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March 2017

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Visitor Industry Remains Important to Local Economy

Oklahoma's travel industry remains an essential part of the local and state economies according to an economic impact report recently released by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and Dean Runyan Associates. According to the report, Oklahoma County was No. 1 in the state for direct spending in the travel industry in 2015.

"Oklahoma City's investments in its quality of life have also transformed our region into an ideal place to visit or host an event," said Natalie Shirley, president of Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City and vice chair of convention and visitor development for the Chamber. "Our plans for continued investment will help ensure that Oklahoma City's appeal will continue to grow."

Total travel spending in Oklahoma County equaled \$2.2 billion, or 25.5 percent of the state's total travel spending. Visitors spent \$1.6 billion in Oklahoma County in 2015, with non-transportation spending (meaning all money except for the amount spent on airfare, gas and other transportation costs), accounting for \$1.398 billion. Non-transportation spending has risen in Oklahoma County 23.7 percent since 2010.



Oklahoma County saw \$2.2 billion in total travel spending in 2015, making up 25.5 percent of the state's total travel spending.

Continued on page 2

Significant Progress Continues on MAPS 3 Projects



The groundbreaking of the OKC Streetcar track line took place last month.

Three MAPS 3 projects celebrated recent milestones as they continue to impact the landscape of Oklahoma City's quality of life. On Feb. 7, crews broke ground on the OKC Streetcar track line in Bricktown, and on Feb. 28, the first MAPS 3 Senior Health and Wellness Center opened in northwest Oklahoma City. The City Council also approved the preliminary report for the MAPS 3 Downtown Convention Center.

MAPS 3 OKC Streetcar

The OKC Streetcar's groundbreaking represents a new era in local public transit. Construction on the project in and around downtown Oklahoma City is expected to take about two years, with OKC Streetcar service scheduled to begin in December 2018. When complete, the OKC Streetcar's two lines will link Bricktown with the central business district, Automobile Alley, Midtown, Chesapeake Energy Arena, Myriad Botanical Gardens and the future MAPS 3 Downtown Park and Convention Center. EMBARK will operate the OKC Streetcar as part of the City's public transit system.

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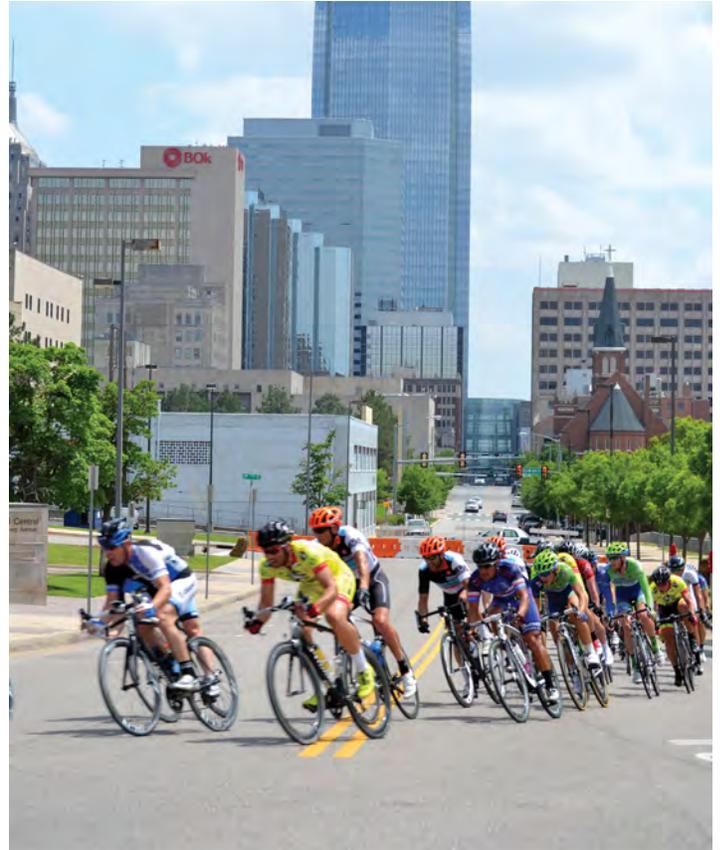
Local Visitor Industry Contributions (cont'd from page 1)

The visitor industry also has a significant impact on employment in the area. In 2015, Oklahoma County's travel industry directly employed 22,270 people and generated \$536.9 million in earnings.

