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Work begins on new public safety HQ in Scarsdale

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SCARSDALE - Exactly 100 years after the village hired its first police officer to arrest speeders along the newly paved Post Road, the 1922-built red brick Federal-style police headquarters is set to undergo major renovations.

Bringing the Scarsdale Public Safety Building - which houses the headquarters of both the police and fire departments - to 21st century standards has been in the works for six years.

The \$13 million project will take 18 months, and will sport an "adaptive Tudor" look in keeping with the rest of the Fox Meadow neighborhood, said Peter Gaito Jr., president of the White Plains-based firm that designed the building.

Meanwhile, public access to the police department will be through a temporary dispatch trailer directly across the street, at the corner of Fenimore Road and Tompkins Road.

The expansion will add 10,000 square feet to the 17,500-square-foot building - which will be gutted for the most part - and include an underground firing range.

"It's going to be a state-of-the-art facility and will be designed keeping both the female and male officers in mind," said Police Chief John Brogan.

The current building does not have separate bathrooms, locker rooms or sleeping quarters for female cops and firefighters.

The headquarters will be used by 51 full-time police officers and 30 career firefighters.

An emergency operations center for managing major incidents will be located in the building and will include voice and data lines, radio systems, audio/visual equipment and work stations.

The centrally located building will enable village staff and elected officials to gather and provide central control and communication in emergencies, Brogan said.

A new ladder truck bought last year did not fit in the old apparatus bay, said Fire Chief Thomas Cain.

"The bay floor was neither strong enough to hold the new generation of heavier fire apparatus, nor tall enough to fit the 11-foot truck," said Cain. "We are excited to see the construction started after all the years of planning."

Other than an addition in 1952, no major renovations had been done to the building.

"We simply outgrew the building. It's close to a 100 years old," said Village Manager Alfred A. Gatta.
"The building could not keep up with 21st century policing and sophisticated technologies."

Special care was taken while designing the exterior so it would blend in with the neighborhood, Gatto said.

"It's going to look like a big friendly house in the neighborhood," he said.
