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County to break ground Dec. 8 on 'green' Palmer Ranch Fire Rescue Station 15

A groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 8 will officially kick off construction of the Sarasota County Palmer Ranch Fire Rescue Station 15, one of four planned "green" fire stations that will be under construction over the next year. The project is a cooperative venture of the county, Palmer Ranch Holdings, Ltd., which is the developer of the community, and the homeowner associations of the Palmer Ranch community.

The 9 a.m. ceremony will be held at the project location, 9102 Bloomfield Blvd., at Honore Avenue in Sarasota. The public is invited to attend.

The \$4.5 million construction project includes the extension of Bloomfield Boulevard to the east of Honore Avenue and the construction of an 8,600-square-foot building that is designed to be certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. The facility will house a fire engine and an ambulance to provide quick response to the Palmer Ranch community. The station will be staffed with full-time fire medics who are certified as firefighters working alternating 24-hour shifts, seven days a week, as well as emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

The "green" features of the station include a system to capture rainwater for apparatus bay cleaning and filling of fire suppression tanks, a gray water system for flushing toilets, solar hot water, energy-efficient appliances and lighting. Other environmentally friendly features are outdoor lighting, parking for alternative transportation, landscaping and recycling systems.

BMK Architects of Sarasota designed the project. The contractor is Tower-OHL Group, with a corporate office in Davie, Fla., and a west Florida regional office in Bradenton. Civil engineering services were provided by Jensen and Group Engineering Consultants, based in the Bradenton and Sarasota area. TLC Engineering Inc., based in Houston, Texas, provided architectural engineering services.

Station 15 is expected to be completed by early fall 2009.

Other county planned "green" fire stations include Fire Station 3 at 47 North Adams Drive, St. Armands, which is currently under construction; and Fire Station 1 in downtown Sarasota and Fire Station 10 off Fruitville Road.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about Palmer Ranch Fire Rescue Station 15.

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