

# MOVIN' ON UP



## Years in the Making: New Fire Station Helps Make BCFPD's Long-Standing Service Vision a Reality

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Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District leaders' longstanding vision of three fire stations serving its 48-square mile jurisdiction became reality in 2022, with completion of its newest facility.

Station 39, as it is designated, stands on a five-acre parcel of property at 1004 S. Hough Street, in unincorporated Cook County. The location is significant, due to its proximity to many of the District's high-density population areas. Department leaders estimate that, in the future, Station 39 crews will be involved in approximately 65% of all calls to which the BCFPD is dispatched.

Moreover, its centralized location offers additional support for the BCFPD's other two stations, Station 37 (120 W. Algonquin Road, Barrington Hills) and Station 38 (22222 N. Pepper Road, Lake Barrington).

### 'Another Layer' of Community Protection

The station will enable firefighters to achieve nationally recognized standards of excellence: the ability to respond to 90% of all emergency calls in six minutes or less.

It also adds another level of community protection by expanding the number of on-duty personnel per shift. In 2021, BCFPD firefighters responded to more than 2,000 service calls. Nearly 40% of those were received with crews already responding to other emergencies.

"As trustees, we are committed to fielding the best trained and best



equipped professionals to deliver the best service possible to our residents," explained BCFPD President Keith Hanson. "Station 39 enhances our ability to reach those we serve in times of greatest need."

### Dedication Ceremony Begins New Chapter

Following a May 2021 ground-breaking, construction on Station 39 took place over a period of roughly nine months. A new chapter in the BCFPD's 82-year history began April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, as Station 39 began operations.

That same morning, District officials held an official dedication ceremony attended by the members of the Board of Trustees, Fire Department administrators, community leaders, and invited guests.

"This is a big day for our firefighters but, more importantly, it's a big day for the residents of our District," Fire Chief Jim Kreher told those assembled. "This

fire station was years in the making. I thank the Board of Trustees for their vision, Department leaders and staff for their hard work, and our partners (*Studio 222 Architects, Chicago; and Barrington-based Pepper Construction Company*) for their help bringing Station 39 from concept to reality."

### No Tax Increases for Structure or Staffing

The BCFPD's long-term planning efforts and a commitment to fiscal discipline meant that it was able to build and staff Station 39 without having to raise taxes on the residents who fund its operations.

The District had previously configured its staffing and equipment levels to support operations from three fire stations.

*Continued on page 29*

## Movin' Up

Continued from page 28

Meanwhile, about 60% of Station 39's construction cost (\$3.5 million) was funded through tax-exempt fire protection notes issued by the BCFPD in 2020. Those notes carry a seven-and-a-half-year term at an interest rate of only 1.35%. District reserves funded the remaining \$2.6 million balance.

"The fire protection notes increased our financial flexibility during construction and, in a time of rapidly rising prices, helped maintain our reserves," explained Trustee Matt Hower, who serves as BCFPD Treasurer. "The strategy was designed to protect taxpayers."

## Community Open House

Station 39 made its public debut Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, during a community open house that drew hundreds of residents, local leaders, and elected officials.

Guests of all ages climbed aboard fire engines and ambulances, participated in "behind-the-scenes" station tours, and enjoyed complimentary refreshments and giveaways.

The event also featured a brief ceremony, where Chief Kreher offered a telling example of how Station 39's already plays a key role in the department's improved ability to deliver life-saving services.

## 'Strong Return on Investment'

"During Station 39's first week of operation, crews responded to two separate calls involving patients in full cardiac arrest. Both patients survived," he recalled. "Had this station not been here, we can only imagine what may have happened. Based on those two calls along, I believe the District has already gotten a very strong return on its investment."

President Hanson, meanwhile, thanked taxpayers for funding the new station's construction and community leaders for their support. "This would not have been possible without you," he added.

Learn more about BCFPD operations and initiatives at <https://www.bcfpd.org>. ■



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