“Our ability to attract and retain high-economic impact conventions and meetings is an essential part of Oklahoma City's visitor industry,” said Shirley. “The number of conventions is a strong foundation for our hospitality sector and it shares Oklahoma City's story of growth and success with others.”

The Oklahoma City CVB will assist with more than 143 events from March until the end of 2017. Those events have more than 350,000 booked hotel room nights in the Oklahoma City market.

The travel industry provides more than 32,000 jobs in the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area, with \$725 million in payroll resulting from those jobs. Tourism in the Oklahoma City metro generates \$122 million in state tax revenue and \$102 million in local tax receipts, funds that directly support the quality of life and infrastructure of Oklahoma City.



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Leadership Notes

Continuing criminal justice reform

Oklahoma and Oklahoma City have both enjoyed many accolades that point to our healthy business climate, ideal quality of life and low cost of doing business. However, there are a few rankings relating to our criminal justice system that we can't brag about. Oklahoma has the second-highest incarceration rate in the country, and the highest incarceration rate for females. If nothing changes, we can estimate that our prison system will grow by 25 percent in the next decade, which will cost taxpayers \$2 billion – which is a 400 percent increase over the current prison system budget. Currently, Oklahoma County's jail population is nearly double the facility's capacity and is under threat of takeover by the Department of Justice – leading to substantial potential costs to county taxpayers.

Clearly, we cannot continue down these paths. The Chamber is speaking up for a smarter, safer criminal justice system at both the state and local level through its Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Reform Task Force.

The Chamber task force has recommended two changes in state law for the current legislative session, both authored by Sen. David Holt: SB 342, which would create a task force to study fines, fees and costs imposed throughout the criminal justice system and how the money raised is spent; and SB 363, which would allow special judges in Oklahoma and Tulsa counties to sign pretrial release orders which would help reduce the number of people being held prior to trial in the Oklahoma County jail. Both of these bills have unanimously passed the Senate Public Safety Committee and are eligible to be heard on the Senate floor.

We believe that these two bills continue the momentum of criminal justice reform throughout the state and will lead to a more effective and affordable system. Please join me in voicing your support for SB 342 and SB 363 to your elected officials this legislative session.

Sincerely,



Roy H. Williams, CCE
Chamber CEO & President



Roy H. Williams, CCE
President & CEO

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THE POINT!

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Go around the world with SchmoozaPalooza



The Chamber's SchmoozaPalooza Trade Show is back at the Oklahoma Expo Hall at State Fair Park on Tuesday, April 11, from 4 to 7 p.m. Grab your coworkers and friends, and spend the afternoon making new contacts, enjoying food from Oklahoma City's best restaurants and caterers and sampling the products and services of Chamber members. A \$10 ticket includes one drink. Exhibitor booths are available for \$300.

Special thanks to Host Sponsor Oklahoma State Fair, Inc., and Networking Event Sponsors American Fidelity Assurance Company, AT&T Oklahoma, Liberty Business Park, OU Physicians and Westgate Park.



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Make business connections in a casual environment.



Get your game on at SchmoozaPalooza's 100 interactive booths.

Visit www.okcchamber.com/schmooza to purchase tickets or for more information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Network and Promote Your Business at Upcoming Events

With more than 20 events each year specifically designed to help members network and promote their business, your Chamber membership allows you to build new relationships and make valuable business connections.

Don't miss these upcoming networking events:

Sunset Reception: March 28

Grab your coworkers and head to Andy Alligator's Fun Park & Water Park in Norman from 4 to 6 p.m. on March 28 for the Chamber's monthly Sunset Reception. This free event includes food, one drink ticket and endless networking opportunities and is the perfect way to introduce your business contacts and friends to the Chamber. This event is open to the public and no registration is necessary.

