

Oct. 11, 2008:

Redwood Public Safety Station opens its doors

The neighborhood around Redwood Elementary School undoubtedly will be noisier from now on — and safer.

A new city fire station and police substation opened there Friday adjacent to the school, near Leonard Road and Hubbard Lane.

While sirens from emergency vehicles might jar someone awake or make the neighborhood dogs howl, fire crews now will be able to get to where they need to be going in maybe five minutes, down from 10 minutes or more.

"This station ... will serve an area of the community that had been lacking adequate emergency response," Public Safety Director Joe Henner said, in a news release.

The Redwood Public Safety Station, funded by a voter-approved bond measure, came in about \$250,000 under budget, Henner said. He gave credit to designers, builders and city staff.

On Friday, Wayne Nelson and fellow firefighters Josh **Kelch** and John Cunningham moved in, after a city building official gave his OK. They backed a red 1,000-gallon truck into its bay, as a handful of onlookers gathered.

Fire crews will man the station around the clock, and a crime prevention officer will work out of the station, as will police officers assigned to the Redwood-area beat.

A formal open house at the station might be held in early November.

Another station is due to open late this year or early next year, along the Grants Pass Parkway, just south of the Rogue River.

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