

# Amazon Fulfillment Center Tour

## November 7, 2019



On November 7, about two dozen Men's Club members toured the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Baltimore. After lunch at Matthew's Pizza, an old-fashioned family-owned restaurant that is a stand out compared with the national

and regional chains, we proceeded to the fulfillment center.

The Amazon Fulfillment Center is a massive 1.4 million square foot complex that processes more than 1.0 million packages a day for delivery in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia. The building we toured processes packages up to 18 inches long. Larger items are processed in a separate building. While this Amazon Fulfillment Center is highly automated, it still employs over 4,000 people working 10-hour shifts four days per week.



Packages move along 15 miles of conveyer belts. They are sorted and stored in 7 foot tall, 3 square foot mobile shelving racks that are transported by over-sized Roomba-like robots. The robots are in constant motion carrying the shelving units to work stations where workers guided by computers, scanners, cameras, displays and intelligent spotlights either stow items on the shelving units or pick items for placement in bins that move by conveyer to packing stations. As they reach the packing stations items are scanned and packers are directed as to which size box to use. The packers use their

discretion in properly packing the box and apply a bar code label to identify it. The box is sent on its way and a shipping label is automatically applied by a contact-less label maker. The package is then directed by scanners along the



conveyer belts to its proper place on the loading docks. The speedy processing supports Amazon's thrust into same-day order delivery.