

# Planting protective

## The elements of firefighting

Committed to serving the growing population of Lake County, the Department of Public Safety, Fire Rescue Division, focused on strengthening services this past fiscal year by upgrading equipment, opening new fire stations and adding personnel.

The largest graduating class ever of future Lake County firefighters was honored at a ceremony in October 2005. In all, 29 firefighters completed a three-week orientation, which instructs candidates in the practices and protocol of Fire Rescue operations.

This past year, two new fire stations were added bringing the number of full-time stations to 16. Formerly a volunteer station, Station 21 opened in October 2005. Located off County Road 44A near Eustis, the building was totally remodeled with new

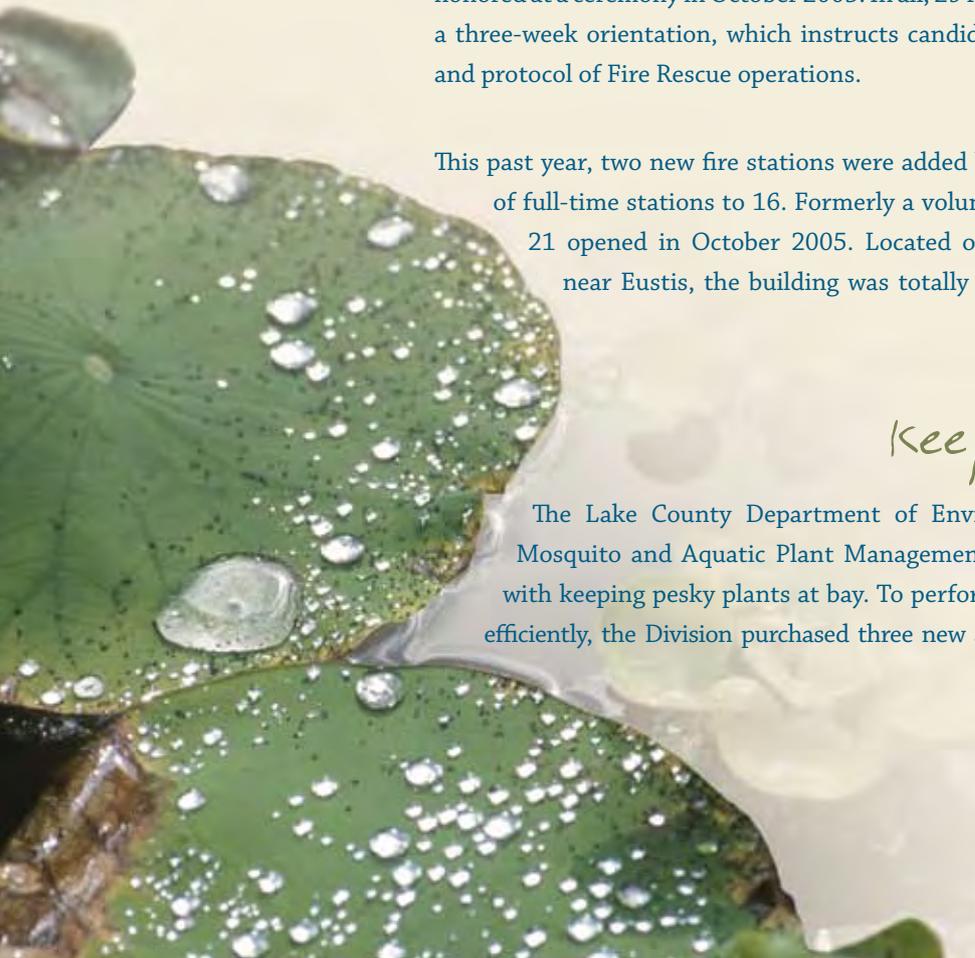
flooring, furnishings and a fresh coat of paint. A temporary fire station, Station 78, located off of County Road 448 near the community of Lake Jem, was opened in March 2006. The temporary location will be replaced by a permanent facility scheduled for construction next year.

In addition to stations and firefighters, in November 2005 the Division unveiled a new special operations engine, aerial tower truck and hazardous materials trailer. Based out of fire Station 112 in the Four Corners community, the tower truck specializes in high angle and trench collapse rescues. The tower truck includes a 6-foot square platform with a cage, which makes it safer than a traditional ladder truck. The truck also has the ability to pump water up the tower. The special operations engine and hazardous materials trailer are located at the fire station in the Yalaha community and respond to a variety of emergency calls.

## Keeping the environment safe

The Lake County Department of Environmental Services, Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Management Division, is tasked with keeping pesky plants at bay. To perform these duties more efficiently, the Division purchased three new airboats. The airboats

are equipped with a 100-gallon pesticide tank, allowing access for managing invasive aquatic plants, such as hydrilla, water hyacinth and water lettuce. Last year, the Division treated more than 2,000 acres to control the spread of invasive aquatic plants.



# measures



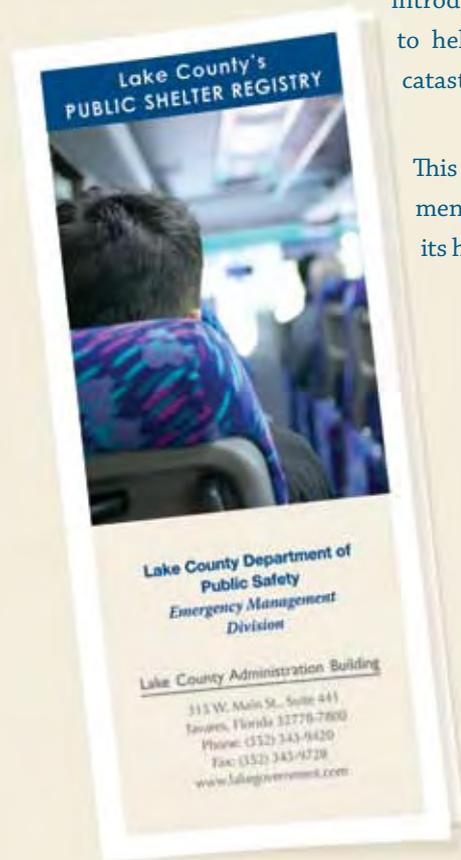
## Ready for Mother Nature's Hand

Hurricanes are a part of life in Florida. Each year, the Lake County Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Division, prepares for the Atlantic hurricane season, from June 1 to Nov. 30, by introducing new and improved services to help safeguard residents against these catastrophic storms.

This past fiscal year, Emergency Management revealed several major additions to its hurricane-preparation efforts including:

- Public Shelter Registry — Spawned as a lesson learned from Hurricane Katrina, this program assists emergency officials with locating residents who may not have reliable transportation to a public shelter.
- Reverse 911 — This automated system can place multiple outgoing calls at once to deliver emergency notifications.
- Cable television — Expanded agreements with Comcast (channels 13 or 22), Bright House Networks (99) and Florida Cable (4) provide hurricane-preparation information on all major cable systems in the County.

The two fire stations added this past year are the seventh and eighth fire stations in Lake County to feature advanced life support (ALS) service. The primary difference between basic and advanced life-support services is paramedics, which are highly trained medical professionals that provide out-of-hospital care in emergencies. Since July 2001, the Lake County Fire Rescue Division has updated its fire stations from basic to advanced life support as needed.



*"The ALS service can really make a difference in the first few minutes of cardiac-related emergencies."*

