



CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON PARKING GARAGE, OFFICE BUILDING

Lake County's most ambitious project since the Judicial Center was completed in 1993 kicked off in April as construction began on the parking garage and office building at 320 W. Main St.

The two-story, 28,000-square-foot building will provide new space for the Tax Collector and Property Appraiser offices. The six-story, seven-deck garage will accommodate much needed parking demands in downtown Tavares with more than 1,500 parking spaces.

The scheduled completion for the projects is summer 2009. PPI Construction Management of Orlando worked during the month of May laying the foundation for each new project and constructing stair and elevator shafts for the office building.

According to Chuck Creel, Facilities Development Director for Lake County, the contractor is on schedule with project.

"The public should be seeing concrete cast walls coming out of the ground by August," said Richard LeBlanc, Architect for the Lake County Department of Facilities Development & Management.

The office building will be certified in standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. A voluntary program, LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state-of-the-art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.



CELEBRATION MARKS OPENING OF NEW FIRE STATION

Local residents, dignitaries and fire rescue officials viewed Lake County's new fire station in the Lake Jem community at the open house held on May 19.

The 2-bay, 7,700-square-foot facility is the first new fire station for the Lake County Department of Public Safety, Fire Rescue Division, since 2002. The station is estimated to serve about 23,000 residences in the area. In addition, the station will serve as a back up to six other local stations and is a first-response unit with Orange County as it is located near the county line.

The facility was designed to support several emergency functions. While it operates primarily as a fire station for the Lake County Fire Rescue Division, the building was designed for co-location of Lake-Sumter EMS and Lake County Sheriff's Office. The station operates 24 hours a day and houses several full-time firefighters and paramedics who were previously serving the community at a temporary fire station nearby.

The design by Starmer Ranaldi Architects of Orlando for the new station will be used as the prototype for future Lake County Fire Rescue fire stations. Aagaard-McNary Construction Inc. of Orlando constructed the low-maintenance facility, which is expected to have a lifecycle of 50 years.



Several Lake County offices have recently moved. In April, the administrative offices of the Department of Facilities Development & Management relocated to the old mail-receiving center, located at 416 W. Main St. in Tavares. The move set in motion several other relocations. The Department of Economic Growth & Redevelopment set up shop in facilities' previous office, room 338 of the Lake County Administration Building, located at 315 W. Main St. in Tavares. Their vacated office is now home to the Office of Information Technology, Telecommunications Division. Telephone numbers for Telecommunications (352-343-9897) and Economic Growth & Redevelopment (352-343-9899) remained the same; however, the new main line for Facilities was changed to (352) 742-3810.

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 Health Department facility in Umatilla**
Completed and opened on May 5; a grand-opening celebration is planned Thursday, June 5, at 9 a.m. with a community health fair following from 1 to 4 p.m.
- 2 Storage facility for sheriff's office**
Completed in April.
- 3 Signal and striping barn for Public Works**
Completed in May.
- 4 Fire Station in Paisley**
Currently in schematic design phase.
- 5 Horticultural Learning Center at Discovery Gardens**
2,000-square-foot learning center in schematic design phase.
- 6 Reroof to the Lake County Historic Courthouse**
Contract awarded to Marion Service Roofing & Sheet Metal Company of Ocala.