

Redlands Boys & Girls Club, home at last

DAVID JAMES HEISS, Staff Writer – Redlands Daily Facts

Article Launched:12/10/2006 01:16:12 AM PST



An artist's rendering of the new Redlands Boy's & Girl's Club building, which is expected to be completed by next summer.

REDLANDS - On the eve of its 40th anniversary, the Boys & Girls Club of Redlands finally gets a home base to call its own.

Construction has begun on a new \$4 million clubhouse at the corner of Lugonia Avenue and Clay Street, which administrators anticipate could open next summer. The facility will encompass 9,600 square feet and include a teen center, music room, library, multipurpose room, office space, health facilities and classroom space.

The project was designed by Yucaipa-based Ray Martinez & Associates and will be built by general contractor GC Builders of Rancho Cucamonga. The building will feature a music room insulated for sound, as well as double insulation above the building's drop ceilings, and will have energy-efficient windows.

An option to add a solar panel to help with long-term electricity costs is available when the Boys & Girls Club can raise an additional \$250,000 according to Monte Stuck, chairman of the facilities committee.

"It's the first home for the Boys and Girls Club in the 40 years of our history," said chief professional officer P.T. McEwen. "We've always leased our facilities," which includes a site at the corner of Texas Street and Brockton Avenue. The Brockton site will soon provide more space for 6- to 12-year-old students, while the teens will be moved to the Clay Street facility, according to McEwen.

Boys & Girls Club co-president Ron Warren said, "Once we have a permanent home, the community will realize that we're permanent and a lot more people will notice us, and hopefully support us."

Photographs are posted almost daily of the Clay Street Clubhouse's progress, and may be viewed on the Internet at www.bgcr.org.

E-mail Staff Writer David James Heiss at dheiss@redlandsdailyfacts.com