MegaLunch: April 20

MegaLunch is a quarterly speed networking event that connects Chamber members in a creative way. Because of the event's computerized rotation schedule, attendees will have the chance to give their 90-second "elevator pitch" to other business professionals at the event. In April, MegaLunch will be held at the Devon Boathouse, 725 S Lincoln Blvd., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 20. MegaLunch is only open to Chamber members. To maximize networking opportunities, only one person per member company may attend.

Tickets are \$40 per person, and advance registration is required with a registration deadline three business days prior to the event. Email register@okcchamber.com to register. View more information at www.okcchamber.com/events.

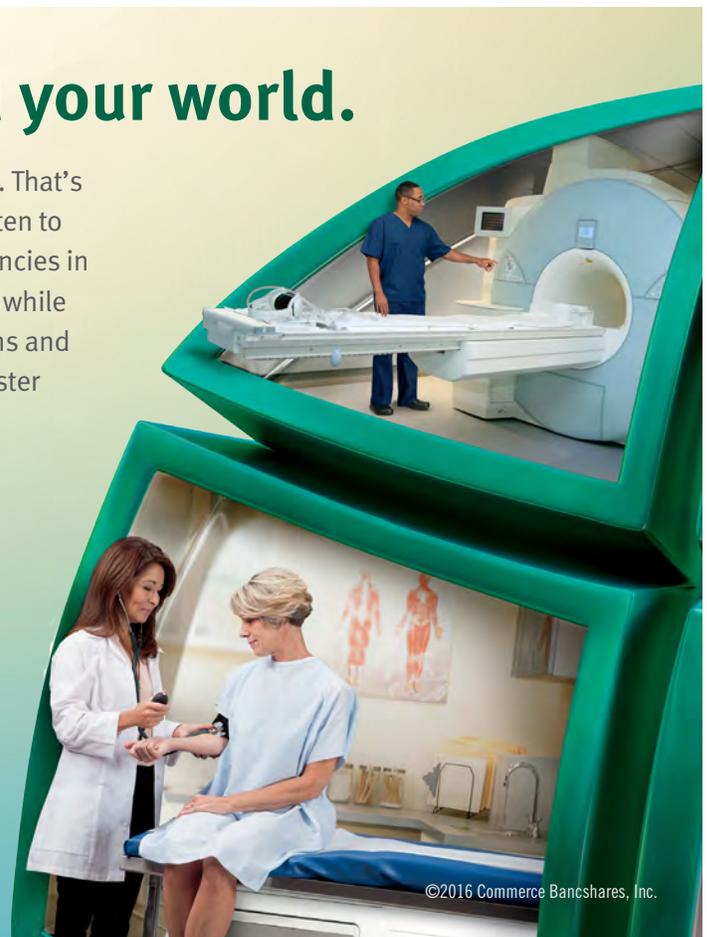
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Join the Chamber in Washington, D.C.

Join the Chamber in its ongoing advocacy efforts to improve Oklahoma City's business climate and economy by attending the Chamber's annual DC Visit on May 3-4. This annual event includes briefings with Oklahoma's senators and congressmen and a reception on Capitol Hill with defense leaders, Oklahoma's federal delegation and their key staff members.

On May 4, "off the hill" sessions will cover specific topics of interest on issues critical to our community, including military defense and criminal justice reform. Additionally, POLITICO reporter Ben Schreckinger will share insights into the national political landscape. View the full schedule at www.okcchamber.com/dc.

\$800 per person includes one night's lodging on May 3 at The Henley Park Hotel, 926 Massachusetts Ave., and all affiliated events. Air travel to and from Washington, D.C., is not included, giving you the option of extending your stay for additional business in the area. Additional room nights are available for Tuesday, May 2 and Thursday, May 4.

Contact Meredith Manley at 405-297-8964 or email mmanley@okcchamber.com to register or for more information. Special thanks to Signature Sponsor American Fidelity Assurance Company.

Register for events online and view a complete event calendar at www.okcchamber.com/events.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 14

Member Orientation

Time: 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Location: Chamber offices, 123 Park Ave.

