



Tulsa Market Brief

January 2016

Spotlight on the Market

[Tulsa County commissioners call for election on Vision 2025 renewal vote](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - February 2, 2016

Tulsa County commissioners approved a resolution Monday seeking a renewal of Vision 2025's expiring tax with a vote on April 5. The commissioners voted unanimously to call the election, which will place on the ballot a 0.05 percent sales tax for capital improvements. Commissioner Ron Peters said the panel will look to approve two other resolutions in the coming weeks, one detailing how the Vision renewal would be spent and another on where Vision 2025 leftover funds would go.

[Cherokees to build new casino near Grove](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 29, 2016

GROVE — The Cherokee Nation will be breaking ground this spring to build a casino in the Grand Lake area, spokeswoman Amanda Clinton said Thursday. The proposed site for the 39,000-square-foot casino is on U.S. 59 near a cutoff road to Monkey Island and Tom Cat Corner, located west of Grove. Cherokee Casino Grove is expected to bring 175 jobs to the area, Clinton said. The facility's features will include 400 electronic games, a restaurant, a full-service bar, a live music venue, a dance floor and complimentary nonalcoholic drinks, officials said.

[Spartan College and Republic Airways establish career pipeline program](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 29, 2016

Tulsa-based Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology and Republic Airways announced Thursday the establishment of a career pipeline interview program. The purpose of the new program is to increase Republic Airways' access to qualified applicants for pilots and technicians and to increase employment opportunities for Spartan graduates, according to a press release.

[Rose District expansion includes interactive fountain](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 24, 2016

The Rose District is going from a mere downtown bud to a long-stem, business project. That was the news that from the Rose District expansion press conference Friday at the Chamber as Broken Arrow's trademark area continues to flourish. The expansion includes more streetscape work. That's a continuation of landscaping, wider sidewalks and mid-block crossings. The total cost for this new expansion is estimated at \$4 million. One of the major changes will be an interactive fountain located in the Rose District Pavilion just south of The Museum Broken Arrow at 400 S. Main.

[Growing Together showcases its work at Rogers High School](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 22, 2016

About 20 people toured Will Rogers College Junior High and High School on Thursday morning for a chance to see several intervention programs at work. The community leaders, business representatives and donors were invited by Growing Together, the collaborative nonprofit organization that brought the intervention programs to Rogers as well as several other Tulsa Public Schools sites. Growing Together works to bring organizations, district residents and educators together to tackle educational and social challenges, focusing its work on the six schools serving the Kendall-Whittier and Eugene Field neighborhoods. Among the partner programs it has brought into the schools are City Year and Reading Partners.

[Workforce pipeline top priority](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 20, 2016

Strengthening Oklahoma's workforce pipeline through degree and certificate completion continues to be the state system of higher education's top priority. That was the message delivered by Chancellor Glen D. Johnson as he presented the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's FY 2016 legislative agenda to an audience of lawmakers, community leaders and educators at Northeastern State University's Broken Arrow campus on Jan. 19. OSRHE recently voted to request \$963.4 million for FY 2017, which reflects no increase over the FY 2016 appropriation of \$963.4 million. The State Regents also approved an addendum acknowledging the need for \$22 million to meet campus operational fixed costs.

Research Wizard Tulsa Market Brief

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Claremore airport to receive \$634,000 in grants for improvements

Tulsa World (OK) - January 15, 2016

Claremore Regional Airport is set to receive \$634,000 in state funds for new construction at its facility, the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission announced recently. The money Claremore will receive is part of \$1.5 million in state grant funds that the commission awarded the city last month to help launch construction projects at airports across the state. The funds come from the money that the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission brings in through aircraft excise taxes, aircraft registration fees and an aviation fuel tax. Because the commission is a nonappropriated state agency, all of its funding comes directly from the aircraft owners and pilots who use the Oklahoma Airport System.

Five Tulsa technology Startup Series finalists announced

Tulsa World (OK) - January 14, 2016

The new format for what was once Tulsa's StartUp Cup — and is now the StartUp Series — launches next week with the first round of live pitches for technology and app submissions. At 6 p.m. Wednesday, the StartUp Series announced the five finalists that will compete in the first round. The finalists were chosen by a panel of three judges from video submissions submitted in December. The judges ranked them on a scale and the top-five scores determined the finalists. The winner will receive \$2,500 to test their product, a three-month membership to soon-to-be-opened incubator 36°North, a spot in i2e's mentorship assessment program and weekly mentorship for at least three months.

