

# MOVIN' ON UP

## THE YORK CENTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

*Where Tradition and Progress Meet to Provide Responsive Services*

The York Center Fire Protection District, located in Lombard, Illinois has experienced several changes in the last five years. The District which was originally established as a volunteer

dums, strategic planning and grant awarding. All successes have been to achieve the overall goal of the District: to increase operational capabilities.

member of the District for 30 years. Chief Bonomo worked his way up through the ranks to fire chief. The decision was made to follow the plan and appoint a full time fire chief to oversee the operational requirements of the District. Chief Bonomo was appointed to full time status September 1, 2005. The referendum and strategic plan also called for additional staffing to be added to increase effectiveness. In fiscal year 2006-2007 the available staffing of the District will increase personnel, with an additional firefighter/paramedic assigned to a 24-hour shift, thus increasing minimum staffing to 6 personnel a 24-hour shift. An increase in staffing is scheduled to occur again in the 2008-2009 fiscal budget adding an additional firefighter/paramedic making the minimum staffing on 7 personnel per 24 hour shift.

These operational changes came from the development of the District's 5-Year strategic plan. The plan was developed to deploy and explain the most effective and efficient uses of budget funding. The changes included additional staffing, replacement of apparatus and a station addition. The most notable changes are in staffing and a station remodeling project.

Due to the District's growth in personnel and demand for services a part time fire chief could not fulfill the requirements. The strategic plan called for the District's first full time fire chief. Chief Bonomo a second generation member of the District has been a dedicated

fire department in 1948 has seen a significant amount of changes: volunteer to a combination department, paramedic services. However those changes were mild in comparison to the development the District has recently gone through. The District has experienced success in passing two referen-



In order to accommodate the additional personnel a station renovation project was entered into. In 2003, the District sought out architects for a station addition and renovation project. In 2004, an architect was selected and a design/build project was entered into with R. Berti & Son Contractors Inc. of Lockport. The project was completed in November of 2005. The addition renovation was approximately a 4,000 square foot addition which featured a new administrative wing, sleeping quarters for all personnel including female quarters, personnel locker room, and addi-