

Dave & Buster's set to open in Oklahoma City

Dave & Buster's is joining a growing list of national retail and entertainment venues opening in Oklahoma City.

BY STEVE LACKMEYER slackmeyer@opubco.com  9

Published: January 12, 2012

Dave & Buster's is set to join the growing list of national retail and entertainment venues opening in Oklahoma City after previously passing on chances to expand into central Oklahoma.

In the past year, Oklahoma City has seen the openings of upscale retailers including Whole Foods, and large entertainment/food venues like Gattitown, a pizza restaurant with a large attached game room.

Dave & Buster's is opening a 23,805-square-foot location at May Avenue and Northwest Expressway, its second in the state following the opening of a restaurant in Tulsa in 2009.

“This is the very first store of this prototype — it's for medium to small markets,” general manager Bob Ball said. “We are 6,000 square feet bigger than Tulsa, and 5,000 of that square feet is in the game room.”

Ball said Oklahoma City is a perfect fit for the Dave & Buster's smaller market prototype because the city has a population of 579,000 with a metro-wide population of about 1.2 million

In comparison, other markets have Dave & Buster's that are 32,000 square feet or larger, Ball said. Nashville, which has a population of 635,000, has a 70,000-square-foot Dave & Buster's.

The main difference in the store size, Ball said, is that the dining area is less spread out at the new Oklahoma City location.

Ball said the restaurant and game room will employ 205 people, with training set to begin on Jan. 18.