

## **Ross Boddy Center Gets a Face-lift**

### **Future renovations to be explored**

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Local community groups are working in tandem to keep renovation projects at the Ross Boddy Community Center going.

An outside paint job, new carpet, security lighting, refurbished athletic fields and a new kitchen stove are just a few of the upgrades that have been completed at the Sandy Spring center since the summer.

Community groups also have a spruced-up conference room with new modular furniture to hold meetings in, and a movable handicap access ramp for the stage area is planned.

The renovations came just in time for Sandy Spring residents to celebrate community day at the center, located at 18529 Brooke Road, on Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. Rain or shine, families will be able to enjoy games, vendors, give-aways and a moonbounce. The event also will feature live music and a disc jockey. Center director Wilbert Givens said these are the most improvements made to Ross Boddy in the 11 years that he has worked there.

The Sandy Spring Civic Association and Ross Boddy Advisory Committee, which reports to Givens and the county what it would like to see at the center, were the main entities to get things moving, he said. "They went to the right sources," he said.

Meetings with Jeffrey Bourne, a division chief at the county recreation department, proved beneficial.

The selection process for a consultant who will review more comprehensive renovation or rebuilding prospects for the center is nearly complete, according to a brief September report from Mid-County Recreation Advisory Board. Public meetings to address future plans for Ross Body will be scheduled for late fall or early winter. "We have been making progress and we're continuing to make progress," civic association president Joy Turner said.

**Action In Montgomery, a coalition of county religious congregations, also has been credited with trying to improve conditions at the center.**

**"They are pushing for funds to be put in the County Council budget to be allocated to the recreation center," said Christine Hill Wilson, chair of the civic association's Ross Boddy committee and member of the Ross Boddy Advisory Committee.**