

SW Polk board to discuss \$5M bond

Itemizer-Observer staff report
 DALLAS — Southwestern Polk Rural Fire Protection District's board will discuss and decide whether to place a 15-year, \$5 million bond on the May 2017 ballot at its meeting on Monday.
 Members of the public will have a chance to comment on the proposed bond at the meeting, which will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Dallas Fire Station, 915 SE Shelton Ave., Dallas.

Dallas Fire, SW Polk reveal strategic plan

Plan identifies strengths, weaknesses and needed changes for both emergency agencies

By Jolene Guzman
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas Fire & EMS and Southwestern Polk Rural Fire Protection District outlined objectives in the 2016 Fire and Emergency Services Master Plan written for both agencies.

Fire Chief Fred Hertel, who is the administrator for the district and Dallas' department, presented the agencies' "strategic plan" to the Dallas City Council on Monday during a council work session.

The plan identified strengths, such as strong community support and department pride, and weaknesses and threats facing Dallas and Southwestern Polk.

For Southwestern Polk, financial instability stood out as a weakness.

The district is considering asking voters for a bond to shore up its finances and improve service.

Volunteer recruitment remains a threat for both departments, which

rely on volunteers for response to many calls.

"We talked a lot about why people are not volunteering like they used to, and where our numbers are at, and what concern that should be to our community and personnel," Hertel said.

He said Dallas hired April Welsh as its community service officer with recruiting as one of her tasks.

She's been attending community events with that objective in mind and the city created a policy that allows other city employees to respond to fires, Hertel said.

Still, it's an uphill battle, Hertel said.

"It's a constant struggle, and I think with societal changes and people's time commitments and other volunteer opportunities, it's a struggle," he said. "Most of our volunteers, it's three to five years and they are moving on to other things."

Training Officer Sean Hoxie said the department is considering developing a program that works with high school students.

"There is a program in West Salem that started a year and a half ago at the high school there," Hoxie said.

He said the department has been in contact with that program, which

has seen success for the Salem department.

The department also has applied for a recruitment grant.

Councilor Kelly Gabliks asked how much longer the department would have its two SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response) grant firefighters who help with daytime incidents. Hertel said until November 2019.

"Are you going to be able to continue to run calls without paid staff, especially daytime staff?" she asked.

He said the department would continue to struggle to answer those calls. The master plan outlined that response times are also an issue, he added.

"Where we go from here is a discussion that (City Manager) Ron (Foggin) and I have had many times, about how we get to the next level and how we continue to progress," Hertel said. "I think that the time of an all-volunteer department is probably coming to an end and we are in a transition period."

Gabliks pointed out that the department lacks facilities for overnight staffing or training.

"Those are both in the facilities plan that is in the budget," Hertel said. "We are working on that. We

can see the light at the end of the tunnel on all of those aspects, but none of them have been fixed yet."

He said another issue outlined in the master plan was that Southwestern Polk and Dallas had separate missions and polices, yet one administrator.

"We are trying to work more efficiently and effectively by combining them," Hertel said.

The two agencies work closely, so the strategic plan calls for synchronizing policies.

"What this accomplishes for the administration, for me, is now we are under one mission," Hertel said. "Where before we had to look at an event in Southwest differently. We had a different mission than we did in Dallas. I had to monitor and manage different systems."

Foggin said he didn't see the issues outlined in the strategic plan as "doom and gloom."

"This is an opportunity to know where we are and know where we are headed," Foggin said. "Just wanted to let you know that the fire department, its volunteers and staff, have worked really hard trying to make sure they are accomplishing goals that were set forth in their master plan."

DEADLINES

NEWS DEADLINES
 For inclusion in the Wednesday edition of the *Itemizer-Observer*:
Social news (weddings, engagements, anniversaries, births, milestones) — 5 p.m. on Thursday.
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

CORRECTION:
 In a Feb. 22 article, "Indy adds franchise fees to data, internet," it incorrectly stated that the franchise fee will be 7 percent of gross profit, or \$500, whichever is higher. The fee will be based on gross revenue.

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, Twitter and Instagram. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores updates and more.

WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
Feb. 28.....	50	37	.12
March 1.....	52	37	T
March 2.....	50	34	.03
March 3.....	51	41	.47
March 4.....	47	36	.19
March 5.....	44	34	.24
March 6.....	45	33	.60

Rainfall during Feb. — 13.41 in.
 Rain through March 6 — 20.34 in.

By Jolene Guzman
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The city of Dallas code services is getting an increasing number of complaints about residents or business owners storing garbage at their properties, some causing a nuisance or health hazard.

To address that problem, the city is proposing an ordinance that would compel property owners to remove garbage that has become a nuisance or health hazard — and keep it cleaned up.

Dallas Police Chief Tom Simpson said to the public safety committee that the ordinance would address a few troublesome properties that have become "frequent flyers" for this problem.

