

County fire training facility to open in 2007



Photo provided

Senator Joe Bruno (R-Brunswick) breaks ground at the new Saratoga County Fire Training Facility in Ballston. The senator helped secure \$100,000 for the facility.

By GLENN GRIFFITH

Community News

BALLSTON — Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno (R-Brunswick) has secured \$100,000 in state funds to get construction underway for a new Saratoga County Fire Training Facility.

To prove he was much more than a stand-on-the-sidelines legislator, Bruno hopped on one of the site's bull dozers and started things moving himself.

The new training tower and burn building will replace a 30-year old facility on County Farm Road in Ballston.

The county's 2,200 volunteer fire fighters and those from Saratoga Springs will use the facility for training purposes.

Total cost for the project is expected to be \$815,000, a figure that was budgeted for 2006 by the county. The site is expected to open in January 2007.

Bruno joined Saratoga County administrator David Wickerham, Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors Harry Gutheil Jr. and other dignitaries for the ground breaking ceremonies before taking the controls of the

dozer.

"When answering an emergency call, firefighters are required to assess and react to situation in a moment's notice," Bruno said. "This

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County fire coordinator Ed Tremblay said the new facility will be made available to the G.E. Silicone Fire Squad, the state Department of Corrections, Stratton Air Force Base, and other fire fighting organizations.

Gutheil said he doubted the project could have begun without the senator's efforts and the financial support of the state.

The new facility will have a five story tower and an attached single family building. Class A combustibles can be burned in the smaller structure something that is not allowed in the present facility.

"With the new area we'll be able to practice in more realistic conditions," Tremblay said. "The tower will have both recessed and extended balconies. Some of our areas don't allow buildings as high as the tower right now, but who knows what will happen in the future."

He said the old facility will remain standing and be used for cold training.

The hands-on training facilities are just one part of the entire emergency training area at the Ballston site.

There is also has a classroom where fire fighters do