

Greensboro Residents Turn Out for New Fire Station Unveiling Ceremony

The Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) unveiled its new fire station Saturday afternoon and over 75 firefighters and citizens showed up for an open house to commemorate the event.

The new 4,400 square foot, four-bay structure was two years in the making. The project started when the Town of Greensboro sold the existing fire station, forcing firefighters to seek new digs.

Greensboro Fire Chief Steve Ferrell, a 33-year GVFD veteran, said the fire department sought a Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant in 2005. Although their initial effort to get the grant was unsuccessful, a second try in 2005 hit paydirt.

The \$471,000 grant required a 10 percent match from the department. So, Ferrell said, volunteers immediately began efforts to secure the funds. The Town of Greensboro kicked in \$5,000 and the Henry County Community Foundation committed \$10,000. Fundraising efforts within the community netted \$8,600 and the fire department borrowed \$22,000 against one of their own emergency vehicles to make the nut.

Ferrell said volunteers also completed over \$30,000 in additional in-kind work, which also went toward the department's 10 percent match. Site preparation, water and sewer installation and a stone driveway were all projects completed by volunteers. Ferrell said George King's Greensboro Sand & See Greensboro, Page 19



Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department Chief Steve Ferrell discusses the process of building a new fire station as images of the building phase are projected on one of the new station's walls Saturday afternoon. (Eric Cox photo)



Greensboro Fire Chief Steve Ferrell (left) Talks with State Rep. Tom Saunders (right) as Jessica and Kenny Hunter look on. (Eric Cox photo)



Over 75 people (above, right) attended the fire department open house Saturday afternoon. Vintage nozzles (middle, right), along with other Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department memorabilia, are on display in the new fire station's meeting room. Seven-year-old Dawson Smith (right), grandson of GVFD Chief Steve Ferrell, is an unofficial member of the fire department as is evidenced by his youth-size fire helmet. Some of the Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department's 16 members pose for a photo outside the new station Saturday. The new building features four bays, a meeting room and communications room, among other things.

