

Westview Master Plan: Then and Now

See Something, Say Something

Meet the Wills

How the Media Misses in SW Atlanta



Remembering the Past. Creating the Future.

# WESTVIEW *neighbor*

Jan/Feb  
2013

## Planning for the Future

*What the Westview Master Plan Means for You* by Patrick Berry

### What Is a Master Plan?

A master plan is a document that defines a variety of goals and projects related to the future growth of a particular area. These projects cover neighborhood concerns such as transportation, housing, economic development, zoning and green space. The City of Atlanta's Office of Planning maintains a Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) that includes the entire city. This plan is updated every three to five years. The most recent update was completed in 2011, and this update included the Westview Master Plan.

### How Was the Westview Master Plan Created?

The Westview Master Plan was created by neighbors over a two-year period.

In May 2010, the Westview Development Committee held a public, all-day

meeting at KIPP STRIVE Academy to look at current conditions in Westview and come up with ideas for the future of the neighborhood. The meeting was led by Greg Ramsey from Village Habitat Design. Neighbors also participated and gave input on neighborhood topics like: walkability, commercial businesses, the Atlanta BeltLine, and green space. This input was documented and used as the starting point for the master plan.

After months of work and revisions, the master plan was presented at the



Westview Community Organization (WCO) meeting in March 2011. Neighbors were given one month to review the master plan and provide feedback on the plan. On April 4, 2011 the WCO approved the plan. From there, the plan was approved by the Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU-T), and was finally approved by City Council and the Mayor in June 2011.

### What's Happening Now?

Since the adoption of the Westview Master Plan, neighbors have worked with various organizations, business

owners and the City of Atlanta to complete several projects. Some of the completed projects include:

- A collaboration between WCO and the University Community Development Corporation to acquire and demolish a dilapidated property at 1556 Stokes Avenue. The vacant land was turned into a pocket park with funds from a 'Love Your Block' grant and a NPU grant.
- Partnering with Trees Atlanta to plant trees along Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard, Langhorn Street and Stokes Avenue.
- Zoning changes for the properties around Kroger.

In 2013, the WCO will begin working on other projects outlined in the master plan. The newly reinstated Westview Development Committee will meet to determine which projects to work on next.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact Patrick Berry at [patrick@westviewatlanta.com](mailto:patrick@westviewatlanta.com) or 404-755-1255.

To view the Westview Master Plan online, visit: <http://www.westviewatlanta.com/development/master-plan/>

### Newsletter Staff

Patrick Berry, Ad Design  
Keith Blackmon, Photographer  
Ayana Gabriel, Writer / Ad Sales  
Ashley Kirby, Lead Distributor  
Kisha Solomon, Editor

For questions, story ideas, and advertising, contact: [westviewnews@yahoo.com](mailto:westviewnews@yahoo.com)

# See Something? Say Something!

If You SEE Something, SAY Something is an Atlanta Police Department initiative that asks the citizens of the City of Atlanta to help be the eyes and ears of the APD.

The more involved citizens are in their own community, the less likely a crime will go unnoticed. The idea behind If You SEE Something, SAY Something is making criminals feel that *they* are the ones who are not safe in our neighborhoods.

You should never put yourself in danger, but the idea is to teach everyone to be a good witness and report in detail as much as you possibly can. If you see something that looks out of place, just take note of:

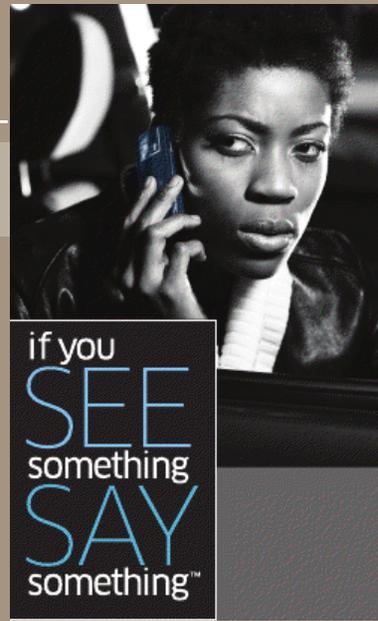
- What drew your attention to the activity?
- Who did you see?
- What were they wearing?
- What was their location?
- How were they involved?
- What time of day was it?

