

A look at residential, industrial growth in Lowell

Ted Hall

Special to The Gazette

Growth is coming to Lowell and city leaders are planning now for the Lowell of tomorrow.

Lowell City Manager Scott Attaway briefed Belmont Rotarians recently on residential and industrial projects that already have expanded the city limits and boosted the city's tax base, and he said more growth is anticipated.

"The annexation in 2021 of property for the 407-home Spencer Ridge com-

munity added one square mile to the size of the city," he said.

Three more residential projects will mean almost 230 more townhomes and 105 single-family homes.

Industrial growth also is coming in the Northpoint Gateway 85 project, where massive distribution centers are being built, and some of those businesses pay property taxes to the city of Lowell. Newell Brands occupies the largest of the centers in the project at 1.5 million square feet.

Attaway said Lowell is preparing for

growth through a master planning process for the Main Street and Highway 7 areas. A conceptual plan showing what a future downtown Lowell might look like has been created.

Lowell's preparations for the future include planning for a new public works building, upgrades to current recreation facilities and additional greenways and parks including a future 17-acre river park with a kayak launch, fishing pier, playground, skate park, volleyball court, amphitheater and more.

A Gaston County native and Ash-

brook High School graduate, Attaway attended Gaston College. He has a bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University and is working toward a master's degree in public administration at UNC Charlotte. He has worked a total of seven years for the city of Lowell, serving previously as planning director before being named city manager in 2020.

During his comments, Attaway recognized Belmont Rotarian Dr. Gary

See LOWELL, Page 2A

Lowell

Continued from Page 1A

McCord who made available to the city property on Main Street his family has owned for generations. After improving the site by adding walkways, trees, landscaping and a covered stage area, a barbecue cookoff and live music drew a large crowd and marked the grand opening this spring of **McCord Family Park**, where community gatherings of all types will be possible.

Rotary is an international service organization with 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries. "Service Above Self" is the Rotary motto. Rotarians work together to promote peace, fight disease, support education, grow local economies and protect the environment.

Belmont Rotary Club, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2025, meets for lunch and a program on local topics each Wednesday, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church in



Lowell City Manager Scott Attaway (left) with Belmont Rotarian Gary McCord, who hosted the program, and who Attaway recognized for making available for a park property he owns on Main Street in Lowell.

PROVIDED BY TED HALL

Belmont. Guests interested in learning more about local businesses and issues and how Rotary serves the community are welcome. For more information, visit www.belmontrotaryclub.com.