

Film scout: Belmont is prime backdrop for the big, little screen

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Belmont has all of the qualities to attract film production crews, movie stars and the jobs and dollars that come with them, film location scout and production manager Wende Whitus told Belmont Rotarians recently.

“Downtown Belmont has that All-American feel, people are friendly, there are many beautiful homes and a lot of variety,” she said. “You may be seeing more filming in Belmont.”

Whitus has worked on two recent film projects in Belmont. Scenes were shot for the film “Gigi & Nate” at Stowe Manor and downtown last year, and just a few weeks ago, actors and production

crews were shooting for a television series called “Blue Ridge” on downtown streets, at the City Hall building, the former middle school and nearby at a house on Hill Street.

Rotarian Sam Stowe, who owned Stowe Manor at the time of the filming there, invited Whitus to speak at the Rotary club meeting.

She showed a trailer for the “Gigi &

Nate” film, which had a short run in theaters and now is available on streaming services. Based on a true story, it tells of a young man, who tragically becomes a quadriplegic, and the small service monkey that makes a major difference in his life.

A highlight of the filming here was

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shooting a large party scene at Stowe Manor involving about 200 local teens as extras. Whitus said scenes for “Gigi & Nate” were shot in many North Carolina locations including Charlotte, Saluda, Raleigh, Statesville and others.

Whitus works as a freelancer in conjunction locally with the Charlotte Regional Film Commission. She says movie and television production is growing again in North Carolina since the state partially restored some tax incentives that were eliminated several years ago resulting in most of the business going to other states.

“The film industry creates jobs and brings a lot of dollars into the state,” she said. She encouraged Rotarians to contact the Charlotte Regional Film Commission if they have homes, buildings or other locations that might be used for a film. Owners are compensated for use of their property.

For more information on the subject, and to list your property for consideration, go to www.charlottefilm.com.



Freelance film scout and production manager Wende Whitus, shown with Rotarian Sam Stowe, says Belmont has all of the qualities necessary to attract more filmmakers to bring jobs and dollars here. PHOTO PROVIDED BY TED HALL.