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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County Fire Rescue to conduct ‘push-in’ ceremony Friday at westside Station 71

May 13, 2024 – Flagler County Fire Rescue is hosting a “push-in” ceremony at Fire Station 71 in St. Johns Park at 8:30 a.m. May 17, Friday.

The station, which had been a volunteer station was reopened and rededicated by the county with fulltime staff in 2014, to reduce response times in western Flagler County communities as well as the county’s westside parks such as the Bull Creek Campground.

“We will be pushing in the brand-new Engine 71,” said Fire Chief Michael Tucker. “She’s very pretty. It’s big day for us.”

At the time of the 2014 rededication ceremony, Flagler County Fire Rescue’s Medical Director Kristin McCabe referred to the fire station, commonly known as the St. Johns Park station, as a “key access point” because of the area’s remoteness.

“We work very hard to ensure our fire stations are well equipped,” Tucker said. “The health and safety of our residents is our core concern.”

Push-in ceremonies have a long and storied history in the United States dating back more than a century.

“The evolution of the ‘event’ to commemorate a new truck is not clear. Certainly, parties and soirees were held in its honor,” wrote Glenn P. Corbett in an article posted on the *Fire Engineering Magazine* website. “In the era of hand pumpers, a new engine attracted the attention of rival engine companies by attempting to ‘wash’ the new engine. The rival engine would pump at a rate faster than the new engine, causing water to fill the reservoir at the rear of the new engine and flood over the engine’s sides. It is perhaps this ‘washing’ from which the ‘wetdown’ has evolved. Of course, since these engines were hand-drawn, pushing the engine into quarters was a daily occurrence.”

Andy Dance
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Leann Pennington
District 4

Donald O’Brien, Jr.
District 5

The event will be held at 8:30 a.m. May 17 at Station 71, 89 East County Road 2006, St. Johns Park (Bunnell for GPS).

“We hope there is a nice turnout,” Tucker said. “There is a good bit of time that passes between ordering a new engine – almost two years ago – and its delivery. We’ve been waiting, and we’re excited to be hosting this event.”

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