

Would you ride Central Florida Breeze? B3

Local News

Belle Isle has sights on own police force, B2



CENTRAL FLORIDA YMCA

A rendering of the first phase of expansion planned at the 13,000-member Downtown Orlando YMCA.

# YMCA THRIVES IN LEAN TIMES

By KATE SANTICH || SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

At a time when most nonprofit organizations are struggling, the Central Florida YMCA is booming. In one year alone, the Y has bankrolled about \$10 million for three projects, including a major renovation and expansion at its downtown Orlando center that officially broke ground Wednesday.

## Growing all over

### Downtown Orlando YMCA

Two phases planned. The first, to cost \$3.5 million, includes a new 2-story, 7,000-square-foot fitness tower, 45 more parking spaces and expanded locker rooms. 13,000 members.

### Dr. P. Phillips YMCA

Completed phase 1, a \$2.7 million renovation that added a 2,500-square-foot multipurpose room, 2,000-square-foot socializing area, new entry and new bathhouse. Still to come: new pool and expanded wellness area. 10,500 members.

### Roper YMCA in Winter Garden

Newly completed \$3.25 million renovation tripled the Y's size, adding a 4,000-square-foot wellness center, a full-size gymnasium, new locker rooms with saunas and a new teen center. 8,500 members.

## Know your Y's

Here's a look at the Central Florida YMCA by the numbers.

- **The impact:** "People forget that our mission isn't just about wellness," says Cynthia Allen Smith, the Y's development officer. "It's bringing people together. Some of our seniors tell us that's the reason they get up out of bed in the morning — to come here."
- **Founded:** 1885.
- **How many:** 27 Y centers in 6 Central Florida counties.
- **Size:** 9th-largest in the nation.
- **Used by:** 200,000 kids and adults each year.
- **Star rating from watchdog organization Charity Navigator:** 4 — the highest possible — for the past 6 years.
- **Youth scholarship fundraising:** \$3 million in 2007.

Kate Santich can be reached at 407-420-5503 or ksantich@orlandosentinel.com.

