

## New Early Education Center Coming to Amani in July

With the stresses and demands of life, raising young children is more challenging than ever. For adults, having access to support networks and engaged child care experts can help to reduce those stresses. It is also an important component in raising young children who are ready for school and life-long achievement.

In an effort to provide quality child care to the Amani Community, COA will be opening a new Early Education Center at the COA Goldin Center. This facility is slated to open its doors in Summer 2015. The program will be Youngstar quality and based on the successful five-star, nationally accredited model used at COA's Riverwest Center. The program will be licensed for up to 116 children, ages six weeks through six years.

Employment opportunities will also be available soon! Qualifications for an assistant teacher are 12 credits in Infant and Toddler care. For example: The Infant/Toddler credential through MATC or a CDA from 4 Cs. Lead teacher qualifications include an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Development. More information will be coming in the next month. In the meantime, if you have questions, please call COA's Early Education Director at (414) 263-8383 ext. 123.



Image of the proposed Center provided by Groth Design Architects

# Community Happenings

All events take place at the COA Goldin Center, 2320 W. Burleigh Street unless otherwise noted *in italics*

### MARCH

Tuesday, March 3, 10, 17 and 31: Community Leadership Training Program, 5:00-8:30 p.m.,  
*Coffee Makes You Black, 2830 N. Teutonia*

Learn how you can contribute to the success of our community. For information, contact Tunisia Sims at (414) 255-6202 or [tmsims@chw.org](mailto:tmsims@chw.org).

Friday, March 6: No MPS Student Attendance, Parent/Teacher Conferences

Friday, March 6: COA MPS Off Day Program Hours: Pre-Teen, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Teens, 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 24: Amani United Meeting, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Friday, March 27: NO COA YOUTH PROGRAMMING

### APRIL

Tuesday, April 7: Spring Elections, 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 3-Friday, April 10: MPS Spring Break, Schools Closed

Friday, April 3-Friday, April 10: COA Spring Break Program Hours: Pre-Teens, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Teens, 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 17: Community Fun Night, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public. Dinner, resources, games, raffles and more!

Friday, April 24: NO COA YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Tuesday, April 28: Amani United Meeting, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

### MAY

Monday, May 25: Memorial Day—MPS & COA Goldin Center Closed

Tuesday, May 26: Amani United Meeting, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Friday, May 29: NO COA YOUTH PROGRAMMING

### Youth Development Calendar Information

Mondays-Fridays: Pre-teens, 2:30-6:00 p.m.; Teens, 3:00-8:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 12:00-4:00 p.m. (closed the fourth Saturday of each month)

### Ethel Nutis Gill Family Resource Center Calendar Information

Wednesday and Thursdays: Drop In Time, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Fridays: Drop In Time, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Thursday Mornings: Job Search (Appointment Needed), 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Fridays: Job Search (Walk In), 8:30-11:00 a.m.



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# Amani United

Issue 6: March 2015

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## Resident Engagement Up, Crime Down 31.5% in Amani

By Tom Schneider  
Executive Director—COA Youth & Family Centers

Over the past two years, there has been a 31.5% reduction in crime in Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood. There were 283 fewer crimes in 2014 compared to 2012. Although crime in the entire City of Milwaukee decreased 9.7% over the past two years, the 31.5% reduction of crime in the Amani neighborhood far outpaced the rest of the City. In 2012, Amani accounted for 2% of the City's crime; in 2013 Amani accounted for 1.75% of the crime; and in 2014 Amani accounted for 1.5% of the crime.

During this same period, Amani has seen an increase in resident engagement and available community services. Residents in the area created the Amani United Neighborhood Association, created block watch groups, helped plan the new Moody Park, and held neighborhood cleanups. Community gardens were created, voter registration efforts increased the number of people going to the polls, and the Painting with a Purpose project beautified boarded-up properties. At COA's Goldin Center, Amani has also seen an expansion of daily youth programs, a new pediatric and family clinic, a new Family Resource Center, and regular family events.

Amani United President Arlene Patterson stated, "Amani neighbors are more aware of keeping their neighborhood safe, and the Milwaukee Police Department has a presence in Amani to keep crime out. We in Amani will keep the Peace!"

Overall crime dropped in almost every category: 80% decrease in arson (-80%), criminal damage (-51%), theft (-46%), assault (-28%), burglary (-28%), robbery (-27%), and sexual assault (25%). But in one important category—homicide—there was no significant change with four homicides in 2012, three in 2013, and four in 2014. Residents and community leaders are all agreed that now is the time to double our efforts to continue reducing crime and especially eliminate homicides.

Sister Patricia Rogers, Executive Director of the Dominican Center for Women stated, "When residents know their voice counts good things can happen. The Amani voice is just warming up."



## Amani United News Contributing Board

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## Partner Organizations

Amani United  
Brighter Futures  
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Marquette University  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Northwestern Mutual  
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## Remembering Calvin C. Moody, Amani History

By Pepper Ray

Amani BNCP Coordinator—Dominican Center for Women



It has been years since Moody pool has been in operation. Since its closure, there has been a disconnect with the history of Calvin C. Moody.

