



Indiana's NewsCenter Fort Wayne, Indiana



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Pontiac's Fate For Fort Wayne's Survival

Originally printed at <http://www.indianasnewscenter.com/news/local/46657842.html>

FORT WAYNE, Ind./ PONTIAC, Mich. (Indiana's NewsCenter) - A lot of area residents are breathing easier tonight knowing Fort Wayne's General Motors plant was not on a list of 14 US plants scheduled to close.

But the loss of one Michigan plant could be the reason why our area has its good news.

Don Gardner is having to look for a new job.

He and the others have no choice since their GM Assembly Plant in Pontiac, MI is closing by the end of this October after 37 years in business.

Gardner says, "All of us have families. I'm pretty sure they looked at it, but, what they're doing to us and retirees, it's a little disappointing."

Gardner is among the people who make versions of the Chevy Silverado and GMC Pickup Trucks.

The closing of Pontiac means there will only be two plants in the United States that do the type of work done here. One is up the road in Flint, the other of course is Fort Wayne.

Fort Wayne's Assembly Plant is 14 years newer than Pontiac's.

Industry analysts believe that played a role in Fort Wayne remaining in business.

Van Conway of Conway, MacKenzie & Dunleavy says, “I think Fort Wayne is a newer plant, has newer technology, and has more favorable labor cost contract there.”

Workers will continue making the Silverado.

That could mean good news down the road.

Conway says, “It's a popular truck, and if the economy comes back, and gas remains somewhat stable, that could be added employment for Fort Wayne.”

While Pontiac is losing one of its top employers.

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