"We've been having trouble with people collecting trash in trailers by their house, outside their house in their yard to the point where it is creating a public nuisance," Simpson said.

The city first considered an ordinance that would have required all residents to use garbage pick-up service.

Simpson said he decided against that method, as only a few cities in the state make garbage service mandatory.

"We started thinking about this a little bit and started narrowing down the focus of why we needed it,

versus the global approach," he said. "Instead of compelling service for everyone, this will give us a little more teeth to deal with those who violate our existing ordinances."

The city would only require those who violate city codes regarding public health to subscribe to a col-

lection service, in addition to paying up to a maximum fine of \$500.

More violations within a six-month period would increase the maximum penalty to \$750.

Bill Hahn, the committee chairman and a city councilor, asked how the city would enforce the require-

ment of subscribing to a collection service.

City Attorney Lane Shetterly said he could draft it to make stopping service a violation until the requirement is lifted.

The committee voted to forward the ordinance to the full council for consideration, possibly at its March 20

meeting.

"It better deters those who are really creating the problem. It's really a small percentage, but a lot of them were frequent flyers with us," Simpson said. "It would be better than coming up with a change that would affect basically all of our community members."

INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8
 450 S. 2nd St., Independence
Showtimes 503-606-3000
www.IndependenceCinema8.com

Matinees are all shows before 6pm. New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$8.00 Children \$7.00 • Senior \$7.25 Pricing does not reflect 3D showings.

Friday - Sunday • March 10 - 12			
BEFORE I FALL (Digital) (PG13)	(2:40 5:05)	7:30	9:55*
MOONLIGHT (Digital) (R)	(1:15)		9:50*
FIST FIGHT (Digital) (R)		6:40**	9:25*
LEGO BATMAN MOVIE (Digital) (PG)	(11:30 1:45 4:15)		
LOGAN (Digital) (R)	(12:05 3:10)	6:15 6:45	9:20*
KONG: SKULL ISLAND (Digital) (PG13)	(1:40 3:50 4:25)	6:40*	7:10 9:55*
THE SHACK (Digital) (PG13)	(12:45 3:45)	6:45	9:45*
ROCK DOG (Digital) (PG)	(11:30 1:40)		
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER TWO (Digital) (R)	(3:55)	6:45	9:35*
GET OUT (Digital) (R)	(11:35 2:05 4:35)	7:05	9:35*
*Not showing Sunday March 12th **Not showing Friday - Saturday March 10 - 11			
Monday - Thursday • March 13 - 16			
BEFORE I FALL (Digital) (PG13)	(2:40 5:05)	7:30**	
MOONLIGHT (Digital) (R)	(1:15)		9:50*
FIST FIGHT (Digital) (R)		6:40**	
LEGO BATMAN MOVIE (Digital) (PG)	(1:45 4:15)		
LOGAN (Digital) (R)	(3:10)	6:15 6:45	9:20*
KONG: SKULL ISLAND (Digital) (PG13)	(1:40 3:50 4:25)	7:10	9:55*
THE SHACK (Digital) (PG13)	(3:45)	6:45	9:45*
ROCK DOG (Digital) (PG)	(1:40)		
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER TWO (Digital) (R)	(3:55)	6:45	9:35*
GET OUT (Digital) (R)	(2:05 4:35)	7:05	9:35*
*Starred Attraction—No Passes			
DISNEY'S BEAUTY & THE BEAST (Digital) (PG)		7:00*	7:30*
DISNEY'S BEAUTY & THE BEAST (Digital) (PG)		9:55*	10:25*
*Not showing Monday - Wednesday March 13 - 15 **Not showing Thursday March 16			
STOP BY EVERY WEEK FOR \$5 SUPER TUESDAY!			
ALL MOVIES. ALL DAY TUESDAY. ONLY \$5.			
www.facebook.com/IndependenceCinema8 twitter.com/IndyCinema instagram.com/IndyCinema			

Look What's Coming Up!

Spring Sports Guide Publishes March 15

Spring Home Garden & Car Care Publishes March 22

Polk County Medical Directory Publishes April 5

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?
 Please give us a call!
503-623-2373

Heidi x115
 Rachel x118
 Karen x115

Itemizer Observer

60th Anniversary Community Awards Celebration
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

Organization of the Year: CASA of Polk County
 Young Professional of the Year: Devin & MacLarin Jones (Harvest Crossfit)
 Business of the Year: Heartstrings Florist & Artisans
 First Citizen: Jinett Yeager
 Excellence in Arts: Abe Huff

A HUGE THANK YOU to our Sponsors

Supporting Sponsorships:
 Capitol Auto Group
 Chemeketa Community College
 Dunham Graphic Design
 First American Title
 Les Schwab
 Oregon State Credit Union
 Squirrel's Taxi Service
 Van Well Building Supply
 Music Sponsor:
 Bob & Lori Brannigan

DALLAS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 503.623.2564
www.dallasoregon.org