First Presbyterian's 8:10 Building in demand in downtown Tulsa

Tulsa World (OK) - January 14, 2016

The biggest downtown Tulsa speculative office renovation project in years didn't come from a traditional developer or a real estate investment trust. It came from a church. Bob Pielsticker, a broker with CB Richard Ellis in Tulsa, said First Presbyterian's transformation of the Avanti building at 810 S. Cincinnati Ave. into the 8:10 Building turned out better than anyone expected, since it's already 80 percent occupied. Today, the six-story building is now full aside from a 2,401-square-foot suite on the first floor and the 14,364-square-foot fourth floor, which is still being completed. Architecture, engineering and construction management firm Cyntergy was the first to move in late last year, followed by accounting firm Eide Bailly.

Crosstown Learning Center breaks ground on new \$7.5 million facility

Tulsa World (OK) - January 13, 2016

Construction is underway on a new \$7.5 million home for Crosstown Learning Center. The school, located in the Kendall-Whittier neighborhood, provides early childhood education to children of all socioeconomic levels ages 6 weeks through pre-K. The 23,000-square-foot facility is being built adjacent to the old church building at 2501 E. Archer St., where the early childhood center has been housed for 10 years.

Tulsa Art Fellowships to expand

Tulsa World (OK) - January 13, 2016

The Tulsa Artist Fellowship, a program of the George Kaiser Family Foundation designed to enhance the city's arts community by bringing acclaimed and upcoming artists to live and work in Tulsa, will expand for its second year to offer fellowships for writers. The inaugural group of fellows — 12 visual artists that include three Oklahomans, as well as individuals from as far away as Brooklyn, New York, and Juneau, Alaska — begin their yearlong residencies this month. The 12 fellows were selected from more than 300 applicants. Each receives an unrestricted stipend of up to \$40,000, as well as free housing and studio space in which to work.

Expansions, Openings, Relocations, Acquisitions

New 12-screen theater in Tulsa Hills shopping district opens in February

Tulsa World (OK) - January 30, 2016

A new 12-screen movie theater, featuring a giant premium auditorium and recliner seating, will open Feb. 12 in west Tulsa. Carmike Cinemas is putting the finishing touches on the Carmike 12, located at 8307 S. Olympia Ave., to open in time for the Valentine's Day weekend. The theater is located at The Walk at Tulsa Hills, a new shopping center immediately south of Tulsa Hills along 81st Street and U.S. 75.

Noodles & Co. to open restaurant in Broken Arrow on Monday

Tulsa World (OK) - January 29, 2016

Noodles & Company, which serves classic noodle and pasta dishes from around the world, announced it will open a Broken Arrow location on Monday. The restaurant, located at 1556 N. Ninth St., will open at 10:30 a.m.

Linde Engineering expands fabrication facility at the Port of Catoosa

Tulsa World (OK) - January 29, 2016

It was out with the old and in with the new as the ribbon was cut Tuesday for the Linde Engineering North America building, which replaces an aging structure and offers a larger space for employees. The 13,000-square-foot two-story building is part of a \$2.7 million company expansion at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa.

36 Degrees North celebrates grand opening

Tulsa World (OK) - January 22, 2016

TULSA, Okla. — 36 Degrees North, the entrepreneur hub powered by George Kaiser Family Foundation, Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation, Tulsa Regional Chamber and Tulsa Tech will celebrate a grand opening Jan. 25. The day-long celebration will take place in the heart of The Brady Arts District, 36 E. Cameron St., beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Universal Ford Building.

Ceremony celebrates TRC's expansion to Tulsa

Tulsa World (OK) - January 21, 2016

The banner stretched across the front doors of 2087 E. 71st St. on Wednesday morning read “Better Together — TRC and Willbros Professional Services.” And together Chris Vincze, chairman and CEO of Massachusetts-based TRC Companies Inc., and Ed Wiegeler, a former Willbros employee and current senior vice president of TRC Pipeline Services, cut the ribbon. Wednesday’s ribbon cutting and open house event was hosted by TRC Companies Inc. and the Tulsa Regional Chamber to welcome the former Willbros Professional Services staff to the TRC family and to introduce TRC to the Tulsa community.

Flintco Project honored at Associated General Contractors Awards

Tulsa World (OK) - January 20, 2016

Commercial contractor Flintco LLC received a Build Oklahoma award from the Associated General Contractors (AGC) for its work on the new Hogan Assessments office at 11 S. Greenwood Ave. Flintco, founded in 1908 in Tulsa, has grown into one of the largest commercial contractors in the nation.

