

Chicago Fittings nears move to area

By **WHITNEY HELM** Staff writer | Posted: Thursday, October 8, 2015 4:00 pm

BELOIT — Chicago Fittings is gearing up to move into its new Gateway Business Park location in a couple of weeks.

The Illinois-based company will move its 18 employees into the building during the week of Oct. 12, according to General Manager Diane Thomas.

"We expect to be fully operational on Oct. 19," Thomas said.

Thomas said the company is looking to hire two people in the immediate future, with seven more employees being hired in the next two years.

"We now have the space to produce more, so we have to get that additional volume," Thomas said.

Thomas said the building is still in need of some electrical work, but the offices are complete.

The 84-year-old specialty fitting manufacturer approached the City of Beloit about a move in August 2014. Chicago Fittings will receive the 4.26 acre site, near the corner of Gateway Boulevard and Colley Road, for \$1, and direct developer payments that rebate 25 percent of property taxes over the next eight years. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation gave the company state tax credits for up to \$175,000 for the next four years.

Andrew Janke, executive director for the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation, said Georgia-based Pratt Industries just down the street from Chicago Fittings also is on schedule. The company is expected to begin production at its Beloit facility near Gateway Boulevard and Cranston Road by the end of the year and will be fully operational by the first quarter of 2016.

The company announced in December it would build a new \$52 million corrugated box factory in Beloit. The factory will bring 140 full-time jobs to the area and will produce 600 tons of recycled boxes a day. The total incentives the city offered Pratt were worth about \$3.8 million, which included a \$200,000 cash grant from the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation and a \$350,000 matching grant from the city to build a rail spur.



Coming soon

Chicago Fittings employees will move into its new location in Gateway Business Park on Oct. 12.

The city council has approved an application for a Transportation Economic Assistance grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to rebuild based Pratt Industries just down the street from Chicago Fittings also is on schedule. The company is expected to begin production at its Beloit facility near Gateway Boulevard and Cranston Road by the end of the year and will be fully operational by the first quarter of 2016.

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The city council has approved an application for a Transportation Economic Assistance grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to rebuild Colley Road.