March 28

Sunset Reception

Time: 4 to 6 p.m.
Location: Andy Alligator's Fun Park & Water Park, 3300 Market Place in Norman

April 11

Member Orientation

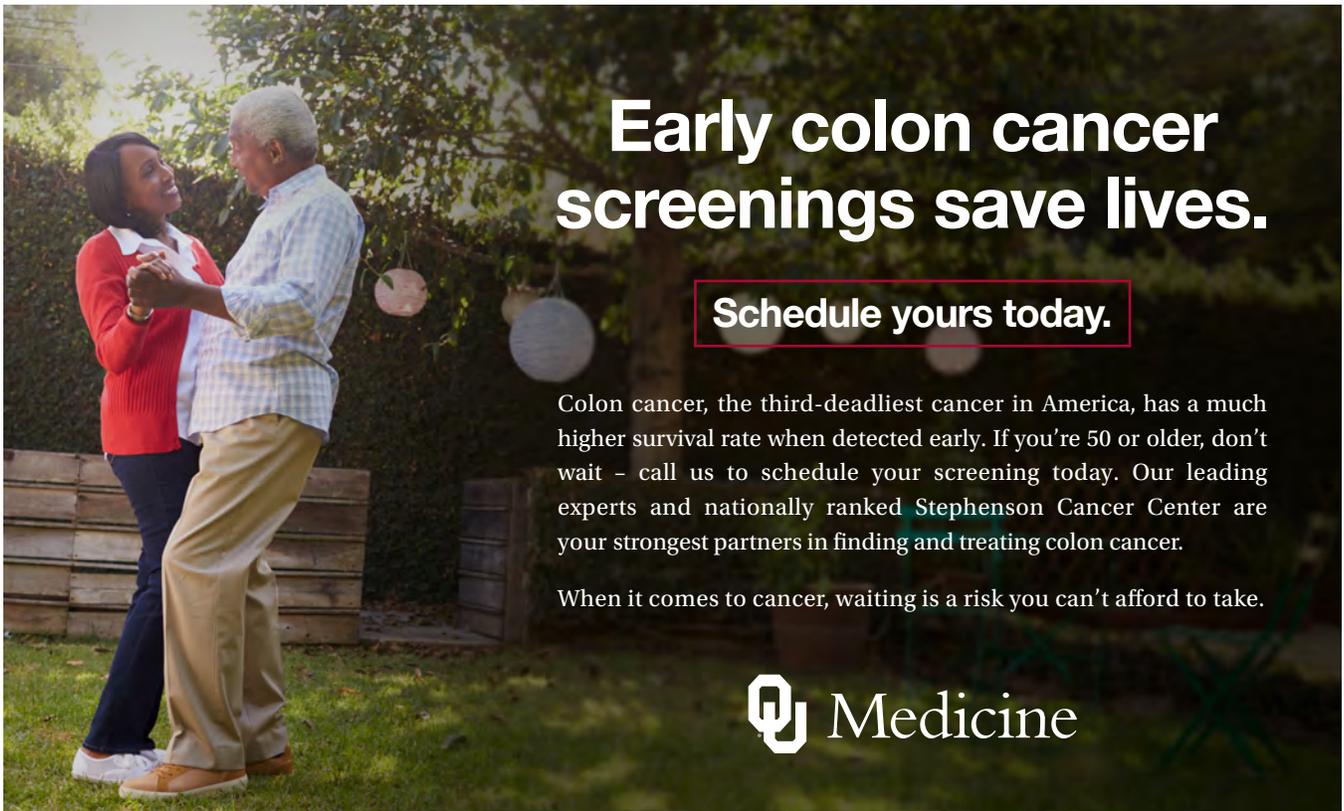
Time: 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Location: IBC Bank, 3817 Northwest Expressway, Suite 100

April 11

SchmoozaPalooza

Trade Show

Time: 4 to 7 p.m.
Location: Oklahoma Expo Hall at State Fair Park, 3213 Wichita Walk



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MAPS 3 Project Updates (cont'd from page 1)



The MAPS 3 Senior Health and Wellness Center will be on to members on March 20.

The project budget is \$131 million and includes a storage and maintenance facility already under construction at SW 7th Street and Hudson Avenue.

Brookville Equipment Corporation is building the streetcars and Herzog-Stacey and Witbeck is building the rail line. Consultants include ADG, Jacobs Engineering, AECOM and SOJ. EMBARK is negotiating a contract with Herzog Transit Services for managing the OKC Streetcar's day-to-day operations.

