

Construction gets under way for Pratt and Chicago Fittings

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Two new businesses have broken ground in Beloit's Gateway Business Park — Pratt Industries and Chicago Fittings.

Georgia-based Pratt Industries announced in December it would build a new \$52 million corrugated box factory in Beloit. The company changed locations from the corner of Gateway Boulevard and Turtle Town Hall Road near the railroad tracks to two miles south at the corner of Colley Road and Gateway Boulevard, after the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources wouldn't approve permits until it performed a site evaluation in the spring.

Earth movers were leveling the construction site on Thursday, making preparations for the 350,000-square-foot facility, which is expected to be completed in early 2016.

The factory will bring 140 full-time jobs to the area and will produce 600 tons of recycled boxes a day. The Beloit City Council also passed a resolution to apply for a Transportation Economic Assistance program grant to reconstruct Colley Road.

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

Nearby, the foundation is partially built for Chicago Fittings' new facility.

The 84-year-old specialty fitting manufacturer plans to build a 30,000 square-foot building in the Gateway Business Park. The Illinois-based company approached the City of Beloit about a move last August, according to Andrew Janke, executive director for the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation.



Chicago Fitting

Foundation work is being done at the site for Chicago Fittings in the Gateway Business Park in Beloit. The building site for the company is located near the intersection of Gateway Boulevard and Colley Road.

Chicago Fittings will receive the 4.26 acre site 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.

“We’re really excited about it,” said Janke. “Having these companies locate here and the jobs they’ll bring will be very positive on the local economy.”