U-Haul transforming former furniture center into rental and storage site

Tulsa World (OK) - January 19, 2016

A longtime midtown furniture store is in the process of being transformed into a new U-Haul location. That comes immediately after Mathis Brothers sold the building at 3500 S. Sheridan Road to Amerco Real Estate Co., which provides real estate and development resources to U-Haul, for \$3.5 million, according to a report from CB Richard Ellis Inc. in Tulsa. The entire 167,702-square-foot building will be converted into a U-Haul facility, although Lockridge said the company hasn’t yet finalized plans for the conversion.

Wal-Mart opens Neighborhood Market in Jenks, continuing small store growth

Tulsa World (OK) - January 16, 2016

Another Walmart Neighborhood Market opened this week on Elm Street in Jenks. A similar store in Broken Arrow is nearing completion. At least eight Walmart Neighborhood Markets are now operating in the Tulsa area, part of a nationwide push to expand access to the brand, which Walmart bills as a “grocery store with Walmart prices” in online advertisements.

Rustic Cuff to open new store on Cherry Street

Tulsa World (OK) - January 16, 2016

Rustic Cuff, a popular Tulsa-based jewelry store, will open a new store along Cherry Street in little more than a week. A sign that went up early Friday foretold the new location to the throngs of Rustic Cuff followers. And founder Jill Donovan said midtown shoppers will only have to wait a few more days because the store on 15th Street near Quaker Avenue is set to open Jan. 25.

Decopolis set to reopen in new downtown location

Tulsa World (OK) - January 15, 2016

The downtown retail store Decopolis is putting the final touches on its new location, ready for a soft opening this weekend. The move took place after Christmas, one block north on Boston Avenue. The new location, 502 S. Boston Ave., allowed owner William Franklin to expand with more space and take advantage of more downtown foot traffic. The soft opening is set for Saturday, and a grand opening will be held Feb. 13.

Magellan announces updated plans for Houston pipeline connection

Tulsa World (OK) - January 14, 2016

Magellan Midstream Partners and TransCanada Corp. announced Wednesday definitive plans to connect TransCanada’s Houston tank terminal to Magellan’s East Houston terminal. According to the plans, HoustonLink Pipeline Company — a new company owned 50-50 by Tulsa-based Magellan and TransCanada — will construct, own and operate the pipeline. The joint project was first announced in April. The project is estimated to cost \$50 million and consists of a nine-mile, 24-inch diameter crude oil pipeline and other infrastructure connecting the terminals.

The Cosmopolitan poised to add luxury apartments to Riverside

Tulsa World (OK) - January 13, 2016

If all goes to plan, The Gathering Place won’t be the only major new addition to Riverside Drive by the end of 2017. The Cosmopolitan, a four-story, 262-unit luxury apartment complex, is scheduled to begin construction this summer at Denver Avenue and Riverside Drive, said John Gilbert, president of Houston, Texas-based Bomasada Group. That would allow the first tenants to move in at roughly the same time the massive park development wraps up just a few blocks south.

Layoffs, Closings, Downsizes, Restructures

Unit Corporation executive confirms layoffs

Tulsa World (OK) - February 2, 2016

A senior vice president at Tulsa-based Unit Corp. confirmed Monday the energy company had a round of layoffs late last week. Mark Schell, who also serves as general counsel and corporate secretary for Unit Corp., declined to give details on the number of employees or percentage of staff affected by those cuts. According to a post on TheLayoff.com, a website that allows users to anonymously share information about layoffs at different companies, Unit Corp.’s workforce reductions impacted about 25 percent to 30 percent of workers at its Tulsa office. That estimate would mean around 90 employees lost their jobs.

EG says layoffs result of down energy market

Tulsa World (OK) - January 9, 2016

Tulsa-based Society of Exploration Geophysicists, or SEG, confirmed this week that it had laid off 19 employees. The layoffs equal about 20 percent of the nonprofit's workforce, the organization said. According to a Tulsa World article written in August, SEG had 93 employees. The staff reduction is a result of the sharp downturn in oil and gas prices and the current outlook for the market, SEG said in a statement Thursday. The layoffs are part of an effort to facilitate long-term sustainability, according to the organization.

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Comparative Unemployment Rates

Period	County %	MSA %	State %	U.S. %
2015 December	3.7	3.9	3.9	4.8
2014 December	3.6	3.8	3.8	5.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Rates are not seasonally adjusted.