating in Northwest ISD's "**Stuff the Bus**" program, which provides school supplies and backpacks to Northwest ISD students in

need. Galderma, based in Fort Worth, operates under the umbrella of Nestlé Skin Health, as a leading company focused on skin health.

Dallas Business Journal, August 4, 2016

Did You Know?

With \$10.1 million received from the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**, the city council voted unanimously on Aug. 9 to approve an action plan that outlines how the money will be distributed in 2016-2017. HUD's \$10.1 million grant is an increase from the \$9.8 million grant HUD provided for 2015-2016. The grant helps support the City of Fort Worth's housing programs and activities.

Fort Worth Business Press, August 10, 2016

A proposed 2.5 percent increase in **Fort Worth's fiscal 2017 budget** reflects the needs of a **growing city**, as well as shifting policy to devote more dollars to maintaining city facilities and improving neighborhood safety. The City Council heard from City Manager David Cooke on Tuesday about how the proposed \$1.65 billion budget should be allocated and spent. It includes adding five employees to the Planning and Development staff to help wade through a growing backlog of planning and permit applications for new construction. And the Police Department will get to buy a new helicopter to replace the one it has owned since 1996

Star-Telegram, August 10, 2016

Will Lourcey, a Trinity Valley student, will be featured in an episode of Nickelodeon's The Halo Effect to discuss his nonprofit organization, **FROGS**. FROGS, or Friends Reaching Our Goals, was created to combat childhood hunger in Tarrant County. So far, the organization has provided more than 200,000 healthy meals for kids through **the Tarrant Area Food Bank** and **FROGS Dinner Club**. The group also has packed more than 80,000 backpacks with food and helped serve more than 10,000 families through the **Mobile Food Pantry**. In addition to featuring Lourcey on the show, The Halo Effect donated \$10,000 to FROGS.

Star-Telegram, August 11, 2016

Fort Worth-based **TPG Capital** agreed to buy two small cable providers, **RCN Telecom Services** and **Grande Communications Networks**, in a \$2.25 billion bet on demand for faster internet connections and video. TPG will acquire RCN for \$1.6 billion and Grande for \$650 million from **Abry Partners** to create a top 10 cable company in the U.S., according to a statement Monday. **Google Capital** will acquire a minority stake in the companies, according to a person familiar with the transaction who asked not to be identified.

Star-Telegram, August 16, 2016

Lockheed Martin is designing and engineering a new plane at their Fort Worth plant that may play a big part in the company's future. The plane will be called the T-50A trainer. Though the plane will not be built in Fort Worth, its DNA is tied to the Fort Worth plant.

Star-Telegram, August 21, 2016

Lockheed Martin is spending \$1.2 billion to expand and rework its complex in west Fort Worth to prepare for the increased production of F-35 fighter jets.

Star-Telegram, August 25, 2016