



THE PALM BEACH COUNTY PLANNING CONGRESS

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, March 25th
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

The Palm Beach County Planning Congress, Inc. presents....

“Evolution of the Firehouse”

1151 North Federal Highway, Boca Raton, FL 33487

The program will include:

- Presentation by Thomas Wood, Fire Chief, Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services
- Presentation by Jess Sowards and Robert Currie of Currie Sowards Aguila Architects about the design of fire stations (see their company article on following pages)

Chief Wood has been serving with the City of Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services for over 35 years and has graciously offered to host this event that will focus on the evolution of the firehouse from a local perspective. For more information on the Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Department see <http://www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us/Fire/>.

For more information on Currie Sowards Aguila Architects see <http://www.csa-architects.com/>.

We will be seeking AICP continuing education credits. Registration and detailed program information to be available soon.

Mark your calendars for this great event!

Contact Chris Barry at cbarry@jesla.com for more information.



is to provide individual sleeping quarters and individual unisex bathrooms. Additionally, providing quick medical assistance by means of emergency medical technicians (EMT's); responding to HAZMAT needs and chemical weapons incidents; and Emergency Operations Centers (EOC's); many of which are now located on upper levels of fire stations, have all become relevant and part of the mix, based on the needs of our current society – especially since 9/11. So, as you see, the need for modern and more sophisticated fire stations is not just for the purpose of putting out fires anymore.

CSA's initial Delray Beach Fire Station No. 2 is located in a high-end residential section only one block from the ocean. In order to keep the integrity and aesthetic compatibility with the residential neighborhood, CSA had to design with practicality and efficiency for the fire department while being cognizant of noise considerations that might affect the neighboring area. The tremendous efforts and forethought were rewarded with a design award from the Palm Beach Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1990 and enthusiastic acceptance by the neighboring residents.

A notable structure is the 29,500 square foot Delray Beach Fire Rescue Headquarters and Emergency Operation Center located on West Atlantic Avenue. This station prompted the revitalization for re-development of a somewhat blighted area and serves as the main fire administration offices along with the EOC for the City of Delray Beach.

Boca Raton Fire Station No. 3 located on AIA just south of Palmetto Park Road is unique in that it also provides a Boca Police Department Sub Station. CSA designed a replacement for the original 1970 station. What made the design so challenging is that the parcel of land is located near the ocean and affected by the Coastal Con-

struction Control Line. In order for the station to withstand Category V hurricane winds and wave scour, additional design considerations had to be made.

Community input was vital to the design of Boca Raton Fire Station No. 2 located on Palmetto Park Road at the entrance to Old Floresta, an historic residential district. As with Station No. 3, this station was also built to withstand severe Category V conditions.

Most recently completed by CSA Architects was Delray Beach Station No. 4. The original structure was damaged by Hurricane Wilma and replaced with a new 10,000 square foot, 3-bay drive-through station in early 2009.

To date, CSA has secured eighteen subsequent fire rescue stations, one fire apparatus support facility, three fire training towers and one fire administration office facility all located in Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties.

As evidenced by the vast amount of fire stations designed and completed by Currie Sowards Aguila Architects, it clearly shows the design firm's desire to help create much needed municipal structures that not only are functional but also are aesthetically appropriate to the neighboring community. The partnership with city fire departments and the local community itself is one that CSA takes very seriously. It is the vision and long term goal of CSA's principals: Bob Currie, Jess Sowards, and José Aguila, along with their gifted and experienced team, to leave behind a legacy of quality structures to last the next hundred years – just like their predecessors. •

Currie Sowards Aguila Architects is located at 134 N.E. 1st Avenue, Old School Square Historic Arts District, Delray Beach, FL 33444. Telephone: (561) 276-4951. You can check out their website at www.csa-architects.com.