MAPS 3 Senior Health and Wellness Center

The first MAPS 3 Senior Health and Wellness Center, operated by Healthy Living and Fitness and designed by GSB, Inc., will provide Oklahoma City seniors with access to affordable amenities and services that will help them stay fit, active and healthy. Amenities include a heated indoor saltwater fitness pool, a full-sized gymnasium, fully equipped exercise room, an aerobics room, classroom space, a demonstration kitchen, an outdoor bocce ball court, art studio, café, lounge, health screening room and more.

Every aspect of the senior center is designed to be easily accessible for older adults, and anyone age 50 and up can join with membership rates starting at \$30 per month for individuals. The center is scheduled to open to members on March 20.

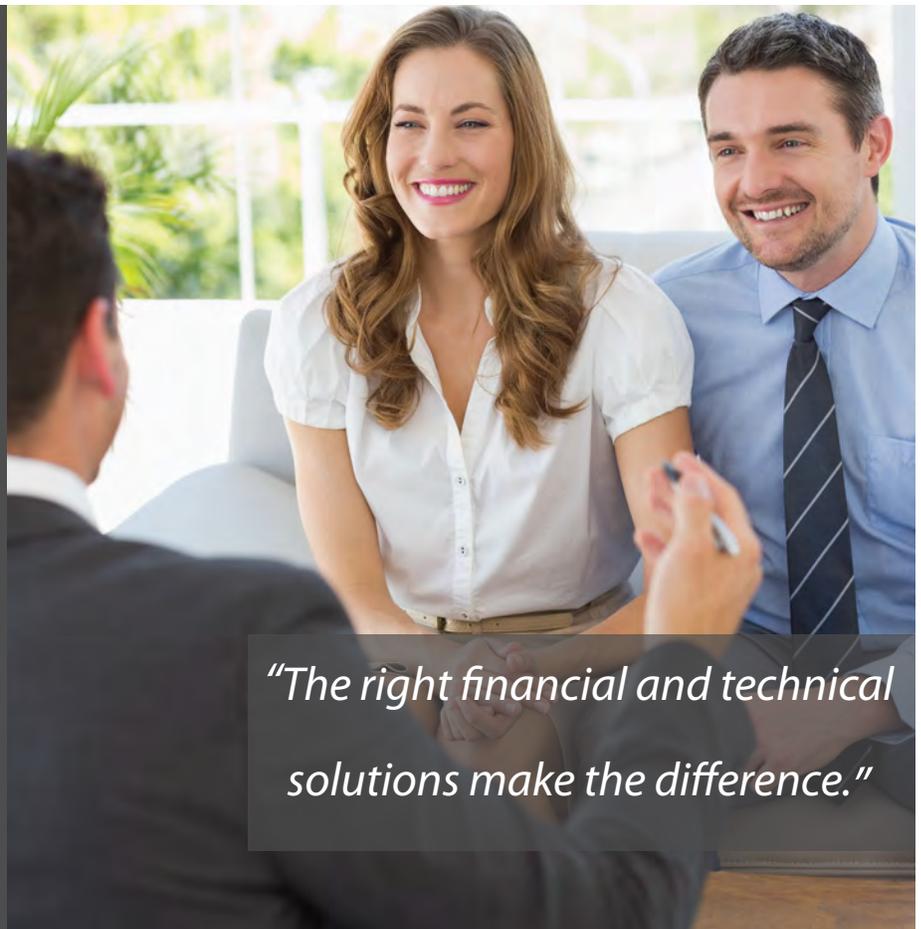
Construction is under way on the second MAPS 3 Senior Health & Wellness Center at 4021 S Walker Ave. It will have similar amenities and be operated by NorthCare. It's set to open late this year.

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The City is negotiating with Langston University for operation of the third senior center, which will be at a still-to-be-determined location in northeast Oklahoma City. It's scheduled to open in 2019.

A fourth MAPS 3 Senior Health & Wellness Center is also planned and scheduled to open in 2021. The location and operating partner haven't been selected.

