

\$20 million expansion will bring expanded services, amenities to Richland Country Club

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Photo: The Richland Country Club clubhouse, which overlooks the golf course. Courtesy of Richland Country Club

By LANDON WOODROOF

Ensnconced in a tree-wrapped hideaway just outside Brentwood's city limits, Richland Country Club has been one of the area's premier membership destinations for decades.

The club's rich traditions trace all the way back to 1901. While history is highlighted throughout the club, whether it be in the display cases containing Civil War-era artifacts found on the grounds or the large wooden plaques bearing the names of every single past club president, that does not mean that **Richland Country Club** does not also strive to keep up with the times.

As a result, the club is in the midst of a \$20 million expansion that will significantly increase the size of some of its most popular facilities. Construction is already underway on a new two-story fitness center and a larger pool and lounge area. The coming months will see a renovation and redecoration of much of the rest of the club, including the kitchen.

"It's the largest renovation we've ever done," Chris Brown, Richland's director of membership, marketing and communications, said.

He is hopeful the project will make the club more attractive not only to longtime members, but also to a younger audience of members and prospective members.

"It just was time for a redo," he said.

General Manager and COO Geary Leathers said the extensive project is another sign of the club's longstanding efforts to make the club as good as it can be for its members.

"The club has a longstanding track record of continual improvements to its facilities, and this is quite momentous," Leathers said.

He said the project should ensure the club can meet the needs of its members for the next 25 years or so.

The project started in August and will be broken up into different phases of construction and renovation.

"We have phased the improvements continuously over an 18-month period to provide for the least amount of member and guest disruption," Leathers said.

The club will remain open throughout the project, although certain dining rooms will be closed for stretches of time while they are being worked on.

The first phase involves the construction of the new pool and fitness center, as well as some renovation work to the tennis center and remodeling and renovation of part of the clubhouse.

As it currently stands, Richland's fitness center takes up a large room on the ground floor of the clubhouse. The new two-story center is being constructed right next to the clubhouse and will provide a whole different experience for members.

The fitness center will have all new, state-of-the-art equipment on the top floor and classrooms on the first floor. Those classrooms will "greatly improve the look and feel and usability" of the facility, Brown said.

The new swimming pool will be larger than the old one and will feature an expanded lounge area where kids and younger families can hang out. A new poolside bar and grill will also give members additional options if they get hungry or thirsty.

Rounding out the pool expansion is a new climbing wall and sports court adjacent to the pool.

Brown said the new pool area should be complete by Memorial Day, while the fitness center should be up and running by early July.



An illustration showing the layout of the club's new fitness center and pool area.



This is what the new fitness center will look like when its complete.

As far as the tennis center is concerned, a new deck, locker rooms and pro shop are being built there. That work should also be done in early July.

The other part of phase will add a brand new kitchen to the clubhouse. Between January and April 2018, when this phase is being worked on, mobile kitchens will provide food service at the club.

Several dining rooms and other parts of the clubhouse will also get a new look during this first phase. That means new furniture, new flooring, new fixtures and more.

The second phase of the renovation will see the expansion of some dining rooms and the relocation of the clubhouse's golf pro shop. The club's most popular dining area, the Waxo room, will expand into the current pro shop space. That phase should last from May 2018 to roughly the end of the year.

The final phase is the one dealing with the ground floor of the clubhouse. The existing fitness center will be divided in two, with one half dedicated to child care and the other housing golf simulators. That should wrap up some time in early 2019.

Richland Country Club's golf course is not part of this project because "we're always improving the golf course," Brown said.

Overall, the intention of the project is not to change the nature of Richland Country Club. Rather, the club's staff and board just want to ensure that Richland stays ahead of the curve in terms of what it offers its members.

"It's a historic private club in a great location with great facilities," Leathers said. The renovation is simply meant to enhance those three points.



A view from the Richland Country Club's Richland Room, which will be remodeled as part of the expansion project.



A look at the President's Room at Richland Country Club. The names of all the club's past presidents are on the wall.



Looking out onto the golf course from the club house at Richland Country Club.



The new fitness center and pool area under construction at Richland Country Club on Dec. 12.