
WESTVIEW NEIGHBOR

ISSUE 8

Remembering the Past. Creating the Future.

JULY/AUGUST 2014

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - INVESTING INTO A COMMUNITY

Kendal Carey

Creating a strong community begins with the people of the community. I personally think people must realize this is not just the community that they live in, it is the community that we should invest in.

When you buy your house you have invested into this community. When you go out to buy your consumer items, you have invested in this community. Investing into the community is not just doing the economic thing, it is also becoming aware and willing to change things.

I am pretty sure everybody would love to live in a community that is safe. The community will become safer when everybody invests their time and effort into fighting crime in the community.

When you see an area that could use a light, invest the time on how we could bring light to this area. When you see an abandoned house with an open door, invest the time to call the owner or police to get it shut or boarded up. When you know that there are elderly people on your block, invest the time to get to know them.



National Night Out 2012 at South Olympian & Waters

I was told by a police officer in St. Louis "If everybody would invest the time to get to know their neighbors on both sides of their house and the neighbor in front of their house that would start to become a safer community."

I was told that every little bit helps, in investing into a safer community, every little bit helps.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT IN WESTVIEW



When: Tuesday, August 5, 2014,
6:30pm - 9:00pm

Where: Intersection of S. Olympian
Way and Waters Drive

What: Meet the police, firemen and
city officials. The Westview Com-
munity Organization will provide
hotdogs, sodas, cookies, chips and
water.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Do you have a story you would like to write about? Let us know: info@westviewatlanta.com.



Westview Community Garden on South Gordon Street

WESTVIEW COMMUNITY GARDEN

Abbey Henderson

The garden was started about three years ago by the former president of the Westview Community Organization, Scott Smith. Last spring, after completing an urban growers program at Truly Living Well, we started a youth garden program with about 10 children from the neighborhood. They learned how to plant, care for and harvest kale, Swiss chard, different lettuces and tomatoes. We even took a trip to Empire State South restaurant where we "sold" our harvest

and the youth learned about local food systems and how they could make a career out of farming. The head chef also cooked the harvest for us.

In the fall we made the garden communal and we've planted up the whole garden this spring with tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, different types of melons, peas, okra, beans, kale, Swiss chard and a few other veggies. Most of those plants came from the Herman's Garden program at Seed Savers Exchange. The donation will allow the garden to grow an extensive variety of crops for the community and start a seed saving program that will provide for future years. We also have plum, apple, a fig and peach trees, and will soon plant blueberry bushes as well. We also have a chicken coop that will start operating later in the summer (need funding to finish securing it).

The food from the garden is going directly to the community for free, local businesses such as Westview Pizza Cafe and the youth will have a booth this summer at the West End Farmers Market. It's important for our neighbors that have been disenfranchised to see and learn how to grow their food...it's empowering. There are over 10 fast food restaurants in a one mile radius of the garden. This garden will provide our neighbors, especially low-income residents of color, with cheap (free) healthier options. It's an exciting year for our community!

SENIOR CITIZEN WATER BILL DISCOUNT

Did You Know? Senior citizens are eligible for a 30% discount on water and sewer bills. Eligibility requirements:

- You are 65 years or older. You must provide a birth certificate, driver's license or other valid Georgia ID.
- You have a maximum household income of \$25,000 or less. You must provide proof of income, such as previous or current year Federal Income Tax Form 1040 or 1099.
- You are the primary titleholder or leaseholder on the property subject to the bill. You must provide proof of residency, such as a warranty deed or lease agreement.
- You must be a City of Atlanta water and sewer customer.

If you do not receive your water and sewer bill directly from the City of Atlanta, you cannot receive the senior citizen discount.

To obtain a "Low Income Senior Citizen Discount" application via mail, contact the Department of Watershed Management Customer Service Division at 404-658-6500. Applications are also available at Fulton County Senior Citizen Facilities, Atlanta libraries, City of Atlanta recreation facilities and the Customer Service Office at 55 Trinity Avenue, 1st Floor, City Hall.

To ensure your privacy is protected we request that you submit your application and supporting documents in person to the Customer Service Office at City Hall, or to the facility where you obtained your application.



Morehouse & STEM students

YOUTH STEM PROGRAM

Debra Hood

Morehouse College Community Revitalization Initiative (MCCRI) is a neighborhood-based organization that seeks to engage the greater West End-Atlanta community through economic development, social action research, and community service. In 2012, MCCRI launched our Youth Entrepreneurship Club (YEC) at KIPP WAYS Academy, expanding to KIPP STRIVE Academy in 2013. We serve youth through

an afterschool program that focuses on entrepreneurship, invention, and innovation. This summer, in partnership with the West End Neighborhood Development and the Westview Community Organization, we hosted our first YEC summer camp, a 4-week program in which middle school students learned basic engineering principles using LEGO building blocks. The goal of both the year-long YEC program and the LEGO summer camp is to foster students' interest in furthering their education, to encourage them to pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields, and to develop a culture of entrepreneurship within Atlanta's greater West End community.

