



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## Ritchie Helps Belleville Volunteer Fire Department Grow

BRIAN DWYER February 11, 2020

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State Senator Patty Ritchie has helped the Belleville Volunteer Fire Department build a new fire station to serve its residents and others in Southern Jefferson County.

Previously the department squeezed into a fire hall that did not have enough room for all of the department's trucks, equipment and other vehicles. The new building, thanks to the \$50,000 grant secured by Senator Ritchie, allows the department enough space to store equipment that had been outside, and create more room in the main hall.

“It is critically important that we ensure our volunteer fire departments have what they need to serve their communities,” said Senator Ritchie. “This new station allows Belleville’s volunteers to do their jobs more efficiently, and creates the space needed to keep lifesaving equipment protected. I think I can speak for everyone when I say I am thankful for the work these dedicated volunteers do, and I look forward to seeing how this new facility helps improve community safety.”

“There’s no question our main station is crowded,” said Belleville Fire Chief Devon Shelmidine. “The jet ski we use for water rescues has always been stored outside. This new station is exactly what we needed to ensure our firefighters have the space they need to respond to calls quicker and more safely. Our community is now safer thanks to Senator Ritchie’s efforts to help us get this station built.”

The department still has a few final additions to complete at the new station, but hopes to have an open house soon.