



Boynton Forum

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BEST OF
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High-tech fire station, EOC gives nod to past with mural



NEW FIRE STATION OPENS

The city of Boynton Beach celebrated the opening of Fire Station No. 5, a \$9 million station and emergency operations center. Events included music, food and fire-drill demonstrations. At left, firefighter Jeff Power introduces the fire truck to Christian Quintero, 3, of Boynton Beach. Below, firefighter Craig Kovach, left, and Capt. Dean Kinser carry out some fire-drill demonstrations. Bottom left, firefighter Jeff Power operates the truck during a fire-drill demonstration.

STAFF PHOTOS/JACKIE GERENA

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After a year and a half of construction, Boynton Beach Fire Station No. 5 had its grand opening Oct. 10 with a few added touches.

Dana Donaty Designs in Delray Beach created an acrylic-on-canvas custom installation of four firefighting vehicles from 80 years of history for the main lobby of the new station and emergency operations center at 2080 High Ridge Road, by Gateway Boulevard and Interstate 95.

Steve Lewis, spokesman for Boynton Beach Fire Rescue, said the operations center aspect of the building is a step into the future for the city.

"We received a \$1.7 million hazard mitigation grant to harden the building to Category 5 status," he said. "This is the first building in Boynton to have this rating."

Lewis said that if something were to happen to City Hall, 100 E. Boynton Beach Blvd., with the flip of a switch, dispatch functions would not miss a beat. In addition, there are back-up ITS servers in the new building to also back up city hall.

The 42,000-square-foot building took about a year and a half to finish at a total cost of almost \$9 million.

Artist Dana Donaty said

the lobby mural, titled "Big Red," is 4 feet by 19 feet.

She said the mural took one day to install and that the landscape background of the piece is from a historical 1930 photograph of Federal Highway in Boynton Beach.

"They decided that they needed another art component at the station, so they saw samples of my past work and liked them," Donaty said.

She is known for her work in downtown Delray Beach, which includes a large mural on the outside wall of an old camera shop.

"They saw my body of work and decided on me," Donaty said. "I'm going to say from start to finish it took two months, but I had other projects I was working on in between."

Replicas of the mural are available for sale at www.danadonaty.com or by calling 561-504-3374.



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