



Kents Store Volunteers Have a New Home

Fluvanna County Company 3

Reading and Images: Taylor Goodman

The Kents Store Volunteers have always been a proud department, and that's especially evident in the new station that they occupied in March. The KSVFD, which lies directly south of the Route 208 exit on I-64, had long operated out of a station that was cramped and offered few amenities, but that's completely changed now!

The new firehouse is actually built on top of where the old one sat. To accomplish this, the bays for the new station were built first, which prevented the apparatus from having to sit outside. Once completed, the old firehouse was torn down, and then the living and administrative areas of the new station were completed. With a project cost of just over \$1M, the members got quite a firehouse for the money invested.

The downstairs area features a meeting and community room with an attached kitchen featuring all new, state-of-the-art stainless steel appliances. Going upstairs, the members will now be able to stay at the station in two separate bunkrooms during inclement weather and other special events, something that was quite difficult previously. There's also a workout room, which the contractor actually completed out of his own pocket as a donation to the volunteers. Behind the station lies a permanently mounted generator, which will easily supply the station with plenty of power in the event of an electrical failure.

There are three double-deep drive-through bays to house the equipment, and a mezzanine attached to the wall separating the bays and living areas gives plenty of extra room for storage.

It's impossible not to talk about the department without mentioning their special color of apparatus: dark blue. Picked because it instills community pride by showcasing the local high school's colors, the tanker was quite the talk of the Virginia Fire Chief's Association show when it was debuted there back in 2003. The department currently runs three blue apparatus, and two red. Their classic 1967 Dodge brush truck was repainted, however, at this time, there aren't plans to repaint the remaining red apparatus.

Thanks to Dan Davis for the photo assistance and Mike Sheridan for the entertainment during our visit!

