

# 'Y' project to kick off

By JENNIFER TRANMER Staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 4:00 pm

BELOIT — Downtown Beloit is getting ever-closer to a brand new addition to the riverfront.

The Stateline Family YMCA is readying to unveil the site and renderings for its first-class Beloit branch with a ground breaking ceremony and family festival.

“This will be people’s first chance to get their eye on what will be in this space,” said Ann Hankins, executive director of operations at Stateline Family YMCA.

With only \$1 million left to raise, the YMCA is looking to the community to raise the remaining funds for the brand new facility. The Capital Campaign is set to kick off with the ground breaking ceremony on Saturday, April 9 at the Ironworks Complex off of Third Street, near the river.

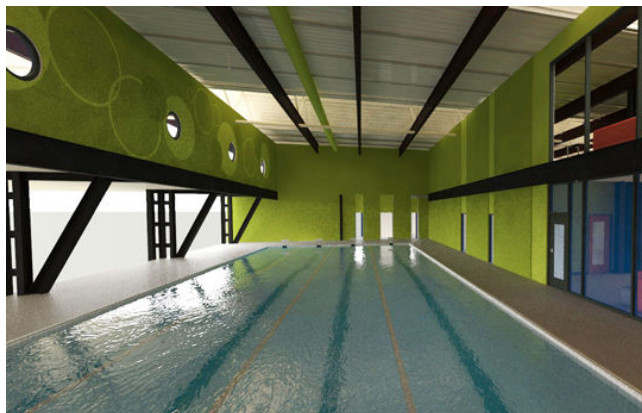
The event will feature a short ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. followed by the Hard Hat Hustle, a 5K fun run/walk, which will take participants through downtown and along the river. During and after the untimed race, there also will be tours of the site, with renderings to help the community gain insight into all the new facility will offer. The parking lot will host a variety of fun family-friendly activities, and downtown vendors will be on hand with samples of food.

“It’s springtime so we just thought it would be great to have kids and families play together, and that’s what the Y is all about,” said Doug Britt, executive director at Stateline Family YMCA.

Britt said the new YMCA is on schedule to open in February of 2017. The new 80,000-square-foot site will feature an 8,300-square-foot wellness center, a Hangout Kid’s area for youth 7 to 14, designated exercise studios, an indoor aquatics center with lap and whirl pools and a slide, child care facilities, and more. The only thing moving from the old facility to the new will be some office supplies and, of course, the people, Britt said with a smile.

The move was made official last year after Diane Hendricks donated the space and offered to take over the old site.

So far, the YMCA has raised \$8.8 million through corporate sponsors, including Regal Beloit, which



## YMCA plans

The above rendering shows what one of the pools will look like in the brand new Stateline Family YMCA Beloit Branch, which is set to open in February 2017. In addition to the cool lap pool, there will also be a warm water pool.

donated funds for the fitness center, and Kerry Ingredients, which donated funds for a kitchen and classroom space. The kitchen, Hankins said, will allow for more community education and increased partnerships with downtown businesses to promote healthy living.

“We’re excited to be in the downtown and we think that opens up a lot of programming opportunities, whether it’s walking the farmers market and bringing the food back and cooking it, there’s a lot of different fun things that we can do when we move to that new location,” Hankins said.

Hankins said the YMCA is considering how people who donate can be part of the new site, including having their name put on bricks from the original 1960s building.

Britt and Hankins said they hope the community comes out to support the YMCA in its fundraising efforts and to support the mission of promoting healthy living in the area.

“I think we’re just really excited to be part of the downtown and to continue to impact the community,” Hankins said. “I think we have a good start on that right now. But, we just feel that with the new space and different location, we’re able to affect and impact the community within the four walls of the YMCA as well as getting out even more into the community just for a healthy Stateline.”

Britt agreed.

“We’re going to have that first-class facility in Beloit for all the kids and families and it brings up that level of pride in the area,” Britt said. “It will be second to none.”

Those interested in participating in the 5K who would like a shirt must register by April 1. There will be a number of fundraising events coming up as well, including Glow-ga, a glow-in-the-dark yoga event. For a full list of these events, visit [www.statelineymca.org](http://www.statelineymca.org). Donations to the YMCA Capital Campaign can be made in person or by calling 608-365-2261.