MAPS 3 Downtown Convention Center

With the approval of the preliminary report for the MAPS 3 Downtown Convention Center, the project is one step closer to its scheduled groundbreaking later in 2017. The convention center will be located south of Chesapeake Energy Arena adjacent to the future MAPS 3 Park and will feature 200,000 square feet of exhibit space, 45,000 square feet of meeting rooms and a 30,000-square-foot ballroom.

The convention center's design by Populous and GSB, Inc., maximizes energy efficiency and resilience against weather conditions. The estimated total cost of the convention center is about \$194 million. The project budget is \$288 million and includes other costs like property acquisition.



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TLC offers chance to support Tinker Air Force Base

For 75 years, Tinker Air Force Base has been a critical component of the Oklahoma City community. The Chamber offers a way to not only support the base, but also to stay informed with its growth and development throughout the year.

“Tinker Air Force Base and Oklahoma City have seen mutual success because of the unique, supportive partnership they have built during the past 75 years,” said Judy J. Hatfield, CCIM, vice chair of military and aerospace for the Chamber. “Tinker Leadership Community (TLC) is one important way that the Oklahoma City community can continue that support and honor the airmen and civilian workforce at Tinker.”

TLC is an ongoing initiative of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber aimed at providing a forum for civilian and military leaders to strengthen economic, political and community relationships. TLC members work to promote retention and growth of Tinker Air Force Base

and to resolve current and potential concerns of civilian and military leadership. The program is an outgrowth of the long history that the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and the region have in supporting and appreciating the services this base provides to our Nation’s security.

TLC provides resources to directly support the airmen and civilian workforce at Tinker AFB and honor their successes. In return, each TLC member receives a complimentary seat to the State of the Aerospace Defense Industry event in the fall, along with invitations to two other events that may include luncheons or receptions with key military leaders. Previous speakers have included the Commander of the Air Force Sustainment Center at Tinker Air Force Base, the Air Force Chief of Staff, the Under Secretary of the Air Force and the Commander, Air Force Materiel Command, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Individual: \$200

- One complimentary seat to State of the Aerospace Defense Industry luncheon and two additional events during the 2017 calendar year
- Receive TLC e-newsletters
- Individual memberships are not transferrable.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Corporate sponsor - **ONLY 2 Available!**

Sponsorship of the TLC initiative demonstrates a company’s commitment to Tinker Air Force Base and its importance to our community.

Corporate: \$750

- Four complimentary seats to State of the Aerospace Defense Industry luncheon and two additional events during the 2017 calendar year
- Receive TLC e-newsletters
- Under a corporate membership, complimentary seats may transfer to other employees.

Benefits include a complimentary corporate membership, four seats to all TLC events and recognition at TLC events.

For a complete list of sponsorship benefits or for more information, contact Meredith Manley at 405-297-8964 or mmanley@okcchamber.com.

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Lead Investor

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Board of Advisors

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Mr. Rod Rutherford..... 528-1234
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Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2403
www.unitedmech.com

GRAND OPENINGS

Congratulations to these Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings! All Chamber members are welcome to attend Grand Openings. To view more photos, see the schedule of upcoming Grand Openings or subscribe to the Grand Openings calendar, visit www.okcchamber.com/grandopenings.

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies are a great member benefit. If your company wants to celebrate a new location, expansion or renovation, contact Amanda Bowen, abowen@okcchamber.com or 405-297-8961.



Alias Forensics, LLC
5350 S. Western Ave., Suite 620
Oklahoma City, OK 73109



Planet Fitness
5701 E. Reno Ave.
Midwest City, OK 73110



**Hampton Inn by Hilton
Oklahoma City Northeast**
11820 N. I-35 Service Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73131



**Boys and Girls Club of
Oklahoma County**
3535 N. Western Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118



Zaxby's
2317 S. Douglas Blvd.
Midwest City, OK 73130



OK Cryo
2137 NW 138th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73134



Cellular Sales
318 E. State Highway 152
Mustang, OK 73064

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ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Cost of Living in OKC

