

Goodlettsville-based G.F.Puhl to move to Gallatin

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Goodlettsville-based G.F. Puhl, a firm that specializes in trim and waste paper collections systems for printing, corrugated, folding carton and document destruction industries, has announced plans to relocate to Gallatin.

G.F. Puhl has negotiated a deal with landowners, Leon Strong, John Garrott Jr., and Charles Curtis to buy 6.5 acres on Airport Road, across the street from the entrance of the Gallatin Industrial Center.

The Company will build a 51,000 square-foot facility, which will be home to 51 jobs at startup. Officials hope G.F. Puhl can make its move before the end of the year.

The 23-year-old company sought out Gallatin because several employees already live here and because of the availability of reasonably priced land, said William Henley, the company's vice president of finance and administration.

"G.F. Puhl is excited by the opportunity to become a vital member of the Gallatin and Sumner County business community," Henley said. "Undertaking a major move like this was made easy by the warm welcome extended to G.F. Puhl Company from everyone involved."

G.F. Puhl does business with Sumner Bank and Trust in Gallatin. Mike Cook, the bank's president and CEO, and Richard Hutchison, the bank's senior vice president, suggested early on that the company should consider buying land here for its new facility, bank officials said.

"We are proud to welcome G.F. Puhl to Gallatin," said Mayor Don Wright. "The company has been a solid corporate citizen for Middle Tennessee for some time and the impact of the new building they will construct and the new jobs for our community will have a significant, positive impact on our community."

Some of the company's customers include R.R. Donnelley and Sons, Quad Graphics, Quebecor World, Trend Offset Printing and Publishers Printing.

The company's move could create at least a couple of new jobs here at startup, and although many employees are committed to relocating, there could be some additional openings, Henley said.

"We don't know how many are going to come with us," Henley said. "Everybody says 'yes, we're going because they want to keep their job.' We won't know until the day we shut it down to move."

Clay Walker, executive director of the city's economic development agency, said the company's relocation plans are an example of regional economic cooperation between cities. The city's agency had been approached by the company regarding problems with its current facility located on the Davidson County side of Goodlettsville.

"It is always a delicate situation when you have an opportunity to help bring such an outstanding company into your city and county, but it appears that it will be at the expense of a neighbor – it is especially difficult when that neighbor is one with whom you have a very strong, cooperative relationship," Walker said.

The city's economic development agency director advised Goodlettsville City Manager Jim Thomas of his conversations with G.F. Puhl on a recent retail business recruitment trip.

"In talking with Jim and company representatives, it became apparent that from a logistical standpoint, the company had simply outgrown its facility and needed to move somewhere and do it quickly," Walker said.

Thomas echoed those sentiments, stating the community's disappointment that a logistical issue caused such a strong corporate citizen to leave after nearly a quarter of a century, but said he is pleased the company is moving just down the road rather than hundreds of miles away or even out of Tennessee altogether.

"G.F. Puhl has been a strong and important member of the business community in Goodlettsville for many years and has certainly worked hard to employ Goodlettsville residents," he said. "Their move to Gallatin is somewhat bittersweet in that a locally based company has enjoyed such success that their need to expand exceeds their ability to do so at the Goodlettsville site.

"While I hate to see them go, I am happy they have chosen Gallatin, a city that Goodlettsville enjoys a close working relationship with as we work together to promote the mutual well being of all Sumner County."

Walker said the company, which will receive a \$500 per job incentive that was created by city ordinance, would be a preferred employer with an average salary in the mid \$40,000 range.