DEADLINES

NEWS DEADLINES For inclusion in the Wednesday edition of the Itemizer-Observer: Social news (weddings, engagements, anniversaries, births, milestones) -5 p.m. on Thursdav. Community events — Noon on Friday for both the Community Notebook and Community Calendar. Letters to the editor 10 a.m. on Monday. Obituaries — 4 p.m. on Monday.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES Retail display ads — 3 p.m. Friday. Classified display ads — 11 a.m. on Monday. Classified line ads -

Noon on Monday. Classified ads are updated daily on www.polkio.com. Public notices — Noon on Friday.

CORRECTIONS

The Polk County Itemizer-Observer is committed to publishing accurate news, feature and sports reports. If you see anything that requires a correction or clarification, call the newsroom at 503-623-2373 or send an email to kholland@polkio.com.

WEBSITE

The Polk County Itemizer-Observer website, www.polkio.com, is updated each week by Wednesday afternoon. There, you will find nearly every story that appears in the print version of the newspaper, as well as some items, including additional photos, that do not appear in print due to space limitations.

The Itemizer-Observer is also on Facebook and Twitter. Watch for breaking news. links to stories, sports scores updates, community event reminders and more.

WEATHER

RECORDED HIGH LOW RAIN Dec. 30... .00 ... 37 24 ... 38 22 .00 Dec. 31. 25 .00 . 41 Jan. 1. . 43 23 .00 Jan. 2 . 42 37 .00 . 53 40 .06 Jan. 4 Jan. 5. 42 .08 Rainfall during Dec - 6 87 in



DALLAS RETIREMENT VILLAGE/ for the Itemizer-Observer

While not a final rendering, this is close to what the independent living apartments will look like once Dallas Retirement Village begins its recently approved expansion.

DRV expansion project ready to move forward

Dallas Planning Commission gives OK to plans

By Jolene Guzman The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — With final approval granted from the Dallas Planning Commission, Dallas Retirement Village is moving forward with plans for 40 to 63 more independent living apartments and a new community center.

The expansion will take place in two phases on a 5.3acre empty lot on Northwest Jasper Street, adjacent to current DRV facilities. Phase 1 plans call for building a complex with one-bedroom and two-bedroom units and a 20,000-square-foot dining and activity lodge. One-bedroom apartments will be 850 square feet and two-bedroom

units will be 1,500 square feet. Dave Parrett, DRV's executive director, said a campaign to fill the units will begin this month. He said construction will begin when 70 percent of the apartments have commitments. With 80

Expansion

Dallas Retirement Village expansion project highlights:

• 40 to 63 one- and two-bedroom independent living apartments. One-bedroom units will be approximately 850 square feet, while two bedrooms will be 1,500 square feet.

• 20,000 square-foot activity and dining center, or lodge.

For more information: Dallas Retirement Village 503-623-9211.

tion this summer.

He said the new apartments will be similar to DRV's current "garden home" units and built around a courtyard setting. The activity center, or lodge, could include such amenities as an arts and crafts

room, a woodworking shop and a fitness center. The planning commission

approved the development's site plan in December, the last step needed before DRV could

begin selling the apartments. "It's very exciting, and we were pleased to see that important step accomplished," Parrett said. He said expansion plans

had been in the works for several years, but plans had to be placed on hold during the recession.

"When things started to come back alive, we revisited it again and found there still was a need," Parrett said. "That was a couple years ago, and we have been moving forward ever since."

The planning commission also approved the site plan for the second phase of the development, which will add about 20 to 25 more apartments for seniors and additional activity center space.

Polk Fire upgrading through bond funds

New engine among key purchases

By Emily Mentzer The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE - Purchasing a fire truck is different from purchasing a car, said Mike Mayfield, division chief for Polk County Fire District No. 1.

"There's a base model, but there's certainly more things you spec (specify) on it," he said. "What size tank you want, what size pump monitors - electrocardioyou want — there's a lot more options."

Buying new fire apparatus was part of the fire general obligation bond, approved by voters in the May 2014 election. Mayfield

made a trip to Pennsylvania where the truck will be built, to visit with engineers and make

sure Polk County Fire gets the right vehicle for the job. One of the things taken into consideration is how high the beds are for pulling fire hoses, Mayfield said.

"We want the hose bed not too high, so people can safely pull it," he said.

Mayfield

The district will get four fire engines, including one city pumper. The other three engines will fight a house fire just as well as a field fire, Mayfield said.

"A city pumper you don't need to pump and roll because you're going to be going off a hydrant," he said.

A final price on the apparatus was not available at press time, but Mayfield said he expected it to stay in the \$1.5 million range.

"We didn't add anything huge or subtract anything huge from what we told taxpayers we were going out for," he said.

spent upgrading life pack a new fire chief will work.



gram monitors (EKG) and there is still enough money to replace a chassis on one of the older ambulances, Mayfield said.

"When we purchased the ambulances, we bought quality ambulances with the idea that we would keep the box and put a new chassis under it, a new frame, new engine and new cab," he said. "It's much cheaper than buying a whole new one."

The general obligation bond is 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for a total of \$1.98 million.

The five-year operational levy also approved by voters in May 2014 is expected to raise \$200,000 a year for five years. No new positions were added with the passing of the levy, but a position was created with a promotion from within: Neal Olson was promoted from division chief to deputy, or assistant, chief.

Prior to Olson receiving the new title, the fire district had three division chiefs, with no clear No. 2 person in command in case the fire chief was not available, Olson said.

A deputy chief "was something that John (Stein, fire chief) was really pushing for as we prepare to bring in a new fire chief, that there be somebody in that No. 2 position," Olson said.

The fire board will meet Thursday at 6 p.m. at Station 90, 1800 Monmouth St., Independence. The agenda The bond also has been includes how the search for

