

Spring opening planned for Belmont's CityRec Center

Ted Hall

For Gaston Gazette

A recreation center has been on the city of Belmont's future projects wish list for many years, and the wait could be over this spring. June is the current target for opening a new 45,000-square-foot facility, appropriately named CityRec Center, with three basketball courts and lots more.

Belmont Parks & Recreation Director

Zip Stowe updated Belmont Rotarians recently on progress at the CityRec Center, which is being built at a cost of more than \$13 million on Catawba Street in front of the Belmont CityWorks administration and public works building and across the street from Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park.

"We have more than 250 kids in basketball now and more than 600 in soccer," Stowe said. "This recreation center has been needed for years."

The CityRec Center is expected to provide an economic boost for area hotels, shops and restaurants by attracting families to visit for weekend basketball, volleyball and other tournaments.

In addition to basketball courts, the CityRec Center will include pickleball courts, indoor soccer, a play unit for children, a gaming room, a walking track, a concessions café, a large meeting room for up to 90, a balcony overlooking the Catawba River for up to 50

and a smaller meeting room for up to 20. The meeting spaces will be available for rent.

Belmont residents will have free access to the CityRec Center, but there will be a fee for programs and events for all who register. A membership fee schedule is being developed for non-residents.

A large, colorful mural will be one of

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Illustration shows how the entrance will look at Belmont's new CityRec Center.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY BELMONT ROTARY CLUB

Rec center

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the first things visitors see in the lobby, and tables and comfortable chairs will be provided along with some free-

standing exercise equipment.

A new skate park completed last year is located behind the new center in an area that's becoming known as the city of Belmont Recreation Campus.

Ted Hall is a member of Belmont Rotary.