- The color, make, and model of any vehicle that may have been involved.

Report the information by calling 911 or CrimeStoppers at 404-577-TIPS (8477).

If you see something suspicious, ALWAYS report it. Let the APD determine if it's a problem. It is better to report a suspicious incident and have it turn out to be nothing versus ignoring what you see and having it turn into a crime. If You SEE Something, SAY Something.

Remember: being observant of your surroundings at all times is good personal safety, no matter where you are.



## Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program

*A global initiative, growing in Westview and around Atlanta*

**Who:** Youth 12-14 and/or in Middle School  
Ready to Change the World

**What:** Westview Junior Youth Group  
Developing Skills, Building Community

**When:** Saturdays at 11AM

For more information contact Jamie Fischer:

(404) 213-4898

*For short videos about the worldwide program, visit:*

<http://vimeo.com/34396794>

OR

<http://vimeo.com/19400655>

## Meet The Wills

### Westview Neighbors

by Ayana Gabriel

The *Westview Neighbor* recently chatted with the Wills family about their thoughts on the neighborhood. Both Wesley and Paula Wills have a history of service, and moved to Westview to be part of revitalizing a community.

*Why did you move to Westview?*

Wesley: Prior to living here I did volunteer work in the Vine City area helping to beautify the neighborhood.

That was after some of the housing in that area was closed. I realized to make a difference in the neighborhood you really had to become part of it.

Paula: I am originally from Chile, and I did missionary work there helping homeless persons build permanent housing.

*What do you love about this neighborhood?*

I love the culture of our neighbors and how that makes the community. We have a neighbor nearby that plays in a band with his family and friends. Having that type of thing is unique for our community.

*What would you like to see in the neighborhood?*

We hope this becomes a neighborhood where everyone focuses on the children, and works to support them. We want this to be a neighborhood where our children can find lifelong friends.



**Pictured:** Paula, Wesley, Aurora, Leo and Baby Wills (not yet born at time of interview)

# Speak Up about Media Misrepresentation of SW Atlanta

We are all too familiar with how local print and television media report on crimes/incidents, issues and events in SW Atlanta with one broad brush, rather than stating exactly where the crime/incident occurred, what neighborhood, what street, etc.

Although SW Atlanta, the largest and most densely populated quadrant in the City of Atlanta, is composed of roughly 97 individual neighborhoods and covers roughly 33 sq. miles, local media categorize SW Atlanta as a geographical quadrant filled with violence and crime.

By local media categorizing crimes/incidents occurring in SW Atlanta, it misrepresents and furthers the perception that all of SW Atlanta is violent and crime-filled. When local media cover stories in geographical parts of Atlanta other than NW and SW Atlanta, they specifically designate the neighborhood (VA Highland, Morningside, East Lake, East Atl Village, Buckhead, Old Fourth Ward, etc.) the story is in, rather thanumping all news stories in a quadrant of the city.

On December 14, 2012 representatives of NPU-T, the Westview Community Organization and other concerned residents held a press conference for the purpose of educating the media about the various neighborhoods and the individualism that lies within SW Atlanta. According to NPU-T residents, instead of local media noting the neighborhood the story occurs in they only say SW Atlanta, thereby taking away its identity; and if a person has no identity, then no foul can be done.

To raise public awareness that not all of the roughly 97 individual SW Atlanta neighborhoods are filled with crime and to emphasize the importance of proper reporting by local media outlets, "If You See Something, Say Something."

Editorial by Raynard Johnson

For example, on December 24, 2012, WAGA Fox5 Atlanta aired a piece (<http://www.myfoxtatlanta.com/story/20420394/christmas-decorations-stolen-from-sw-atlanta-yard>) with an original headline "Christmas decorations stolen from SW Atlanta yard," but text and video reflected the Christmas decorations were stolen from an E. Confederate Ave. SE Atlanta yard.

