



# Marion County Board of County Commissioners Marion County Fire Rescue

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[www.marioncountvfl.org/firerescue.htm](http://www.marioncountvfl.org/firerescue.htm)



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## **MCFR'S LIBERTY STATION 32 SET TO OPEN**

Immediate Release

- WHO:** Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) in cooperation with the Marion County Board of County Commissioners
- WHAT:** Grand Opening Ceremony for MCFR Liberty Station 32 (Speakers include MCFR Fire Chief M. Stuart McElhaney, Commission Vice-Chairwoman Barbara Fitos, Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce President Jaye Baillie and Ethridge Construction President Mike Ethridge)
- WHEN:** Thursday, March 5, 2009 (Grand Opening Ceremony 10 a.m. • Open House 10:30 a.m. – Noon)
- WHERE:** MCFR Liberty Station 32 (11350 SW 49th Avenue)
- WHY:** Though MCFR's 10-year-plan to improve emergency response did not originally include Liberty Station 32, Marion County Commissioners and fire rescue leaders anticipated that future growth would warrant an additional station to serve southwest Marion County.

They were right. After studying population density and 9-1-1 call data in the area, commissioners refocused MCFR's 10-year-plan to ensure that citizens in southwest Marion County receive the fire rescue response they deserve and expect.

Liberty Station 32 will significantly improve emergency response to areas such as Marco Polo Village, Whispering Pines, Forest Glen, Sun Valley, Majestic Oaks, Cherry Wood and JB Ranch among others. The station will also provide back up emergency response to Friendship and Marion Oaks. The two-bay, 8,474 square foot station is expected to house 15 full-time dual-certified firefighter/paramedics and firefighter/EMTs, a fire engine and a transport rescue. The station is named Liberty in recognition of the military men and women who have served our country and preserved our freedoms.

When Marion County Commissioners adopted MCFR's 10-year-plan in 2001, they agreed to hire 250 additional firefighters, build two new fire stations, relocate two existing fire stations and renovate six all-volunteer stations by 2011. Since then, commissioners have upheld and even exceeded those promises.

- 2004 Celebrated the grand opening of The Villages of Marion Station 10, a new station
- 2004 Celebrated the grand opening of Golden Ocala Station 20, a relocated and rebuilt station
- 2004 Celebrated the grand opening of Anthony Station 1, a relocated and rebuilt station that was formerly an all-volunteer station
- 2005 Celebrated the grand opening of Meadowood Farms Station 12, a new station
- 2006 Celebrated the grand opening of Rainbow Springs Station 22, a renovated station that is now a multi-governmental facility
- 2007 Celebrated the grand opening of Salt Springs Station 15, formerly an all-volunteer station
- 2008 Celebrated the grand opening of Spruce Creek Station 30, a new station

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