

Anchored in Growth

NEWSLETTER

LITTLE ELM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Growth is easy to see once the signs go up and the doors open. What isn't as easy to see are the months—and sometimes years—of conversations, planning, and partnerships that make those moments possible. Our days are spent meeting with business owners, walking development sites, working alongside Town staff and the Chamber, and building relationships with developers, brokers, and entrepreneurs who are considering Little Elm. It may not always make the headlines, but it's the work that keeps our community moving forward.

Little Elm is a unique community. Unlike many cities, we don't have a major interstate running through town that naturally attracts large retailers. Businesses make a conscious decision to invest here because they believe in what Little Elm offers—a growing community, a destination lakefront, and people who genuinely care about where they live. That means our approach has to be intentional. Every conversation matters, every partnership matters, and every project is evaluated with the long-term health of our community in mind.

As you read through this issue, I hope you see more than new projects and business updates. I hope you see the teamwork behind them. The partnerships between the EDC, Town departments, the Chamber, developers, business owners, and community leaders are what move Little Elm forward. We're proud of the progress we've made and excited about where those relationships will take us next.

Jennette Espinosa

Executive Director



A Vision Years *in* the Making

Bates Town Crossing is Little Elm's newest retail center and part of a vision that started fifteen years prior. The Town recognized that this area had the potential to become something bigger in the future.

It is expected to become Little Elm's largest sales tax producing commercial area. That's important because sales tax dollars generated here stay in the community, helping support more places to shop, work and spend time for local residents. Target is now open and has created approximately 200 jobs in Little Elm.

Construction continues for other retailers who will soon follow Target and open their doors.

See the full story below from Director, Jennette Espinosa.



Now Open

26550 E University Drive

Sunday – Saturday 8AM – 10PM

Kroger Marketplace

Kroger is set to open its door on July 31st across from Target. This will be the second Kroger store now serving area residents making every day needs more convenient.

The event will run all weekend and include fanfare from the Little Elm High School band and cheer team. Plus samples and special events throughout the store and prizes for the first 200 people entering.

26587 E University Drive

Grand Opening July 31st at 6AM



When opportunity &
vision align.

Angie's Brings Better Food, Lower Prices and a Long-Term Investment in Little Elm

"We're excited to be part of the Little Elm community and look forward to earning the trust of families one meal at a time," said Co-founder, Tony Christofellis



Guests can enjoy \$4.99 salads with antibiotic-free chicken grilled-to-order in extra virgin olive oil, chicken protein bowls with a double serving of antibiotic-free chicken starting at \$6.99, breakfast made with fresh-cracked eggs and grilled-to-order protein starting at \$3.99, 99-cent beverages, USDA Prime Top Sirloin steak, wild-caught seafood, house-made sauces, and other premium ingredients at prices designed for everyday families.

For the founders, success isn't measured only by the number of restaurants they build. It's measured by the relationships they build within each community.

Angie's looks forward to growing alongside one of North Texas' fastest-growing communities for years to come.

Little Elm quickly rose to the top of the list.

When Angie's founders Tony and Roushan Christofellis looked beyond Arizona for their next phase of growth, they sought a community where strong families, thriving businesses and long-term economic opportunity come together.

As Little Elm continues to grow, Angie's looks forward to being part of the community by making better food affordable for every family.

Founded in honor of Tony's late mother, Angie, a hardworking Greek immigrant and single mother, the company was built on the belief that people shouldn't have to choose between quality, price, nutrition, or variety. Her determination, work ethic and commitment to serving others continue to shape the company's culture.

Rather than accepting rising food costs, the founders reimagined the restaurant business from the ground up. Instead of changing the food, they changed the system behind it.



"The more efficient we become as a company, the more high-quality ingredients and crazy low prices we can pass on to our customers."
- Tony Christofellis

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

APPLY TO SERVE BY
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

 littleelm.gov/jobs
CLICK HERE TO APPLY



Interested in serving on the EDC Board

Applications are now open for the Town of Little Elm's Boards, Commissions, and Committees. If you've been a Little Elm resident for at least one year and want to help shape the future of your community, consider applying to serve on the Economic Development Corporation Board.

Board members play an important role in guiding economic development. Applications are due Friday, August 14, 2026. Two positions are available. Citizens Government Academy graduates are preferred but not required.

Current Board of Directors



FROM VISION TO GROUNDBREAKING

The Whiskey Blendery's groundbreaking marked the next chapter in a conversation that began years ago and continued to grow over time.



Pictured: Owner, Tim Huels, EDC Board & Staff Members

What started as an introduction turned into an ongoing relationship, with conversations about Little Elm, the future of the business, and what the right opportunity could look like. Over the years, those conversations continued until the timing and vision came together.

The recent groundbreaking brought together the people who have been part of that journey and gave everyone a chance to celebrate how far the project has come. Now, with construction beginning, The Whiskey Blendery is moving from plans on paper to a new home in Little Elm.

Learn more at TheWhiskeyBlendery.com

Located off Eldorado Pkwy and Hardwicke Lane behind Tenders – the new location will expand their vision and bring more opportunity to the Lakefront.

The plans include a Rickhouse, Tasting Room and Private Club where members can enjoy more space and more connection.

We're excited to see the building take shape and to welcome a business that has spent years getting to know our community before ever breaking ground.

Anticipated to open in the Fall of 2027



Pictured: Tim Huels & family

Business Buzz

OAK GROVE PARKWAY | WEST SIDE



ACE OAKS SHOPPING CENTER

AVAILABLE SPACE

- BUILDING 1 - +/-3,075SF
- BUILDING 2 - 3,664 SF
DRIVE-THRU END CAP
- BUILDING 3 - 10,481 SF
WITH PATIO

NOW OPEN

ACE HARDWARE
PURE NAIL BAR
BURN BOOTCAMP

COMING SOON

ACE PATIO & GRILL (RETAIL)
HICKORY STICKS INDOOR GOLF
(SIMULATOR)
THE FIX (RESTAURANT)

<https://littleelmedc.com/leasing-contacts-for-little-elm-retail-centers/>

Business Buzz

OAK GROVE PARKWAY | EAST SIDE



PREMIER OAKS | RETAIL BUILDINGS

Located on the east side of Oak Grove Parkway directly across from Ace Oaks Shopping Center.

FULLY FINISHED OUT SPACES AVAILABLE

- UPGRADE MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT
- ABUNDANT PARKING AND SIGNAGE AVAILABLE
- 1,130 SF – 4,989 SF FOR OFFICE

TWO ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS WITH RETAIL SPACE COMING SOON

<https://littleelmedc.com/leasing-contacts-for-little-elm-retail-centers/>

Steering

PROGRESS

TEDC MID-YEAR CONFERENCE



During this year's Texas Economic Development Council's Mid-Year Conference, one speaker reminded us that economic development is ultimately about creating hope and opportunity. It was a simple message, but one that reflects the work we do every day. The conversations, partnerships, and planning happening behind the scenes today are what help create the businesses, jobs, and experiences our community will enjoy in the future.

"At the end of the day, this work is about making everyday life a little better—for the families who live here, the businesses that invest here, and the people who choose to spend time in Little Elm."

