Garner to get Amazon center

GARNER, N.C. (AP)—A North Carolina town will be the site of a new Amazon distribution center that officials say will lead to hundreds of millions in investment and the creation of more than a thousand jobs.

State and local officials have announced that Garner, a Raleigh suburb, will be home to a new distribution center for the Seattle-based web retailer. They say it will create 1,500 new jobs and \$45 million annually in payroll for the workers.

The four-story, 2.6 million square foot distribution center will be built on the site of a former ConAgra Foods plant. The site was donated to local economic development authorities in 2012. Garner officials say the move is the result of seven years of searching for a suitable company to develop the site.



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Reduce Your Risk of *Injury*



Construction is expected to be complete this Thursday for a Seattle's Best Coffee Shop located inside Walmart on the grocery side. The business is a subsidiary of Starbucks which means, in a slightly removed way, McMinnville finally has a Starbucks!

Business Pulse

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"This is a great way to relieve stress, listen to the music, and just have fun and forget your troubles for an hour," said Lauren. "With strobe lights and music, it's a party-like atmosphere."

For folks who may not be familiar with Zumba, it's a Latin-inspired dance fitness routine with an emphasis on cardiovascular work. Each session lasts one hour and consists of a warmup, about 40 minutes of intense training, and a cool down.

Classes will be offered three nights a week from 6 to 7 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. No membership is required and classes are \$5 per session.

Lauren says she is not prepared to quit her day job as a nurse, but her dream is to grow the studio to the point where it can be a fulltime job one day. Lauren points out she's constantly having people take medicine as a nurse. She says it's nice to offer fitness classes in hopes of fostering a healthy lifestyle that may one day prevent people from taking so much medicine.

I say amen to that. Lauren comes from good folks. Her mother is Dr. Carol Prater, principal of Eastside Elementary. Her father is Billy Prater, a highly respected lieutenant with the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

If you'd like to find out more information about dance classes, Lauren can be reached at (423) 309-2145. Or you can simply show up before a class. No preregistration is required.

IDB NOT KEEN ON ROAD PLANS

During the monthly Industrial Development Board meeting Thursday afternoon, there was discussion about TDOT's plans to reconfigure traffic on Sparta Street. Of particular interest is the idea to make Sparta Street dead end just after U.S. Auto Sales.

"You already have good traffic flow there," said IDB member Tommy Foster. "Closing Sparta Street in front of Harold's, I don't see the benefit in that. It's really going to back up traffic."

McMinnville Mayor Jimmy Haley was in attendance and he explained how the reconfiguration is going to be a great benefit. It's going to create another access road to Motlow, Tennessee College of Applied Technology, and the ambulance station by extending Magness Drive to reach the bypass.

IDB members said they are aware of the benefits,

but didn't understand why Magness Drive can't be extended while leaving everything else alone.

Mayor Haley indicated the plan from TDOT is a "preliminary design" and perhaps changes could be made before the project is finalized. It's expected to be a three-year project.

An unscientific *Southern Standard* online reader poll indicates 73 percent of those who responded do not like the idea of making Sparta Street dead end at U.S. Auto Sales.

As far as state government is concerned, TDOT is the best department in all of Tennessee in my estimation. It has been my experience that TDOT is very receptive to feedback so perhaps there is time to alter these plans before they are finalized.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS

Business tycoon Elon Musk is the latest high-profile person to claim the sleep aid Ambien resulted in him making some off-the-wall remarks on Twitter and in a newspaper interview.

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