



CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON NEW FIRE STATION

Construction is underway on the County's first newly built fire station since 2003.

When finished - estimated completion date is in spring 2008 - Lake Jem Fire Station #78 will be about 7,700 square feet and will support multi-discipline emergency functions. The fire station was designed for co-location of the Lake County Sheriff's Office and Lake-Sumter EMS.

The facility will feature two bays, living quarters, dormitories, kitchen facilities and office space. The station will operate 24 hours a day and will house several full-time firefighters and paramedics who are currently serving the community at a temporary fire station nearby. According to fire officials, the temporary station in the Lake Jem area is providing residents and business owners with improved fire service response and emergency medical delivery service.



"We have already seen a significant drop in response times by just having a temporary station out there since March, so we know it's going to be a good location," said Gary Kaiser, Director of the Lake County Department of Public Safety.

The new fire station will serve several nearby neighborhoods including the Deer Island and Shirley Shores areas, Beauclaire Ranch, Venetian Village, The Meadows, Summit Chase, Tavares Ridge, Lake Harris Shores and Hideaway Harbor. In addition, the Lake Jem Fire Station will serve as a back up to six other fire stations and will be a first-response unit with Orange County as it is located near the county line.

The design by Starmer Ranaldi Architects of Orlando for the new station will be used as the prototype for future Lake County Fire Rescue stations. Aagaard-McNary Construction Inc. of Orlando is constructing the low-maintenance facility.

NEW LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION IS RIGHT ON TRACK

Cagan Crossings Community Library, located about 16 miles south from Clermont off U.S. Highway 27 in the Four Corners community, is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

"Most of the work that is being done now is in the interior," said Richard LeBlanc, Architect for the Lake County Department of Facilities Development and Management. "When I visited the construction site last week, one thing that I was excited about was the quality of work by the construction company and how quickly they are proceeding to get this project completed."

The future 30,000-square-foot facility will replace the current 6,000-square-foot Citrus Ridge County Library located in a shopping center on U.S. Highway 192. Construction began on the two-story facility, designed by the St. Petersburg office of Harvard Jolly architects, in September 2006.

When completed, the new library will feature a large children's area, a separate teen area, a training lab, 31 public-access computers, free wireless Internet access and a 150-seat community service room, which will provide space for local functions and events.

"An interesting feature of the new library is a café," said Wendy Breeden, Director Lake County Library Services. "The County is currently in negotiations with a business to operate the cafe, which is expected to serve specialty coffees, soft drinks, sandwiches and pastries."

With the construction expected to be completed by the end of the year, library staff is anticipating moving into the new facility by the end of January. Staff recently selected the basis of design for furniture and the bid will be released soon.

PROJECTS PRESENTATION



Left: County Commissioners (from left to right) Welton Cadwell, Jennifer Hill, Linda Stewart, Debbie Stivender and Elaine Renick view details about three current public facilities under construction: Health Department facility in Umatilla, Lake Jem Fire Station and Cagan Crossings Community Library.



Right: Department of Public Safety Director Gary Kaiser points out some interesting features of new Lake Jem Fire Station to County Commissioner Debbie Stivender.



The Lake County Law Library moved on Aug. 21 and 22 to a new location at 888 Duncan Drive (State Road 19) in Tavares, located in the South Pointe Office Park. The library moved to the new location from its previous post at 202 N. Sinclair Ave. in Tavares to accommodate future construction of a downtown parking garage. For more information about the Lake County Law Library, call (352) 742-4161.

ROLL CALL

There are more than a dozen different projects underway for the Lake County Department of Facilities Development and Management. Here are a few developments:

- 1 Lake Jem Fire Station**
Construction began July 30
- 2 Cagan Crossings Community Library**
Project is 80 percent complete
- 3 Health Department facility in Umatilla**
Renovation, addition project is 20 percent complete
- 4 Judicial Center remodeling on 4th floor**
Completed phase 1 in late July, which included offices for court administration and family law; phase 2 includes new judicial suites and hearing rooms



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