On Thursday, July 10, our summer camp will culminate in a final competition in which students will compete on teams to build the best bridge out of LEGO materials. The competition will give our students an opportunity to apply the engineering design concepts they have learned throughout the summer program. It is our hope that students will learn and practice skills of innovation, planning, and design, and that they will be more comfortable engaging in the STEM fields in the future.

WESTVIEW SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Steffi Langer-Berry

The 7th annual Westview Summer Solstice Celebration took place on Muse Street, adjacent to the Atlanta BeltLine, and featured a grill-off competition between southwest Atlanta neighborhoods and businesses, vendors, music, and a celebration of life service for the late community activist John Perdue.

Eleven grillers battled it out for the title of "Best Pork" and "Best Chicken." The neighborhoods that were represented included Adair Park, Beecher-Donnelly, Capitol View, Mechanicsville, two West End entries, and five Westview entries. The title of "Best Pork" went to the Adair Park neighborhood, and the title for "Best Chicken" went to last-minute write-in contestant 1600 from the Westview neighborhood.

Unfortunately 2014 marked the first year the festival would experience rain in its seven year course. While the crowds

diminished during the rain, those that stayed seemed to have just of a good time as any year, and all participants expressed excitement for next year's festivities.

Thank you to all the visitors who came out to enjoy the event, the sponsors that helped make the event possible, the grillers that battled it out for the best food, the vendors who sold a diversity of items, and last, but not least, the crew that put the event together! See you next year!



Westview Summer Solstice Celebration 2014 along Muse Street

WESTVIEW COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

Rebecca Cater

Your Westview neighbors are actively involved in maintaining the community garden and pocket park, sponsoring clean up days, representing the neighborhood at NPU-T meetings and having a voice at city hall. Your membership in the Westview Community Organization (WCO) helps sponsor ongoing community efforts.

Westview Community Organization members can pay annual dues in person (cash or check) at meetings or online at <http://www.westviewatlanta.com/community-organization/membership/>. The annual fee per household is only \$20.00.

You can also mail your check payable to "Westview Community Organization" to:
Westview Community Organization
1540 Rogers Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30310

----- cut here and return with your dues -----

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Circle any volunteer areas where you are interested:

Summer Solstice, Newsletter, Block Captain, Development, Beautification, Public Safety, Membership, Special Events, Youth, Code Enforcement, Community Garden

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Zone 4 Police:
(404) 756-1903

Pothole Posse:
(404) 768-4653

Code Enforcement:
(404) 330-6190

Sanitation/Public Works:
(404) 330-6333

Fulton Tax Assessor:
(404) 612-6440

Watershed Management:
(404) 658-6500

Housing Authority:
(404) 892-4700

In Case of Emergency Dial 911!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Saturday: Westview Community Garden Workday @ 1439 South Gordon Street, 10:00am-2:00pm

Monday, August 4: Westview Community Organization Meeting @ 1471 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 7:00-8:00pm

Tuesday, August 5: National Night Out @ South Olympian Way and Waters Drive, 6:30-9:00pm

Saturday, August 9: Ice Cream Social @ 1542 Ralph D. Abernathy, 3:00-4:00pm

Wednesday, August 13: NPU-T Meeting @ 1444 Lucile Ave, 7:00-9:00pm

Thursday, August 21: Westview Pizza Night @ 1550 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 6:30-8:00pm

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

WESTVIEW COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Meetings on the first Monday of the month at 7pm, Calvary United Methodist Church, 1471 RDA Blvd.

President – Ayana Gabriel

Vice President – Octavia Vogel

Secretary – David Cater

Assistant Secretary – Josef Fischer

Treasurer – Claudia Hicks

Assistant Treasurer – Abbey Henderson

Parliamentarian – Sherry Bailey

Chaplain – Jamie Fischer

Development Committee – Patrick Berry & Steffi Langer-Berry

Special Events Committee – Kendal Carey

Public Safety Committee – Darrick Young

Zoning and Code Enforcement Committee – Bruce Williams

Beautification Committee – John Davis

Membership Committee – Rebecca Cater

Youth Committee – Jamie Fischer

Garden Committee – Abbey Henderson

STAY IN TOUCH

www.westviewatlanta.com

www.facebook.com/westviewatl

www.twitter.com/WestviewAtlanta

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/westviewcommunity/>

Phone: (678) 883-8849