

Truck City has growth room

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By Carrie Napoleon Post-Tribune correspondent

Truck City of Gary, Inc. will dedicate its \$5.5 million dollar building at 25th Avenue and Taft Street on Monday on the 100th birthday of the company's founder, the late Paul G. Davis.

The 55,000-square-foot sales center, which will open Feb. 11, features 30 drive-through bays, expanded warehouse capacity, a showroom and an inventory retrieval system.

It sits on 25 acres and includes a 4-acre wooded walking trail for customers.

"We are very pleased with how it turned out," said Gerri Davis, General Manager, part owner and granddaughter of the founder. Davis is a partner in the business with her father, Art Davis, and brother Paul M. Davis.

She said when the airport approached them about needing its Chicago Avenue property for its project there was never a doubt the company would relocate in Gary.

"We have been successful here for more than 60 years. This is an ideal location for the transportation industry," Davis said.

Lalosa Burns, spokeswoman for the city of Gary, said Truck City has been a fixture in the community for more than 60 years.

After learning the business was in the footprint of the area earmarked for airport development, Burns said the city was committed to working with the owners to find another site in the city.

"It just seemed appropriate to work closely to not only entice and encourage them to stay here, but to work to find a site that was appropriate," Burns said.

Davis said their sales center at 7360 W. Chicago Ave. was built in 1948 during a time when trucks were smaller and Interstate 94 didn't exist. The location was next to the main highway of the time US 12/20.

"We have outgrown our current facility," she said. Over the years the business has bought property to the east and west to expand.