



Marion County Board of County Commissioners
Marion County Fire Rescue

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**FIRE AND ELECTED OFFICIALS BREAK GROUND ON
RELOCATED BELLEVIEW FIRE STATION**

Immediate Release

- WHO:** The Marion County Board of County Commissioners in cooperation with Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) and community leaders
- WHAT:** Ground breaking ceremony for MCFR Belleview Station 18 (a relocated fire station) Commissioner McClain will deliver remarks.
- WHEN:** Thursday, August 20, 2009
10 a.m.
- WHERE:** MCFR Belleview Station 18 Construction Site (11941 SE 55th Avenue, Belleview)
- WHY:** Fire and elected officials will break ground on MCFR's Belleview Station 18, a relocated three-bay 9,708 square foot station on August 20. Station 18 responded to 3,895 emergencies last fiscal year as MCFR's second busiest Marion County station.

The station, budgeted at nearly \$2.1 million, will accommodate current and future growth. The station will initially house 18 personnel (six per 24-hour shift), including dual-certified firefighters/paramedics and firefighter/EMTs as well as EMTs and paramedics. The station will also house a fire engine and a transport unit. Money generated from impact fees and the fire assessment will fund the project.

MCFR crews will continue to provide primary response to Belleview and its surrounding areas as well as back-up service to Silver Springs Shores Station 17, Shady Station 16, Spruce Creek Station 30 and the Pedro area.

Belleview Station 18 firefighters are currently housed on less than a quarter of an acre lot located near the intersection of U.S. Highway 441 and Highway 25. The current station is approximately 3,500 square feet. The original structure was built in 1950.

MCFR and elected officials will additionally host the Grand Opening for Ray Lloyd, Jr. Station 31 on Tuesday, September 22 at 10 a.m. This new station located at 11240 SW Highway 484 is dedicated to Ray Lloyd, Jr. of Florida Highlands Station 5. Lloyd died in the line of duty on February 7, 2001 while fighting a mobile home fire. As he started to hook up his tanker truck to a fire engine, he suddenly fell face first to the ground. His crews thought he had tripped, but sadly he suffered a heart attack and never regained consciousness. Lloyd, 65, died that day, becoming Marion County Fire Rescue's first and only line of duty death.

Station 31 will provide primary response to Florida Highlands and the State Road 200 and Highway 484 corridors as well as back-up service to Friendship Station 21, Marion Oaks Station 24, Meadowood Farms Station 12, Rainbow Springs Station 22 and Dunnellon Fire Rescue.

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