

Amazon builds on more than 20 years of investments in Delaware with new, state-of-the-art fulfillment center in Wilmington

» Gov. John Carney and Amazon formally announced that the company will launch a new, state-of-the-art fulfillment center in Wilmington, creating more than 1,000 full-time jobs. Amazon first launched operations in New Castle in 1997 with its first fulfillment center in the network and launched its second Delaware fulfillment center in Middletown in 2012. The company has now grown to more than 110 fulfillment centers in North America and 185 globally, fulfilling millions of customer orders every day.

“Amazon already employs more than 2,500 Delawareans, and we welcome additional investment that will result in more jobs for Delaware families — especially at vacant industrial sites that are ideal for redevelopment,” said Delaware Gov. John Carney. “Delaware has a world-class workforce, a central location and a quality of life that is second to none. For those reasons and more, Delaware is a great place for businesses of all sizes to grow and create jobs.”

Amazon will lease a built-to-suit building, developed by Dermody Properties, at the site of the former General Motors’ Wilmington assembly plant, which closed in 2009 and was demolished in 2019. This is Dermody Properties’ — a premier e-commerce, logistics real estate development firm’s — first venture in Delaware. Jeffrey A. Zygler, a partner at Dermody Properties said, “Delaware officials and regulatory

agencies have been very responsive to our needs, which is paramount in projects of this magnitude. Their collaborative approach and commitment allowed us to attract Amazon to our project.”

Amazon’s new operations facility will span more than 820,000 square feet on the ground floor. Employees at the site will work alongside innovative Amazon robotics technology to pick, pack and ship smaller customer items such as books, electronics, small household goods and toys. In addition, Amazon will hire for roles in human resources, operations management, safety, security, finance and information technology.

“The First State was home to Amazon’s first fulfillment center 23 years ago,” said Ryan Smith, director of Amazon robotics fulfillment centers in North America. “I’m proud to see the continued growth and investment in Delaware with our newest fulfillment center in Wilmington. Amazon has found an outstanding, passionate workforce, strong state and local support and incredible customers across the state. We look forward to creating 1,000 new, full-time jobs with industry leading pay and benefits, starting on day one, in a safe, innovative and quality work



environment. I know first-hand the opportunity and support network we provide employees for long-term, career success, and I’m excited to provide that same opportunity for thousands of current and future Amazonians.”

“The Amazon location announcement says something about the state of our economy, but also about the spirit of our people in New Castle County,” said County Executive Matt Meyer. “When you have one of our largest commercial sites, one that hasn’t created any jobs, barren for more than a decade, it speaks to the neighbors and the community here. Now we’re going to have the retail operation of the future, creating more than 1,000 jobs, and we’ll have a workforce that will deliver for them.”

In addition, Amazon has pledged to invest over \$700 million to provide upskilling training for 100,000 U.S. employees for in-demand jobs. Programs will help Amazonians from all backgrounds access training to move

into highly skilled roles across the company's corporate offices, tech hubs, fulfillment centers, retail stores and transportation network or pursue career paths outside of Amazon.

"At Amazon, we want to help our employees get the skills they need for today's – and tomorrow's – most in-demand jobs," said Smith. "All associates go through hours of safety training and ongoing coaching and have access to continuing education opportunities through Amazon's upskilling programs, such as Career Choice, in which the company will pre-pay up to 95 percent of tuition for courses related to in-demand fields, regardless of whether the skills are relevant to a career at Amazon. Since the program's launch, more than 25,000 employees have pursued degrees in game design and visual communications, nursing, IT programming and radiology, to name a few."

An Amazon presence in Delaware means more than just the jobs provided within its four walls. In addition to full-benefit, great jobs inside the building, the company has brought thousands of jobs in construction and services. Since 2010, Amazon has invested more than \$2.5 billion in Delaware through its customer fulfillment infrastructure and compensation to its employees. Amazon's investments in Delaware have contributed an additional \$1 billion into the state's economy, and, using methodology developed by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Amazon estimates its investments in the state have created an additional 700-plus indirect jobs on top of the company's 2,500 direct hires.

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce Remains Hard at Work during the Pandemic

» The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce has been busy during the pandemic, diligently working to support and assist members through these uncertain days. Even during this time of financial uncertainty, we remain the essential resource for the development of businesses in Kent County.

While the CDCC office has been closed since March 23rd, the chamber staff, working remotely, has been in constant communication with our member businesses, connecting them to the critical information needed to stay afloat and prepare for reopening. In addition, we have served as the voice of the Central Delaware business community. The CDCC, in conjunction with the other 13 chambers in Delaware, has been working with state and local officials, as well as the Governor, to help businesses receive the help they need and to reopen as quickly as possible.

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, along with the Kent Economic Partnership and the Greater Kent Committee, spearheaded the reopening effort by initiating a task force to address the various procedures and precautions necessary to do business in a safe and healthy way. The "Getting Back to Business" task force was comprised of business leaders across many industries



and agencies. The task force worked to find practical, hands-on ways to assist businesses. To that end, they devel-

oped and produced a "Getting Back to Business" brochure that outlined many of the procedures and precautions businesses should consider. The task force also implemented the creation of "Getting Back to Business" starter kits. The starter kits contained masks, gloves, wipes, disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer, and a no-contact thermometer, as well as valuable coupons and offers to assist small businesses in obtaining the supplies needed to reopen. These 100 starter kits were funded by the generous donations of several partners and were distributed to businesses with 20 or less employees. Special thanks to Kent County Levy Court, The City of Dover, Calpine, Chesapeake Utilities, First State Janitorial, Office Pride, W.B. Mason, and Staples.

It is our belief that the businesses of Delaware are ready and able to reopen and operate safely for both their employees and the public. We have worked together through this pandemic, and on the other side of it, we will be stronger and better than ever – that's the Delaware way!