

Del City Firefighters Ready for New Home

Del City's new 17,000-square-foot fire station and headquarters expected to open by late February

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The new \$5 million dollar fire station being built near SE 28th and Epperly Drive in Del City is coming along says Major Brandon Pursell. Construction began on the new station in December 2016 and is expected to be completed by the end of February. The 17,412-square-foot station includes a four story training tower and a large vehicle bay for the fire rigs. It will also have fire administration offices, an emergency management operations center, and comfortable living quarters for the fire crews working 24 hour shifts.

"They are doing all the fine detail stuff now. They are anticipating the end of January or the first of February to be what's called the punch list, where they go through with a list of fine detail, what we need to correct," explained Pursell. "Probably as far as being able to move in, we'll start moving in the middle to end of February, now if we'll be fully operational then or not I don't know, but that's our goal."

The large rig room is set up for future growth in the event that the fire department acquires more trucks and men in the future, and there is plenty of storage space in the upstairs rooms as well. The entrance to the training tower is located in the rig room. The fire fighter locker room and sleeping quarters are located closest to the rig room for easy and quick access.

The station has a room designed for 4 beds as well as one designed for 2, in case they ever have female fire fighters or other reasons for different sleeping options. Down the hall from there is the Captain's Quarters which contains an office and separate living area for the Captain of the shift. There's also a study room which will have computers and areas for reading and studying, and a fitness room. There's a large kitchen and dayroom that has an outdoor patio as well.

"The one thing we really wanted to focus on was the guys living arrangements, so there's this big open concept of this kitchen and dining room and day room where they will have TVs and recliners. This will be where they will spend the majority of their time if they are not in classes," explained Pursell. "It's going to be nice and big and we can host functions. We always have something going on, whether we are hosting families or an event, this is kind of the central place for the guys, so we really wanted to focus on that."

The other end of the building houses all of the administrative offices. This is where the main public entrance is, and the receptionist will be able to buzz people into the secure areas. There is a public bathroom and a classroom that doubles as an Emergency Operation Center located within the public access area.

"If we have an event like a tornado or something like that

this would serve as the Emergency Operation Center for the city. We can host classes here and training for the guys too. We'll get a lot of use out of this room," said Pursell.

Located near the classroom is the Watch Room, where all of the radios and TVs will be monitoring weather and news in the event of emergencies. This is located near all of the Admin offices where there is also a staff locker room where there will be a bed in case any personnel need to stay overnight for an event.

"The Fire Marshall will have the biggest office but he does a lot of plan reviews with business owners and stuff like that so there will be a conference table in there for those things. The Training Officer and Inspector have offices and the Chief's office is in the corner," said Pursell.

The crews are currently working on putting in ceiling tiles and

cabinetry and there is more cement to be poured outside as the weather warms up. The Fire Department also has a hiring process going on, they still need to fill the Chief position which was left vacant with a retirement last fall, as well as hire several new fire fighters to fill the positions of those retiring now.

"It's coming along, we still have a lot of fine detail stuff. It's going to give us a lot more room. It's big, it looks massive but it's very functional," said Pursell. "We're excited, it'll be nice. We're excited about being in this area, close to the post office, close to the police department, close to PJs flowers and yoga and everything else, there's a lot right here. We're excited about being a part of that."

Construction crews work on the rig room for the new Del City Fire Station and headquarters on Epperly Drive.

-Photos by Tonya Little

