

Amazon fulfillment center opens in San Bernardino



COURTESY PHOTOS

Supervisor **Josie Gonzales**, right, enjoys a tour of the Amazon Order Fulfillment Center in San Bernardino during the official grand opening ceremony on Tuesday, October 29.

By **Cynthia Mendoza**

On Tuesday, October 29, a big household name found a new home in San Bernardino, when the **Amazon Order Fulfillment Center** celebrated its official opening. The company that was once a modest online bookstore has rapidly evolved into a massive online shopping giant for a wide variety of different items, from books, to clothing, music, electronics, sporting goods, jewelry and much more.

There are several order fulfillment centers nationwide, with the San Bernardino County center being one of the latest ones opened to keep up with customer demand.

The approximately 1.4 million square foot facility (including a newly completed 500,000 expansion) brings 1,400 jobs to San Bernardino County, which was chosen by Amazon as the site of

the center for its “ideal location” and “strong workforce”, according to information provided by the San Bernardino County Economic Development Department. Location wise, San Bernardino County is situated an one hour or less to the Los Angeles and Long Beach seaports, multiple airports, rail and interstate highways. The region also boasts 24 million people within a 3-hour drive, providing Amazon with access to a “significant customer base” and a “strong workforce pool.” The San Bernardino location enables Amazon to deliver products fast, which is a “cornerstone” of their business and it is what Amazon customers expect.

Amazon also took advantage of San Bernardino’s competitive lease rates and “supportive and stable county leadership” and was pleased with the county’s transportation and logistic infrastructure which makes it easy to move goods.

“Amazon’s decision to locate here emphasizes San Bernardino County’s position as a strategic partner in the global marketplace,” said **Cindie Perry**, Deputy Director Economic Development Department. “Amazon has had an



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In one of his last official appearances as Mayor of San Bernardino, **Pat Morris** offered a few words during the formal grand opening ceremony of the new Amazon Order Fulfillment Center in San Bernardino on Tuesday, October 29.

immediate impact on our economy by creating jobs for our region; good paying, skilled jobs with robust benefits. They also support education and training which is good for our economy.”

And speaking of education, the region’s “skilled and abundant workforce” was also cited as a reason that San Bernardino County was chosen.

“We are pleased that Amazon managers have publicly celebrated the skill level and availability of the employees in the region,” Perry said.

Tuesday’s ceremony drew elected officials, including **Governor Jerry Brown**, civic leaders and county leadership.

“This is a big moment for the people,” said **Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales**. “Over a thousand locals will have full-time pay and a way to provide for themselves and their families. This is an opportunity for San Bernardino, but more importantly for its people to thrive.”

Cynthia Mendoza is a reporter for Inland Empire Community newspapers and can be reached at iecn.cynthia@gmail.com

Redlands Christmas Parade Committee Seeking Parade Entries and Sponsorships

The Kiwanis Club of Redlands - Noon is seeking sponsorships and accepting entry applications for the 24th annual Redlands Christmas Parade “Christmas Around the World” scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, December 7 in downtown Redlands. This parade, one of the few, if not the only, nighttime parades in the Inland Empire, is also part of the city’s 125th Christmas celebration. With local celebrity and cooking guru Martha Green as Grand Marshal, this citywide event will bring together thousands of people from throughout the Inland Empire for a fun and exciting celebration of the holidays.

The parade committee is currently seeking entries of classic cars, sports teams, marching bands, floats, equestrians, scout troops, carolers, area dignitaries, or any other type of fun and creative entry that will help to spread the holiday spirit and create warm and wonderful memories for spectators. The entry fee is \$20 for individuals and non-profit organizations and \$30 for commercial entries. Please go to www.redlands-events.com/XMAS.htm to download and print the application. Please mail the completed application and entry fee to the Kiwanis Club of Redlands - Noon, PO Box 8427, Redlands, CA 92375. Checks should be made payable to the Kiwanis Club of Redlands. Entry applications must be received by November 20.

Additionally, parade sponsors are needed to help make the Redlands Christmas Parade a successful event. With hundreds of participants, a dozen or more marching bands and scores of brilliantly lit floats, sponsor logos at the head of the parade are sure to be noticed by the thousands of spectators lining the streets. Sponsorship levels range from \$100-\$1000 and must be received immediately to ensure that businesses are included in all areas of the chosen sponsorship. Businesses interested in being a parade sponsor may contact Dave Ahlers at (909) 792-4016.

Parade participants and spectators should dress warm, arrive early and bring chairs and blankets as the best seats along the parade

route fill up early. The parade will begin on Citrus Avenue, near the Redlands mall. Participants will travel east on Citrus to 8th Street, head north on 8th, then west on East State Street. From there, the parade will travel south on Orange Street back to Citrus Avenue, then head west on Citrus. The parade will end on Eureka and West State streets, just outside the Redlands Mall.

For those unable to attend, the parade will also be televised on Time Warner Cable Channel 3 and Verizon Channel 35. A DVD of the parade will also be available for purchase.

In 1992 the Kiwanis Club of Redlands - Noon took over the management of the parade as a way to give back to the children of Redlands. In 1995, the previously daytime parade began running at night.

Truly a community-wide event, it takes the cooperation of the Redlands Police and Fire Departments, the Redlands City Council, the Redlands Citizens Volunteer Patrol, Explorer Scouts and numerous other scouts to help the parade run smoothly each year. Long-time sponsors including the Redlands Daily Facts, Redlands Blueprint and Krikorian Theaters also help to make the parade a successful holiday festivity. This year’s sponsors also include Burgeson’s Heating and Air Conditioning, Redlands Jewelers, Sunstate Equipment, Tom Bell Chevrolet, Community Bank, Jean Showalter State Farm Insurance, Hatfield Buick and GMC, the Inland Empire 66ers, the Sun Newspaper, Homan and Stone Attorneys, Redlands Community Hospital, First California Bank, Alta Vista Credit Union, Tartan of Redlands, Oscar’s Mexican Restaurant, Craig and Sons, Party Plus and On Trac Garage Doors. Last year, an estimated 25,000 spectators lined the streets for the event, and countless others watched it on Redlands TV.

For further information, please contact Dave Ahlers at (909) 792-4016 or visit www.redlands-events.com



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Governor Jerry Brown was one of several elected officials who attended the grand opening ceremony of the new Amazon Order Fulfillment Center in San Bernardino on Tuesday, October 29. The approximately 1.4 million square foot facility (including a newly completed 500,000 expansion) brings 1,400 jobs to San Bernardino County.

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