

THE LIGHT at the CORNER

of Mills & Carver



The Value of Community Centers *To the City and the County*

Community Centers are local gems, managed and directed by their individual communities. They preserve their cultural heritage, music and traditions, share meals, take care of their neighbors and provide a wide variety of programs, both social and educational, that create a shared sense of belonging and of community. This ultimately strengthens the social, cultural and economic vibrancy of each place.

Centers are public locations where neighborhood people tend to gather for group activities, social support, public information and other purposes.

The Mary C. Jenkins Community Center originally existed primarily to serve the Rosenwald Community. For these City of Brevard residents it was an important multi-generational educational, social and recreational center. The Board of Directors and the City of Brevard both feel that rebuilding this facility can certainly contribute to the neighborhood's revitalization and economic development. The Center wants to expand its service offerings and operate a building that meets the needs of both the young and the old and everyone in between. Multi-purpose programming will help to maintain a high quality of life and to establish an even stronger community.

Center Director.....Tyree Griffin

We are thrilled to announce that Tyree has been hired to lead our administrative team. Originally from Brevard he has returned home and is very excited about this opportunity to give back to his community. He brings both youth and very creative ideas to the table and the Board of Directors looks forward to supporting and assisting him in making this Center even better than we have imagined.

Why Was the Building Burned Down?

This question has been asked many times, so let's clear things up.

A Structural Evaluation of the building was done in 2007. In 2011 a grant was written by T.C.I.O./MCJCC asking for funds to support a renovation of the building. Envision Associates, Inc. were hired to evaluate the structure. Their conclusion was that it was not feasible to use the building in its current state and the development of a new facility was needed to maintain its high quality of life and its ability to establish an even stronger community. In 2015 Harris Architects analyzed possible renovations of the building, compared those to the cost of replacement and made recommendations. "It was found that the existing building (1952) was in poor condition, needed extensive repairs and alterations to correct structural problems, meet code requirements and replace systems and finishes." It was

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determined that costs were comparable between renovation and construction and that there was a higher risk of unknown conditions and higher costs for future maintenance in renovation, so replacement was recommended. Over multiple years, every report said the same thing. Throughout this process, everyone involved appreciated the value of the building's historic significance to the community and it was recommended in a City Council meeting that a new building reflect the old.

Those of us who are not familiar with engineering and architectural concerns should know that after sitting for a few additional years, these problems continued to be a bigger concern. When we were cleaning out the community center for the last time, it was clear that the floor was about to cave in and already had 2 extensive holes as did the ceiling/roof. You can then think about asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint, rats that were living in one of the pianos, mold, mildew and soaking wet carpeting near the bathrooms.

The committee had extensive discussions about how to remove the building and the thought of taking it down piece by piece felt painful. The main reason really would be the risk that people were taking of being exposed to something or hurting themselves while taking it down. The Fire Department also thought that burning it would be safer, cleaner and easier to dispose of what remained.



It will not be long before we will be walking into a beautiful, clean and well-equipped building. It will be an exciting day and one that has been a long time coming.

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Construction Update

- The bathroom wall tiling is completed. Floors are next.
- Ceiling tiles will be started this week.
- Outside painting is happening.
- Landscaping has begun.
- Flooring should go down in the Community Room next week.
- Sidewalks have almost been completed to Mills Avenue. Note that the bottom part is 10' wide. If you look up Mills Avenue, you will see it narrow. This is where it connects and becomes the bike/hike path that will continue across the parking lot and head to the Tannery property.
- Scott Sullivan from 3Oak, a store across from the Library is making us a beautiful conference table and is now also doing a live edge counter top for the cabinets at one end of the Conference Room.
- Kitchen walls have been installed. They are different from wallboard and can be easily cleaned.
- Wiring has been finished for the audiovisual system that will go in the Community Room.

**MCJCC - Multi-purpose, Multi-cultural
& Multi-generational**