

# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

Vol. 24 No. 29

May 7 - 13, 2010

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

## Neighborhood Revitalization at the Druid Hill Y



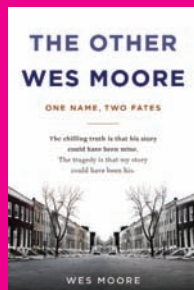
Treat Mom  
to a Special Brunch



Recipe - Page 7



**Gregory Kane**  
*Alonso, it's  
about what you  
are going to do*  
Page 2



Page 11



Druid Hill Y Family Center celebrated the completion of its four-month revitalization project on Friday, April 30, 2010 with the community and local dignitaries. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake greeted the community, Baltimore Orioles center fielder, Adam Jones, signed autographs, and children were treated to lots of fun activities such as pony rides, face and body painting and spin art. Community volunteers cleaned up the neighborhood surrounding the Druid Hill Family Center Y by planting flowers, picking up trash and creating flowerboxes for stoops throughout the neighborhood. (See article on page 16) Photos: Y of Central Maryland

# Neighborhood Revitalization at the Druid Hill Y

By Ron Kipling Williams

The Druid Hill Y Family Center celebrated the completion of a four-month revitalization project on Friday, April 30, 2010.

Local dignitaries, Druid Hill Y officials and community activists came together for food, entertainment and to bask in the glow of a dream come to fruition.

"This Y means so much to the community," said Maryland State Senator Verna L. Jones, who is also a member. "Thank you for the next step."

Sen. Jones presented the Y with both a citation and a check for \$65,000 as a reward for the work the local community center has done for 120 years.

"The Y has been the staple of the community," said Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. "It will continue to be the lynchpin of the community for years to come."

Baltimore Orioles centerfielder Adam Jones was on hand to sign t-shirts and show his support. "It's great to see," said Jones, who grew up in the Y in San Diego, California.

When John Hoey arrived on the scene four years ago as the Y of Central Maryland president & CEO, he conducted a tour of the Druid Hill Y. "The place was depressing," said Hoey. "There is no rea-



Wilhelm Commercial Builders working on the Druid Hill Y building as a part of the four-month revitalization project.

Courtesy photos

son that when people walk through the door that it is nothing but impressive."

Earlier this year at the 35th annual breakfast commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Y board members made a commitment to revitalize the facility.

Perry P. Savoy, a 13-year volunteer, Head Start Policy Committee member and Committee Chair for the breakfast, led the effort. He assembled a team that drew \$200,000 in monetary donations and an additional \$100,000 in in-kind donations.

"Once we got the companies in here we

knew they would get it," said Hoey.

All State Floors and Construction Inc. and Floors Etc. donated the bulk of the materials, while Wilhelm Commercial Builders did most of the flooring with the Michael Group doing the majority of the installations.

In fact, several other contributors have come from areas outside of Baltimore City.

The Y has almost a completely new overhaul, with a new gymnasium floor, a refurbished computer room with 25 computer modules and a new child care room and main lounge area. "It was a powerful experience," said Savoy.

BB&T Bank, Bank of America and other partners collaborated on the community cleanup the week of April 26—installing flower pots, planting flowers and cleaning up trash from the street as well as from the green space across from the facility.

The project is far from over—new lobby furniture, new locker rooms, adjustable bas-

ketball backboards and a new teen center is in order—but the entire complexion of the environment has changed, which is critical for the approximately 5,000 persons who take advantage of what the center has to offer every year—from swimming classes to community meetings to services for the homeless.

According to Hoey, it is also the hub for all of the work that the Y of Central Maryland does with at-risk youth in the city.

"When the kids come through, I want them to [have] something really nice, [and to know] that (a) people care and (b) this is what this place should look like—nice, modern and here for you," said Hoey.

Other major partners in the Druid Hill Y Family Center's revitalization project include Whiting Turner, AEGON, Johns Hopkins University, Peristyle Collaborative Design and Development and the Golfer's Charitable Association.

## Bluford Drew Jemison Academy

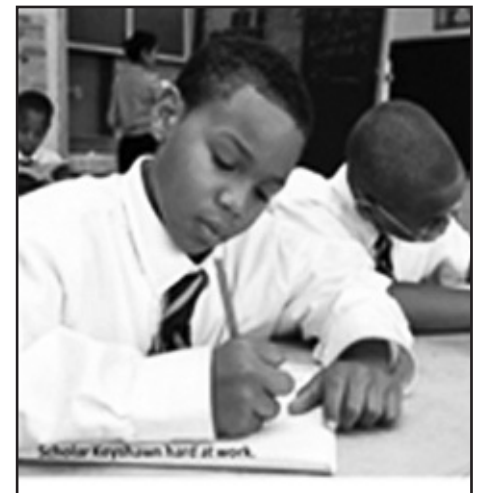
### 3RD ANNUAL H.O.P.E. CELEBRATION

MAY 27, 2010

6PM - 8:30PM

REGINALD F. LEWIS  
MUSEUM OF MARYLAND  
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY  
830 PRATT STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD

\$75/ PER PERSON



SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS

### WET BASEMENTS STINK !!

Mold, mildew and water leakage into your basement causes health and foundation damage. What can be done to fix the problem? Allstate American Waterproofing is an honest, hardworking local company. We will give you a **FREE** evaluation and estimate and a fair price. We have repaired thousands of basements in the area; we can provide local references. When your neighbors needed waterproofing, they called Allstate American. Why don't you? Call now to receive a 20% discount with your **FREE ESTIMATE**. MHIC#36672

**CALL 1 800 420 7783 NOW!**

### Corolla, NC Vacation Homes!

**Brindley Beach**  
VACATIONS & SALES

Over 500 Vacation Homes from Duck to Corolla, Oceanfront to Soundfront, Private Pools, Hot Tubs, Pets and More...

Book Online at [www.brindleybeach.com](http://www.brindleybeach.com)  
**1-877-64-BEACH**

"SERVICE FIRST... FUN ALWAYS!"