

## Farber Specialty Vehicles buys former Andersons site near Brice Road

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The second of the two former Andersons store locations has been purchased by Farber Specialty Vehicles, which sold plans to move manufacturing operations onto the site at 5800 Alshire Road within several weeks.

The company that owns Farber, which makes everything from firetrucks to bookmobiles, purchased the 137,000-square foot building on 16 acres just off Brice Road from the Andersons for \$2.15 million, according to the Franklin County auditor's site.

Company owner Ken Farber said the location and visibility of the property were perfect for Farber Specialty, which has been based less than two miles away at 7052 Americana Parkway.

He said the site is already zoned for manufacturing use, and he already has a deal to lease Farber's current site to another firm, which he declined to name, once the move takes place.

"We're talking to the city and an architect now" about investing in an expansion of the Andersons building, Farber said. He said the ceiling height in some parts of the building needs to be raised to accommodate the large trucks the company works on.

Farber pointed out that the area is in a city of Columbus Enterprise Zone, which offers partial property tax exemptions for up to 10 years in exchange for investments of \$1 million or more.

As part of the move and expansion, Farber said he expects to hire 20 to 30 more people in the coming year in addition to his current workforce of about 115.

The sale is a piece of good news for the Brice Road area, which has many retailers exit during the past decade. Real-estate experts said after the Andersons stores closed in June that they expected both properties would sell quickly and would be repurposed for uses other than retail.

The other Columbus Andersons store off Sawmill Road was recently sold to Preferred Living, which plans to build 614 apartments on the 17-acre site.

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