News Items - April 2016

Posted On: May 02, 2016 (18:58:44)

Baltimore Sun: US Foods to close Severn distribution center

Apr. 6, 2016 | Updated 4/7 | US Foods said Wednesday that it would close a distribution center in Anne Arundel County in June, eliminating the last local footprint of a once-mighty Maryland company, after failing to reach an agreement on concessions with unionized workers at the facility ... US Foods wanted $8 million in annual concessions from the unions, including switching from pensions to a 401(k) and an average pay cut of $5.75 an hour for warehouse workers — demands that were too large, said Denis Taylor, president of Teamsters Local 355, one of two Teamsters locals that together represent about 180 workers in Severn. "There's no possibility that we could meet the company's demands," he said. "It's just not possible."... US Foods, like many large employers, is required by law to provide advance warning of major layoffs. The state has not received a formal notice, said a spokeswoman for the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. Continued

Maryland sick leave bill gains new momentum on final day of session

Apr. 11, 2016 | After being declared all but dead last week, a bill that would require bosses to grant sick leave to their employees picked up new momentum on the final day of the Maryland General Assembly session on Monday. A version of the bill already cleared the House of Delegates, but has remained bottled up in the Senate Finance Committee. baltimoresun.com

Local Unions recommend ratification of Costco tentative agreement

Apr. 19, 2016 | Teamster local unions on the East Coast and in California that represent 16,000 Costco members are recommending ratification of a new tentative agreement after members rejected an earlier proposal last month. The agreement has the full recommendation of the bargaining committee. Although the terms of the settlement cannot be disclosed until members are given the opportunity to ratify the offer, it does include for the first time the opportunity for East Coast Costco Teamsters to participate in the Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Trust Fund. Local 570 represents more than 900 members employed at Costco in Maryland. Learn more here...

US Foods Teamsters strike in Maryland

Apr. 27, 2016 | Update here. "On April 27, 2016 at 2pm, Teamster members of U.S. Foods in Severn, Md., walked off the job and commenced an unfair labor strike against the Company," according to a Teamsters Joint Council 62 press release issued today. "The dispute centers around the Company's failure to bargain in good faith, its use of out-of-state and non-bargaining-unit employees to perform work normally performed by the Teamsters, and the Company's attempt to deal directly with its employees concerning effects bargaining. US Foods employs approximately 190 Teamsters in both the warehouse and delivery operations." Stay tuned here for updates on Local 570 warehouse workers' fight for justice.

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