



Marion County Board of County Commissioners Marion County Fire Rescue

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MCFR'S BUSIEST FIRE STATION GETS NEW HOME

- WHO:** Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) in cooperation with the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and community leaders
- WHAT:** Grand Opening ceremony for MCFR Friendship Station 21 (a new relocated station)
- WHEN:** Thursday, August 6, 2009 at 10 a.m.
Commission Chairman Jim Payton will deliver remarks.
- WHERE:** MCFR Friendship Station 21: 7884 SW 90 Street
- WHY:** Fire and elected officials knew several years ago that they would need to build a new relocated MCFR Friendship Station 21 to serve the needs of citizens living along the State Road 200 corridor.

In 2005, firefighters moved from a permanent building located off of State Road 200, formerly a turkey processing plant, to a mobile home after fire officials deemed the building unlivable due to mold.

Friendship Station 21 is Marion County Fire Rescue's busiest fire station, having responded to 5,356 emergency calls last fiscal year alone. As growth continues to boom in the area, the call load will only increase.

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners purchased 2.5 acres of land from developer Ken Colen for \$159,427, in October 2007 to build the station on SW 90 Street. On June 6, 2008 officials broke ground and began construction on the new relocated station.

The new three-bay 9,708 square foot station was budgeted at approximately \$2.3 million and to date has cost \$1.8 million, coming in under budget. Money collected from the fire assessment and impact fees funded the project. Thanks to the foresight of the commissioners, this station is expected to house at least 18 personnel (six per shift), including dual-certified firefighters as well as EMTs and paramedics, an engine and a transport unit.

Station 21 firefighters provide primary response to the Friendship area and State Road 200 corridor, as well as back-up service to Marion Oaks, Golden Ocala, Shady and the city of Ocala.

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