Born in 1904 and a native of Peoria, IL, Calvin C. Moody and his brother first visited Milwaukee as members of the Peoria Central High School track team. Upon graduation he attended the University of Iowa. However, attending school during the Great Depression forced him to withdraw and seek employment. Moody decided to come to Milwaukee to look for work and he enrolled at the Milwaukee State Teachers college. After gaining part-time work as a sweat shop operator then later as a postal clerk, Moody continued to advance himself by taking various employment examinations, including the police exam. Many obstacles were present, as they would be for any person of color trying to better his or herself during this period of time.

With steel persistence and determination, in 1932 Moody was hired as a beat parole officer. He served on the Milwaukee Police force for 25 years and became one of the first African-American detectives in 1949 along with Lonnie Spencer. After his police work he became a bail bondsman and bailed out many civil rights protestors during the 1960s at no profit to himself. In 1964, during his retirement, Moody and Isaac Coggs became the first African-Americans to serve on the Milwaukee County Board. Moody was a County Supervisor for eight years. In 1968, he and Coggs had to run against each other and Moody won. Also in the same year he was appointed the County Board's representative on the County Park Commission. He was the first African-American appointed to serve in that capacity.

Moody was a board member of the NAACP, the Milwaukee Urban League, Columbia Savings & Loans and the director of the Northside YMCA, all of which are still open and in operation today speaking to the sustainability that he helped to create in this area. He was a Northside neighborhood resident who knew the problems well and made an honest effort to address them.

In 1974, Calvin C. Moody died of cancer at the age of 70. Surviving him was his wife of 29 years, Onelia, and daughter Patricia Crockett. Eight years after his death, in 1982, the County Board of Supervisors named the pool and park at 22nd and Burleigh Street in his honor for being one of the African-American pioneers of Milwaukee.

The new Calvin C. Moody Park is anticipated to open in 2015. This space will offer Amani residents community gardens, walking paths, a splash pad, sports areas, picnic spaces, a community building and more. If you would like to learn more about the plans for this park, please get involved in Amani United. The next Amani United Meeting is Tuesday, March 24 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the COA Goldin Center.

## Someone You Should Know: Principal Felice Beal

By Denzel Sloan

Teen Participant—COA Youth & Family Centers



For six years Felice Beal has been the loving principal running Auer Avenue School, and before that she served as an Assistant Principal. She began her career as a teacher. For several years she was an amazing teacher at Benjamin Franklin School where she taught first through sixth grade students. Where could someone like her have come from?

Ms. Beal moved around a lot as a young girl which gave her many experiences in the world. She spent most of her time in the Atlanta and Memphis areas, so she's more *Southern than City*. She always thought about teaching, even as a child. She produced plays and created classes for her parents to attend. After her childhood days passed and she grew older, she attended the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. She loved accounting but later discovered her passion for teaching and her love of children so she stepped into the education field. Her dream, which has now come true, was to have her own school, teach parents and give them the tools needed to teach students.

So with that being said, Ms. Beal is definitely someone you should know.

*Are you looking for fun and engaging summer activities for your child?* COA Youth & Family Centers offers a wide-array of youth programs including Day Camps and Overnight Camp.

COA's Goldin Center Day Camp begins on Monday, June 22. To register your child, please call (414) 449-1757.

If you are interested in an overnight camp experience for your child, consider COA's popular Camp Helen Brachman which offers 6 or 13-day sessions beginning Sunday, June 21. For more information, call our Registrar at (414) 263-8383 or register online at [www.coa-yfc.org](http://www.coa-yfc.org). Spaces fill quickly, so enroll your child today!

## Community Arts: Malcolm McCrae

By Jermaine Howard

Auer Avenue CLC/Pre-Teen Program Coordinator—COA Youth & Family Centers



Malcolm McCrae, better know as "Airbrush Assassin" is a full-time artist, educator, speaker and author that embraces creativity and art as a lifestyle. He has been a leading airbrush artist for over 15 years, producing a number of instructional videos and books. Recently he launched his highly anticipated Assassins Art Academy, revolutionizing online training courses tailored to each students needs.

As a self-taught artist, Malcolm remembers how difficult it was for him in the beginning—not having any books or instructional products that taught how to be a successful urban artist and grow a business. Malcolm is working to change that for the next generation of artists. He has made his presence felt at the COA Goldin Center through a partnership with Milwaukee Public Theater.

Malcolm has been working with the youth at COA and helping them express their talents through drawing. Some of the youth have been tracing and mimicking his style, but he encourages young people to express their own goals through art. Currently he is working with the youth on art panels that will be designed, airbrushed and then displayed in COA's Preteen Room. In addition, the youth worked on a piece of art that was auctioned off at COA's 2015 Hollywood Gala fundraiser.