Focus on Cost of Living

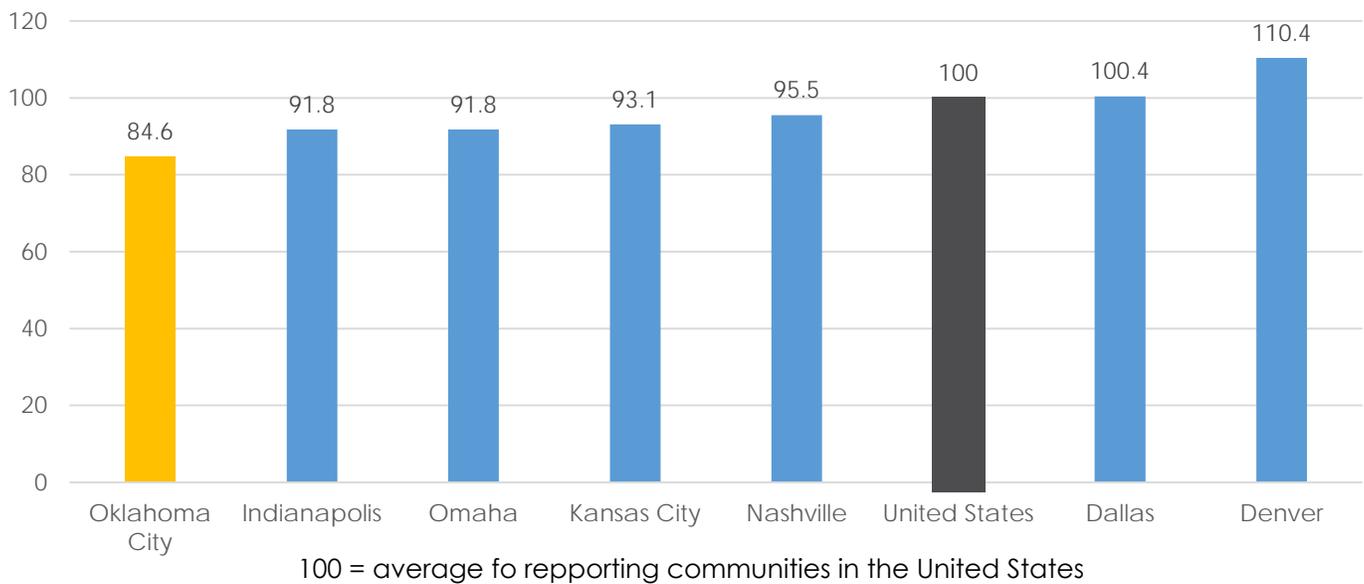
If you are earning \$70,000 after tax in Boston, the comparable income to achieve the same standard of living in Oklahoma City is \$39,993.

How much less will you spend in Oklahoma City than Boston?

- Groceries 13%
- Housing 65%
- Utilities..... 43%
- Transportation 27%
- Health..... 32%

Check out the Cost of Living Calculator at www.okcchamber.com/col to compare other cities.

Cost of Living | Composite Index



Where You Live Matters! C2ER 2016 Annual Average Price Report www.coli.org

City	Apartment Rent	Coffee	Tire Balance	Doctor Visit	Gasoline	Men's Haircut	Movie Ticket
Oklahoma City, OK	\$818.15	\$3.62	\$40.50	\$83.97	\$1.58	\$15.61	\$9.62
Kansas City, MO	\$883.87	\$4.31	\$45.97	\$91.94	\$1.85	\$15.53	\$9.59
Nashville, TN	\$966.72	\$4.26	\$60.53	\$79.17	\$1.75	\$16.00	\$10.77
Indianapolis, IN	\$998.10	\$4.25	\$46.09	\$95.20	\$1.78	\$17.17	\$10.59
National Average	\$1,003.74	\$4.36	\$45.78	\$107.16	\$1.99	\$15.57	\$10.13
Omaha, NE	\$1,004.45	\$3.78	\$53.40	\$135.83	\$1.72	\$15.39	\$9.71
Dallas, TX	\$1,058.20	\$4.70	\$54.96	\$107.11	\$1.86	\$22.16	\$10.36
Denver, CO	\$1,469.34	\$5.67	\$52.50	\$134.18	\$1.99	\$18.59	\$11.18

Source: C2ER Cost of Living Index, 2016 Annual Average Data

Source: Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education – Data After Five Years for All State System Graduates 2008-2009 (Graphs depict data of the 2008-2009 graduates working in the Greater Oklahoma City Region)

LOOK INSIDE!