Upon noticing the discrepancy, I tweeted the following: "Does @FOX5Atlanta cover SW ATL stories CORRECTLY... NO? Xmas decorations stolen from E. Confederate Ave. yard in SE ATL"

"@FOX5Atlanta wrong reporting makes SW ATL crime-ridden. Xmas decorations stolen from an E. Confederate Ave. yard SE ATL"

"@DeidraDukes @FOX5Atlanta correct Headline & Text of story to reflect video, Xmas decorations stolen from SE not SW ATL"

The next day, WAGA Fox5 Atlanta modified the piece, correcting the headline "Christmas decorations stolen from SE Atlanta yard," with matching text and video.

If you see local media cover a story that stretches SW Atlanta to an area of town like Collier Heights (which is clearly in NW Atlanta) or Carver Heights (which is clearly in SE Atlanta), both often referred to as SW Atlanta, then say something - call the newsroom to point out the error.

If the community does not raise public awareness and emphasize the importance of proper reporting by local media outlets by practicing the campaign, "If You See Something, Say Something," then the public will continue to have the perception that all of SW Atlanta is violent and crime-filled.



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# Veggie Chili Recipe

*Chili is the perfect comfort food for the cold winter months. This vegetarian version was submitted by Patrick Kirby, a Westview neighbor who is also co-executive chef of The Village Tap, a Southern-style ale house that just opened in Buckhead. This recipe is enough to serve a huge crowd.*



<u>Ingredients</u>	<u>Amounts</u>	<u>Method</u>
Onions (small dice)	6 ea.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dice onions, peppers, squash, garlic. Drain and rinse corn and garbanzo beans.</li> <li>Heat oil in medium heat in large pot, add onions, peppers and garlic, sauté until soft.</li> <li>Add water, soy sauce and all the spices and stir to combine completely.</li> <li>Add corn, squash and garbanzo beans. Add tomatoes and the juice from the can.</li> <li>Turn heat down to a simmer, cover and stir frequently.</li> <li>When flavor and consistency is reached, smash whole tomatoes that have not cooked down.</li> <li>Serve with tortilla chips and toppings like: cheese, sour cream, guacamole or fresh avocado.</li> </ol>
Red Bell Peppers (small dice)	4 ea.	
Fresno Peppers (minced)	2 ea.	
Yellow Squash (small dice)	4 ea.	
Garlic (minced)	¾ cup	
Corn (drained, rinsed)	2 cans	
Garbanzo Beans (drained, rinsed)	2 cans	
Tomatoes (whole peeled)	1 lg. can	
Soy Sauce	1 cups	
Water	½ cup	
Dry Mustard	1/4 cup	
Chili Powder	1 cup	
Cayenne	1 tsp.	
Salt	1 Tbsp.	
Black Pepper	2 tsp.	
Oil	As Needed	



## Important Numbers

Zone 4 Police: 404-756-1903  
 Pothole Posse: 404-768-4653  
 Code Enforcement: 404-330-6190  
 Sanitation: 404-330-6333  
 Tax Assessor: 404-612-6440  
 Watershed Mgmt: 404-658-6500  
 Housing Authority: 404-892-4700

## Upcoming Events

**Westview Community Organization Meeting** — 1st Monday of every month (except holidays); 7:00 pm, Calvary United Methodist Church, 1471 R.D. Abernathy Blvd. Upcoming meetings: March 4 and April 1

**NPU-T Monthly Meeting** — 2nd Wednesday of Every Month; 7:00 pm, Empire Board of Realists, 686 Joseph Lowery Blvd Upcoming meetings: March 13 and April 10

## Stay in Touch

**Web:** [www.westviewatlanta.com](http://www.westviewatlanta.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/westviewatl](http://www.facebook.com/westviewatl)

**Twitter:** @WestviewAtlanta

**Message Board:** [groups.yahoo.com/group/westviewcommunity](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/westviewcommunity)

**NPU-T:** [www.nputatlanta.org](http://www.nputatlanta.org)



**Sherry E. Bailey**  
 Real Estate Consultant  
 Cell: 678-644-5820  
 Office: 404-531-5700  
 Fax: 404-531-5708  
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