



NEW FACILITY FOR 'SPECIAL' GROUP

The Special Projects Section of the Lake County Department of Public Works, Road Operations Division, moved into a new facility last month on County Landfill Road in Tavares.

The main purpose of the new 9,300-square-foot facility, which features a small office space and two-bay garage joined by a large covered area for storing equipment, was to help preserve expensive equipment by getting it out of the weather. The Special Projects Section is comprised of seven employees that tackle construction projects that are too manpower-intensive for Public Works' maintenance areas but not large enough to bid out to contractors. For example, this month the Section is resurfacing several roads in the Royal Trails and Wekiva Pines neighborhoods.

To accomplish these various types of Public Works construction projects, Special Projects has an equally diverse set of heavy equipment including dump trucks, steel wheel rollers, traffic rollers, a track hoe, water pumps, semi-trucks, loaders, a grater, fuel trucks, flatbeds and a chipper truck.

The project was designed by John S. Dickerson Architect, Inc. of Leesburg and the contractor was Mark Cook Builders, Inc. of Leesburg.



REMODELING EFFORT FOR OLD STATION REIGNITES

A complete renovation of an old volunteer fire station on South County Road 561 near Clermont will begin this month.

The project includes gutting the entire building. Due to water leakage and poor ventilation, the old building suffered mold damage. The remodeling project will ready the building for housing full-time firefighters.

"It was a volunteer station at one time, so the current facility doesn't meet standard living-quarters conditions," said Deputy Fire Chief John Jolliff.

When the station is completed later this year, it will first be used as a staging center for emergency personnel to assemble for incidents that may strike in the South Lake community, such as hurricanes or wildfires. If funding becomes available, additional firefighters will be hired to staff the fire station full time.

"This renovation project moves us closer to opening the station full time and it's cheaper to remodel than a build a new fire station," Jolliff said.

The contractor for the project is Southern Building Services of Winter Garden.

ADDITION PROJECT TO IMPROVE LAB SERVICES

Construction on a 750-square-foot addition to the Water Quality Services Division's lab began in February and is expected to be completed by July.

The addition to the existing 1,900-square-foot lab will help to streamline the Division's operations. Moving into the new space will be the Division's field staging operations and equipment allowing it to expand out the existing area for lab work.

"Right now, it is extremely cluttered in the lab as staff works off of mobile carts on a regular basis," said Cathie McGwier, Laboratory Supervisor.

The lab, which is certified by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, conducts water-quality tests for groundwater, surface water, springs, drinking water and industrial wastewater. Lab clients include local governments, businesses and citizens. In April, the Division conducted 1,800 different field and lab analyses on 238 samples.

The project includes replacing the roof on the entire building, repainting the structure and updating the lab's air handling system. GatorSkitch Architects of Clermont designed the project and the contractor is Wagner 3 Ventures of Leesburg.

For more information about the Lake County Department of Environmental Utilities, Water Quality Services Division's lab, which is located on County Landfill Road in Tavares, call (352) 253-1659.



ROLL CALL

There are several different projects underway for the Lake County Department of Facilities Development & Management. Here are a few developments:

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

1 **Parking garage, two-story office building**

Garage opened June 1; Office building to open later this summer

2 **Water Quality lab addition**

Currently installing insulation and drying it in

3 **Fire Station 110 remodeling**

Construction beginning

BIDDING PROCESS

1 **Horticultural Learning Center at Discovery Gardens**

Contract for 2,000-square-foot facility prepared

2 **Fire Station in Paisley**

In the process of reviewing low bidders

3 **Sheriff's Office substation in Clermont**

Pre-bid process started