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- 15 Economic Indicators

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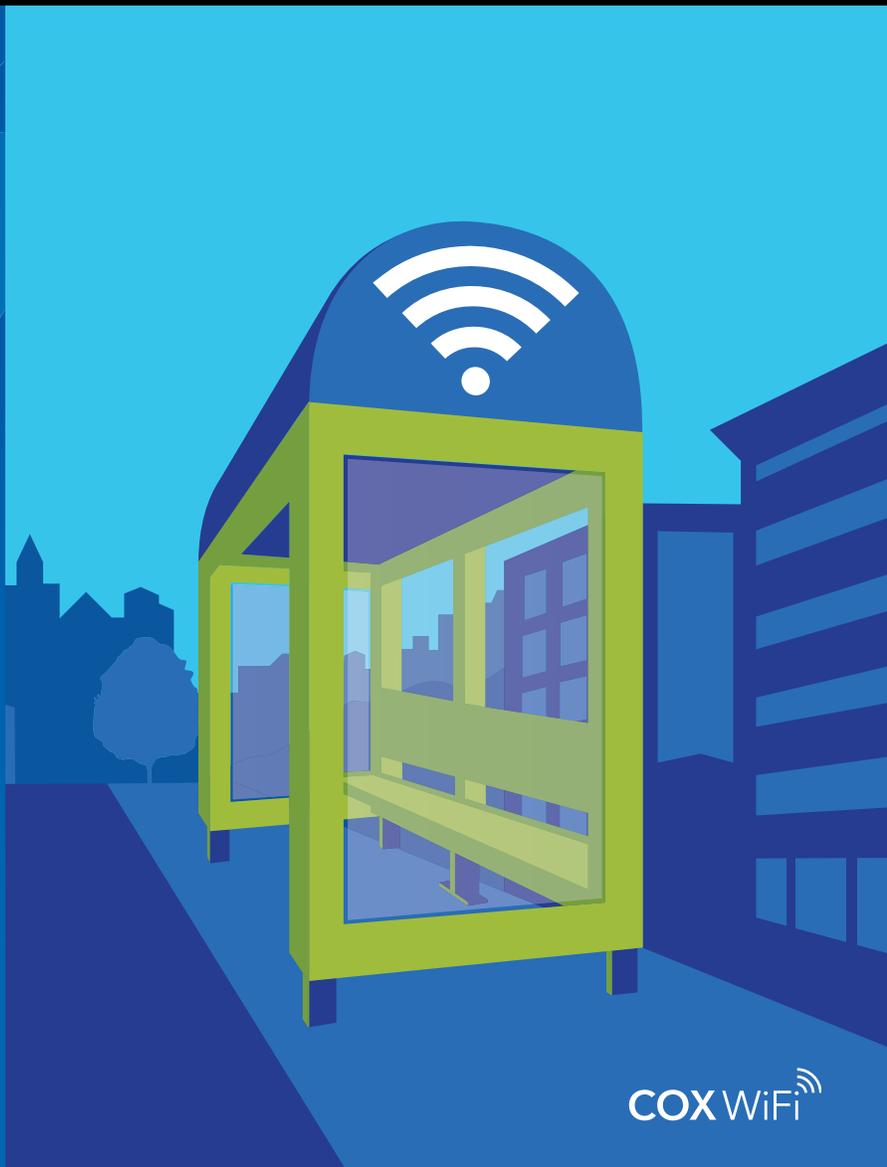
HEY, OKC, ENJOY YOUR DATA

WiFi HOTSPOTS IN OKLAHOMA CITY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Cox High Speed InternetSM gives you a fast WiFi experience in and out of your home. With Cox High Speed Internet, you get access to superfast in-home WiFi to power all of your devices and do the things you love online. Stay connected while you travel with access to over 500,000 WiFi hotspots across the country, including new spots now available throughout Oklahoma City and surrounding areas.

WiFi is easy to use. Search for **"Cable WiFi"** or **"Cox WiFi"** from the networks on your device and enter your Cox user ID and password.

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