

City approves Amazon work in Westside Industrial Park

By Karen Brune Mathis
Managing Editor

Amazon.com's fourth Jacksonville operation is a step closer now that the city issued a permit Thursday for work at the Westside center it will occupy.

Hitt Contracting was approved for tenant improvements that involved structural support for roof-top units, dock-door details and trenching for utilities. Roof-top units are HVAC systems for commercial buildings.

Building documents identify the Seattle-based e-commerce retailer as the user of the 237,053-square-foot warehouse at 4948 Bulls Bay Highway in Westside Industrial Park.

That project was called "Amazon Phase 2." Phase 1 appears to be interior painting and lighting work.

The permit isn't the first for work at the structure. The city approved an electrical permit March 13 for the building at \$290,000. That permit covers replacement of 368 bay lights and temporary power for inside the building and two construction trailers.

The Westside Industrial Park matches the needs for an Amazon sortation center. Those are 200,000 to 300,000 square feet and they employ 100-300 people.



File Photo

Work proceeds at 4948 Bulls Bay Highway for Amazon. It fits Amazon's parameters as a sortation center.

The sortation description also matches a zoning application submitted for the building by Peter Anderson, vice president of Pattillo Industrial Real Estate at Westside Industrial Park.

That document shows that the unidentified user of the building was expected to create more than 200 jobs and represent a capital investment topping \$5 million.

The building, on 14.87 acres, is owned by a company related to Pattillo.

Two Amazon fulfillment

centers and a delivery station already have been permitted in Jacksonville, making the Westside operation its fourth in the area.

The four centers total 3.7 million square feet of space. At least 2,900 jobs would be created, comprising the 2,700 full-time positions at the fulfillment centers and the 200 at Westside Industrial Park.

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Project Velocity seeks \$2.2M to expand manufacturing

By Karen Brune Mathis
Managing Editor

A Jacksonville building-products manufacturer proposes to add 20 jobs, retain 150 and invest \$54 million into its North Jacksonville plant.

Known as "Project Velocity," it seeks a \$2.211 million Recapture Enhanced Value grant from the city to make the deal work. It says it is looking at two other U.S. cities where it has existing facilities.

Resolution 2019-289 was introduced to City Council to support the grant. The agreement would rebate 60 percent of the incremental increase in its property taxes for seven years after the capital investment is

made and is on the tax roll.

The unidentified company proposes a \$4 million improvement to its property and a \$50 million purchase of manufacturing equipment.

The legislation requests a two-reading passage.

The legislative fact sheet explains that the company would add 20 jobs by 2022 and would pay an average \$40,000 a year plus benefits.

That wage is greater than 60 percent of the countywide average.

It says the advanced-manufacturing company is a target industry. It proposes to create jobs for machine operators and assembly line workers for a new manufacturing line.

"The company has stated that the City of Jacksonville incentive being proposed is a material factor in its decision to expand its operation in Jacksonville, Florida versus the two other U.S. cities where they operate existing facilities," the fact sheet says.

The fact sheet says the company is in a Level 1 Distress Area, which allows a REV grant up to 60 percent.

A job creation schedule in the economic development agreement shows that 10 jobs would be created by year-end 2018 and the other 10 in 2022.

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DOWNTOWN *This Week*

TODAY

Canellakis conducts Shostakovich
11 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts
Jaxsymphony.org

TJ and the Big Guns
8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Jacksonville Landing
JacksonvilleLanding.com

Puttin' on the Ritz
7:30 p.m.
Ritz Theatre and Museum
Ritzjacksonville.com

Little River Band with the Jacksonville Symphony
8 p.m.
Florida Theatre
Floridatheatre.com

One Woman Sex & the City: A Parody
8 p.m.
Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts
Jaxevents.com

Legends of Southern Hip Hop
8 p.m.
Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts
Jaxevents.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Hubbard House Walk and Run
8 a.m.
Jacksonville Landing
JacksonvilleLanding.com

Riverside Arts Market
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Northbank Riverwalk
Artists Square
Riversideartsmarket.com

Jazz Discovery Series: Andrae Murchinson
8 p.m.
Ritz Theatre and Museum
Ritzjacksonville.com

Canellakis conducts Shostakovich
8 p.m.
Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts
Jaxsymphony.org

One Woman Sex & the City: A Parody
8 p.m.
Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts
Jaxevents.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Canellakis conducts Shostakovich
3 p.m.
Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts
Jaxsymphony.org

418 Band
5-9 p.m.
Jacksonville Landing
JacksonvilleLanding.com

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Bruce Hornsby
7:30 p.m.
Florida Theatre
Floridatheatre.com

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp vs. Chattanooga Lookouts
7:05 p.m.
Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville
Jaxshrimp.com

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Adamec Bike Night
6-10 p.m.
Jacksonville Landing
JacksonvilleLanding.com

Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp vs. Chattanooga Lookouts
7:05 p.m.
Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville
Jaxshrimp.com

Disney on Ice: Worlds of Enchantment
7:30 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Arena
Jaxevents.com

Chris Botti
8 p.m.
Florida Theatre
Floridatheatre.com

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

\$5 Friday
10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Museum of Science & History
Themosh.org

Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp vs. Chattanooga Lookouts
7:05 p.m.
Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville
Jaxshrimp.com

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