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New Fire Station 10 to be dedicated to retired fire chief at Nov. 23 event

The Sarasota County Commission and the Sarasota County Fire Department will cut the ribbon to mark the official opening of the new Fire Station 10 at a Tuesday, Nov. 23, ceremony that also will dedicate the station to Brian Gorski, the former longtime fire chief. The 11 a.m. ceremony will be held at the 5-acre site of the new station, 35 Vic Edwards Road, east of Interstate 75 off Fruitville Road.

The new station replaces a temporary facility and will provide around-the-clock fire and emergency services to the Founders Club Community and the area's commercial parks, as well as the communities served by area roads, including Vic Edwards Road, Cowpen Lane, Sinclair Road, Bern Creek Loop and Oak Ford Road.

A highlight of the ceremony will be the dedication of a plaque honoring Gorski's 32 years of service in the Sarasota County Fire Department. A resident of the county since age 9, Gorski retired in 2009 and now serves as fire chief of the Englewood Fire Control District. Station 10 was an integral part of Gorski's vision of ensuring a quick response time for fire and other emergencies and more affordable insurance premiums for families in the eastern part of the county.

The station houses Engine 10, a fire suppression apparatus, and Rescue 10, an advanced life support ambulance, and will be staffed with four full-time fire medics who are trained and certified as firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

It is the fourth "green" fire station in the county. The 13,345-square-foot disaster deployment facility is certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System by the U.S. Green Building Council. Also LEED-certified are Fire Station 1 in downtown Sarasota, Fire Station 3 on St. Armands Key and Fire Station 15 in Palmer Ranch.

Fire Station 10's LEED features include:

- A rainwater harvesting system that captures rainwater for apparatus bay cleaning and filling of fire suppression tanks
- Solar hot water
- Energy-efficient outdoor lighting and sensor-driven indoor lighting
- Florida-friendly landscaping
- Parking for alternative transportation
- Energy-efficient appliances

The \$5.7 million project also included improvements to Vic Edwards Road. The building includes a day room, bunk rooms, a kitchen, office and work areas, storage and laundry rooms, as well as work space for the Operations Division during emergencies and natural disasters. It was designed by BMK Architects of Sarasota and Brooks & Freund LCC of Fort Myers was the contractor.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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