FedEx is closing its distribution center on Federico Drive in Pittsfield

- By Greg Sukiennik, The Berkshire Eagle
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Employees at the FedEx distribution center on Federico Drive in Pittsfield have been informed the location will close later this year. Some employees will be offered jobs at other sites, the company said.
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PITTSFIELD — FedEx has informed employees that its distribution center at 1 Federico Drive in Pittsfield will close later this year, the company told The Eagle.

“FedEx regularly evaluates its network and makes adjustments to align with the evolving needs of the business. We recently informed employees that the FedEx facility in Pittsfield will close later this year, and certain team members will be offered opportunities at other FedEx locations," said David Westrick, a spokesman for the transportation and business service company, in an email.

"Decisions of this nature are the result of much thought and consideration for maintaining the high level of service expected from our customers and other needs of our business," Westrick said. "Affected team members are notified several months before any changes occur and receive assistance with finding other employment opportunities within the company, including additional support options like relocation assistance or severance where applicable.”

It was not immediately clear how many employees will be affected. Westrick declined to answer that question, or how many months are remaining on the company's Federico Drive facility.

"My biggest concern is for the workers and would want to assure they receive assistance in any transition," said state Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier, D-Pittsfield.

FedEx Ground has shipping centers in Chicopee and in Rensselaer and Schenectady in New York.

Daniel Spirer, of Becket, who owns a small business that relies on shipping, said he's formed friendships over the years with his FedEx drivers.

"It's not like FedEx isn't making money," he said. "What's going to happen to the service to here having to drive an hour just to get to the Berkshire area?"

He's also concerned about the back-and-forth commute local employees would have to make should they accept a transfer to FedEx's Capital District facilities.

"These drivers are almost universally good people. I never had a FedEx driver who wasn't good," he said. "And they go out of their way to help once they get to know you."

Steven Valenti, a men's clothier, said he relies on both FedEx and UPS to deliver inventory. He gets two FedEx deliveries a day — one with items shipped by air and one transported by ground to his store on North Street in Pittsfield. Not knowing where those items will be handled in the future, he's not sure how the change will impact his shipping needs.

"I don't want to see anyone lose their jobs," he said.

State and local officials said they had not yet been officially notified of the move.

Typically, Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifications (WARN) are filed when a closing affects 50 or more employees; when layoffs affect at least 50 employees and one-third of the worksite's total workforce; when 500 or more employees lose their jobs at a single site of

employment; or there are anticipated separate employment losses within a 90-day period. As of Tuesday, MassHire said it was unaware that the Pittsfield FedEx facility was closing.

According to Brian Morrison of the Berkshire Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, workers at FedEx are considered independent contractors.

The Federico Drive property where FedEx operates is owned by Federico Realty Corp., according to city land records. It is valued by the city at $763,200.

A message left Tuesday afternoon for James Scalise, who is listed as resident and agent of Federico Realty Corp. by the Secretary of State's Office, was not returned by press time.

FreightWaves, a shipping and logistics news website, reported last year that FedEx Freight — the company's less-than-truckload unit — would close seven service centers. That unit closed 29 service centers in 2023.

The Nantucket Current reported FedEx will close its shipping center on the island by March 1.

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