

AMAZON IN THE OPEN

Seattle giant buys Eugene land for parcel-delivery warehouse; plus: an Arcimoto update

BY CHRISTIAN WIHTOL

Amazon kept its identity hidden for as long as it could. But the behemoth has finally emerged from the shadows, purchasing the 85-acre parcel near the Eugene Airport that it needs for its controversial parcel-delivery warehouse.

Amazon.com Inc. LLC on Dec. 26 bought the parcel off Highway 99 for \$2 million, according to the deed, which was reviewed by *Eugene Weekly*.

The sellers were four investors based in Texas whose families had owned the property for years, according to county land records.

Amazon meticulously worked to keep its name out of all public planning documents for more than a year. The company also swore its consultants and others to secrecy.

But there was never much doubt that the 320,000-square-foot warehouse planned for the site was intended for the Seattle-based e-merchant.

The Dec. 26 sale deed is the first confirmation that the project is for Amazon.

More than a year ago, consultants working for an unnamed entity laid the groundwork for the project. *Eugene Weekly* broke the story of the proposed

development in January 2025, speculating it could be for Amazon.

Public opposition has grown, warning against the traffic jams and air pollution the facility might create, as well as the wetlands filling that an Amazon consultant says is needed. Plus, many area residents just don't like the prospect of Eugene getting a giant facility from a company headed by pro-Trump and anti-labor Jeff Bezos. Consultants for Amazon are in the process of securing building and wetlands-fill permits.

POTHoles FOR ARCIMOTO

Enough about Amazon! What's going on with Arcimoto, the Eugene-based electric-vehicle maker that hit hard times?

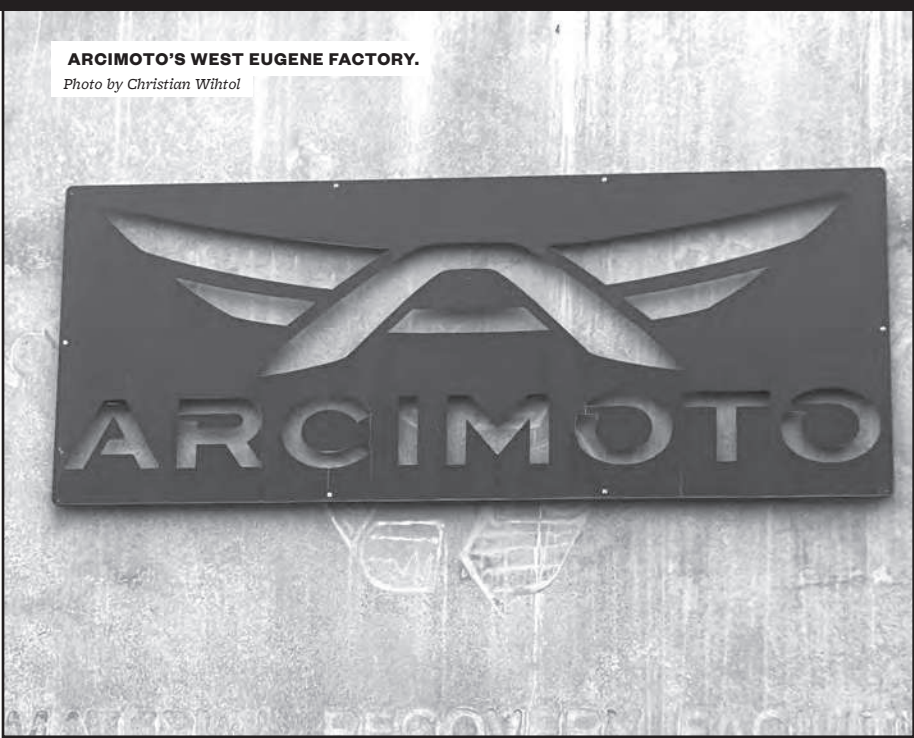
Nothing good, unfortunately, for Arcimoto fans.

The largely defunct company has fallen far behind on sending the state the income taxes the company withheld from employee paychecks, and is also behind on paying property taxes on the factory it occupies, new filings show.

All told, the company faces a tab of nearly \$600,000 to bring itself current. That includes nearly \$275,000 in Lane County property taxes for the factory for annual bills the county sent Arcimoto in November 2024 and November 2025, records show. It also includes about \$271,000 in taxes and penalties for failing to send the state the withheld income taxes in 2023-25, the filings show.

Arcimoto did not respond to messages from *Eugene Weekly*.

Arcimoto occupies the big factory at 2034 W. 2nd Avenue in west Eugene. There, its staff services and repairs the quirky Arcimoto vehicles for custom-



ers. The company stopped making the vehicles several years ago.

