

# PUBLIC PRIDE: NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PROVIDES NECESSITY TO COMMUNITY



**P**leasant Hill's current public safety building was built in 1993 for the police and fire department. Almost 30 years later, a rise in population has led to a need for more space.

About a decade ago, the close quarters compelled Pleasant Hill leaders to initiate a space-needs study on Pleasant Hill's public buildings. The study concluded there is inefficient space to conduct daily operations in the public safety facilities. Due to many factors, action was not taken. In 2017, a second study was commissioned. This study determined a new public safety building was needed as quickly as possible.

Construction on the new public safety building begins fall 2019. It will be located west of Northeast 70th Street, along recently renamed Martha L Miller Drive. The main building will house the police department, as well as a

community space for events and training.

"This building is for the residents of Pleasant Hill, so a space for the public is important," said Candace Bell, Pleasant Hill communication specialist.

A fire department auxiliary building, which will have two apparatus bays and staff quarters, is located to the west of the main structure. Fire headquarters will remain in the current public safety building on Maple Drive. Renovations will be completed on the current public safety building once the police department moves into its new location. These renovations will provide needed space for the fire department.

Bids were awarded in September 2019 and the estimated completion date is fall 2020.

"Public safety and emergency response are the top priority for the elected officials," Mayor Sara Kurovski said. "Ensuring that we have the right facilities to be able to respond to residents and meet their public safety needs while providing new safe space for our officers to perform their duties and renovating the old space to expand for fire and EMS response is now a reality."