Tinley Park breaks ground on new Fire Station No. 47

The Village of Tinley Park on Monday broke ground for its new Fire Station No. 47, which will be located at 7825 W. 167th St. on the same site as the old building, which will be demolished.

The ceremony included remarks by Fire Chief Forest Reeder, Mayor Jacob Vandenberg, Village Manager Dave Niemeyer and several firefighters, some of whom told stories honoring the old building and the firefighters who once worked there. The groundbreaking also included a decommissioning ceremony in which the old building was officially retired.

Once complete, the new building will feature bunk room facilities to accommodate constant occupancy of as many as eight firefighters; more privacy for showers and changing; upgraded safety and cancer-prevention measures for staff that separate them from potentially dangerous equipment; more storage for gear, equipment supplies and records; a fitness room; direct pathways to apparatus, resulting in quicker access; a dedicated drive-through so trucks won’t have to back into the station at 167th Street, which can cause traffic issues; and high-quality, durable furnishings that can withstand constant use for years.

“The new station gives us an opportunity to replace an aging building with a new, expanded facility that has modern features for a modern fire department,” Reeder said.

The new station is slated to open sometime in the late summer to early fall of 2020. The Village hired FGM Architects of Oak Brook to design the new facility, and the contractor is R.C Wegman. During construction, crews have been relocated to other stations and will remain ready to respond to emergencies.

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Stay up to date on this project at TinleyPark.org/CurrentProjects. A video of the groundbreaking will be available on the Village’s YouTube channel this week.

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