It's unclear from county records who owns the 34,000-square-foot building on 3.6 acres. But Arcimoto for years had paid the property taxes — until its last payment in early 2024 — county records show.

The Eugene-based Cohen family bought the building in 2000, then put it in a family trust that still owns the place, county and state records show. No records show the family ever sold the building to Arcimoto, although some county assessor records suggest Arcimoto is a co-owner.

At any rate, the county is owed \$95,000 in property taxes, penalties and interest on the tax bill that was sent out in November 2024, and \$150,000 in property taxes, penalties and interest on the tax bill that went out two months ago. Meanwhile, the Oregon Department

of Revenue this year has sent Arcimoto a string of collection notices — officially called “distrainment warrants” — with the latest sent just last month. The state said Arcimoto owes withholding taxes and penalties totalling \$271,000 for the 2023-25 period, as well as other assorted taxes such as Lane Transit District and statewide transit taxes for the same period.

Those notices are a formal step in the collections process.

Arcimoto previously owned a big factory on Chambers Street in west Eugene, but, unable to make mortgage payments, turned it over to the mortgage holder in 2024, *Eugene Weekly* reported last year.

Bricks \$ Mortar is a column anchored by Christian Wihtol, who worked as an editor and writer at The Register-Guard in Eugene 1990-2018, much of the time focused on real estate, economic development and business. Reach him at Christian@EugeneWeekly.com.

ACTIVIST ALERT

PROTESTS, ACTIVISM AND MORE AROUND LANE COUNTY BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

“We cannot solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis. And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, then maybe we should change the system itself.” — Greta Thunberg

Upcoming Protests, Rallies, Marches, Talks, Gatherings and More

>> Together. Together we can. Together we will. Together we are unified. Eugene-Springfield NAACP MLK March & Celebration, 9 am to 1 pm, Jan.19, Start at Autzen Stadium, march to The Shedd for 11 am music, dramatic reading and short keynote speaker and a panel of immigrants expanding on the theme connecting MLK Day and Day Without an Immigrant.

Ongoing events

>> Resist! Persist! Repeat! Weekly Protest, 10 am to 11 am, Mondays, corners on 29th and Willamette Street and 11 am to noon, Mondays, corner of Coburg and Harlow roads.

>> Veterans for Peace, Chapter 159, weekly protest, 1 pm to 2 pm, Mondays, Federal Building, 7th and Pearl.

>> Protest ICE: Last Tuesday Mobilization Response, 10 am to 4 pm, last Tuesday of each month, ICE office, 211 East 7th Avenue. More info at [Linktr.ee/psleugene](https://linktr.ee/psleugene). Be available for rapid response if there is an arrest via [Tinyurl.com/ImmigrantDefenseSignal](https://tinyurl.com/ImmigrantDefenseSignal).

>> Singing for Our Lives, noon to 1 pm, Tuesdays, 7th and Pearl, the BeLonging Space and Interfaith Alliance with Migrants.

>> Silent Protest to Support Our Immigrant Neighbors, 1 pm to 2 pm, Tuesdays, ICE office, 7th and Pearl. Signs provided, wear white or black. Indivisible Eugene/Springfield.

>> Showing Up for Racial Justice and 50501 Weekly Protest, noon to 4 pm, Wednesdays, Federal Building, 7th and Pearl, bring readings, songs, signs or other art.

>> Weekly Vigils Against the Genocide in Gaza and Against ICE, 3 pm to 5:30 pm, Wednesdays, Planet

Versus Pentagon, Federal Building, 7th and Pearl.

>> “Signs of Fascism” Protest, 9 am to 11 am, Thursdays, 7th and Pearl, Indivisible.

• Weekly Get-Out-the-Vote Postcarding, resumes Thursday, Jan. 8, for the 2026 midterm elections. For more info Pandi96743@yahoo.com.

>> Stop the Cuts, noon Fridays, Eugene Veterans Clinic, 3355 Chad Drive.

>> Stand in Solidarity with Food Not Bombs Feeding the Community, 4 pm Fridays, Food Not Bombs, Downtown Park Blocks, 8th and Oak, [Instagram.com/foodnotbombs_eugene](https://instagram.com/foodnotbombs_eugene).

>> Springfield Community of Peace: Seeking Peace in the Middle East, 3 pm the second Sunday of each month, Ebbert Methodist Church, 532 C St., Springfield. Discussion and action.

Email Editor@EugeneWeekly.com with “Activist Alert” in the subject line to add protests to this listing, and subscribe to the Activist Alert newsletter at EugeneWeekly.com/newsletter to get this information in your inbox on Wednesdays!