

Hurst to break ground on fire station, senior center

BY JESSICA DELEÓN

STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

HURST -- City officials will break ground Tuesday on a new building complex -- and their plan to transform older parts of the city.

Heritage Village, on Pipeline Road at Precinct Line Road, will include a new fire station and senior center and, eventually, restaurants, shops and town houses geared toward the city's rapidly growing senior population.

"It's going to be a whole look," Mayor Richard Ward said. "We're so excited about getting it started."

The project will include a two-story, 18,000-square-foot fire station that is expected to open in the fall. The brick building, which will replace the deteriorating Fire Station No. 2 on Precinct Line and Redbud Drive, is designed to fit in the mixed-use project.

Fire Chief John Brown said the building will be unique. "I'd not seen anything else like it," he said.

The 27,000-square-foot senior center will have a large multipurpose room, kitchen, fitness center, cafe, classrooms, library and hobby rooms. The center, which backs up to Hurst Community Park, could open by August 2009.

The fire station and senior center, as well as other items, such as a park area, cost about \$13 million. About \$4.5 million comes from bonds approved by voters in 2005 and the rest comes from city reserves.

The city hopes that the complex will attract an investor or a developer who will tie in restaurants, shops and homes, spokeswoman Ashleigh Whiteman said.

"Heritage Village is really geared toward the active senior," she said. "That's where our demographic is headed."

Pipeline Road is one of the city's major east-west roadways. The road has buildings at least four decades old, many of them well off the road and fronted by parking lots. City officials want the area to look more modern, with attractive landscaping and parking lots in the back.

The project is part of the "Transforming Hurst" project to revitalize older parts of the city.

The city also hopes to build a conference center in Hurst Town Center on Airport Freeway and create an arts and theater district around the Bellaire Drive area, which includes the Artisan Center Theater.

"We're ready," Whiteman said. "It really is kicking off our transformation."

Online: www.ci.hurst.tx.us

www.transforminghurst.com

Getting started

Heritage Village groundbreaking

4:30 p.m. Tuesday

Pipeline Road at Precinct Line Drive

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