



CAMANO ISLAND FIRE & RESCUE

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

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CAMANO ISLAND FIRE AND RESCUE SAVES TAXPAYERS HALF A MILLION DOLLARS BY PURCHASING MOVE-IN READY HEADQUARTERS

Former Camano Properties Building to House Camano Island Public Safety Agencies

Camano Island Fire and Rescue (CIFR) administration will move into its new Headquarters a year ahead of schedule after taking advantage of the Island's changing real estate market. Although the capital facilities plan developed by the fire district and funded by a voter approved bond measure in 2007 called for the construction of a new headquarters station, the opportunity to purchase this highly visible, permanent home at the gateway to Camano Island while saving taxpayers an estimated \$500,000 was an opportunity the District could not pass up.

"In the current real estate market, the ability to purchase an almost move-in ready facility at a lower cost than building a comparable one made great financial sense and dove-tailed perfectly with our facilities strategy" said District Fire Chief Mike Ganz. "Getting this facility today rather than waiting for the construction process gets us to our goal of improved safety for our citizens a year ahead of schedule."

The centrally located building will serve as a Joint Area Command Center during large incidents and disasters. "Developing a true EOC with the necessary communications and back-up power equipment will greatly enhance our ability to mitigate large disasters and respond to the needs of our community" said CIFR Emergency Manager Mike Simmons.

When the new office opens, it will also include a north end office for the Island County Sheriff's Office and Camano Island Licensing. "In these tough economic times public agencies need to work together to cut costs and save the tax payers money. This facility allows us to save money and provide better service to the community which is our job one" added Assistant Chief Levon Yengoyan.

In addition to housing fire district administrative staff and the sheriff's office, the new building will offer limited public meeting space for Board of Fire Commissioners meetings. Converting the Terry's Corner station to house firefighters 24/7 meant the loss of the large public meeting room. In order to continue to provide this valuable meeting space to the public, CIFR is constructing a larger meeting space at the new Madrona station.

Camano Island Fire and Rescue is on track to complete their facilities work on time and on budget. Ground breaking on the new Madrona station and the remodel of the Country Club station is estimated to begin in June pending County approval of all necessary permits. More information is available on the District's web page at www.camanofire.com

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For more information about the fire district's construction projects, operations, or to schedule a meeting with Fire Chief Mike Ganz, please call the administration office at 360-629-3008.