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## **Richmond Hill YMCA to move new facility**

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The Richmond Hill YMCA soon will move to a new 10,000-square-foot building that will feature a fitness area almost one-half the size of the entire building.

"We signed the lease this morning and are now working with the developer (Lamar Smith) to put together plans that will move us from the St. Joseph's/Candler building, where we have been for more than 10 years, to the new facility by the first of next year," said Joel Smoker, YMCA of Coastal Georgia vice president of operations.

The new facility will be located in Ford Park, a commercial development near the intersection of Ga. 144 and Interstate 95.

In addition to the expanded fitness area, the new facility will include features such as a community room that can be used for meetings as well as exercise classes, two locker rooms with showers and a youth area with games for children.

"Over the last two years, the YMCA has made it a priority of our mission to address youth obesity," Smoker said. "Georgia children have been identified as the third-most obese in the nation."

Smoker said programs such as Mother's Morning Out and others will be added to Richmond Hill YMCA's current curriculum when the new facility opens.

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