

Senior housing looking to expand

Vintage Senior Living hopes for Council OK

By CLINTON THOMAS
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A neighborhood geared toward senior citizens is poised for growth in eastern St. Joseph.

The City Council will hold public hearings for two ordinances Monday to allow Vintage Senior Living to expand its campus at the intersection of Woodbine and Karnes roads.

The new development would add 11 one-floor villas, along an assisted living facility for active seniors, plus new recreational features for the neighborhood. The expansion would

be similar to Vintage Gardens North & South and The Villas at Vintage Oaks, located on the west side of Woodbine Road, across from the proposed development.

"We're sticking with what we know," said Joe Freudenthal, owner of Vintage Senior Living.

Eight of the new villas will be two-bedroom homes identical to the 22 constructed across the street in 2004. The other three will be deluxe models with a third bedroom and a walk-out basement.

A two-story assisted living facility — Village Gardens East — will

mirror the Village Gardens North and South buildings built in 2000 and 2002, respectively.

While housing demand has declined in some sectors in recent months, Mr. Freudenthal said seniors still need housing options.

"We've actually been wanting to expand for a couple of years," Mr. Freudenthal said. "We are at capacity, and we have a waiting list to get in."

The expansion would add perks for existing residents as well. The first floor of Village Gardens East will contain a heated swimming pool, a clubhouse for active seniors who live in the villas, a wellness center, and other community features. An outdoor park area will turn an existing pond into a spot for fishing, complete with a shelter house and walking trails.

The company also plans to move its offices — which currently are off-site — to the campus.

Pending council approval, Mr. Freudenthal said he hopes to put the project up for bids in December, then start construction when weather permits. The new campus is expected to open 12 to 15 months from the start of construction.

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