

Dedication For The New C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Public Library Is May 26th

BY GWEN HAYES
Sentinel Editor

In just over a week, the Dedication of the new C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Public Library will take place during Memorial Day Weekend. Hillsborough County Leaders and the **Andrews Family** invite the public to join them. The Dedication is on Sunday, May 26, 2019, at 2 p. m. The library is located at 2607 E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

The doors to the previous library were closed two years ago this month and services, on an amended basis, were transferred to Cyrus Greene Community Center, and patrons were encouraged to use other area libraries.

The **Andrews Family** has been working closely with **Andrew Breidenbaugh**, Director of Library Services for Hillsborough County, and the Librarian for C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Public Library, **Ms. Raishra Bailey**.

The new building will be two stories and feature a grand staircase, meeting rooms, patio space, a café, computer labs, and space devoted to the digital archives of the *Florida Sentinel Bulletin* newspaper.

One of the outstanding features of the building is that



Rendering of the new C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Branch Public Library. (Photo courtesy Fleishman Garcia)

the meeting rooms open out to the patio area, which is positioned right off of landscaping surrounding a large tree on the grounds.

Mr. Andrews' widow, **Mrs. Gloria A. Andrews** said, "The C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Public Library is a legacy for the **Andrews Family**. Our family is eternally grateful to the Hillsborough County leaders for bestowing such a magnificent honor to **Mr. Andrews.**"

Ms. Sybil Andrews, daughter of **C. Blythe Andrews, Jr.**, and Publisher of the *Sentinel*, credits **Breidenbaugh** with the smooth transition. She said, "**Andrew** has very much been attentive to details. A lot of the details were as a result of his direction. He wanted to make it the best in the Library Sys-

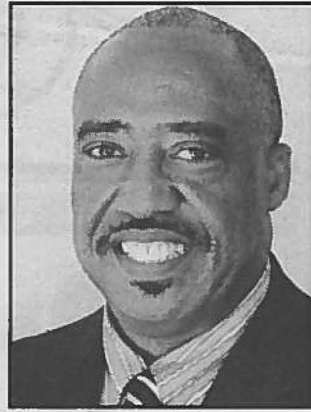
tem. He was involved from blueprints to final construction and completion. He met with the **Andrews Family** several times to discuss plans for the library."

Florida Sentinel Bulletin President, **C. Blythe Andrews, III**, said of the new facility, "It's breathtaking! It's a blessing from God and it's a beautiful thing to see."

Bishop Thomas Scott was among those instrumental in making sure the funding needed for the rebuilding was in place. He said, "The re-opening of the C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Library represents a monument and marker of a great humanitarian. It is a reminder of the leadership that has historically been in the City of Tampa. I will be there for the opening, and I'm looking forward to it."



Andrew Breidenbaugh
...Director of Library Services



BISHOP THOMAS SCOTT



COMM. KEN HAGAN

Hillsborough County Commissioners **Ken Hagan** (D-2) and **Lesley "Les" Miller** (D-5) worked together to ensure that the C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Library was rebuilt.

Commissioner Hagan said: "It is a fitting tribute that we will soon celebrate the grand re-opening of the C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Library. **Mr. Andrews** was a remarkable man who cared very deeply for our community. This was evident by his involvement in so many organizations and critically important issues. **Mr. Andrews** will forever be remembered as a kind and gentle man who helped so many people realize opportunities for a better life. It was my honor to rename the College Hill Library after **C. Blythe Andrews, Jr.**"

Commissioner Miller said: "The completion of the new C. Blythe Andrews, Jr.



COMM. LES MILLER

Library in the heart of East Tampa represents a milestone for this community. There is so much energy and potential in the surrounding neighborhoods.

"This completely rebuilt and vastly expanded library represents Hillsborough County's ongoing commitment to serve the people of East Tampa with outstanding facilities and programs that will help them unlock new opportunities to improve their lives and the lives of their friends and neighbors."

"This facility is cutting edge. It has a recording studio, computer lab, children's area, *The Florida Sentinel Bulletin* Collection media archive, and much more. These amenities will allow residents, young and old, to realize their full potential, strengthen East Tampa's rich cultural fabric, improve lives, and continue to grow prosperity in this community."