
WESTVIEW NEIGHBOR

ISSUE 10

Remembering the Past. Creating the Future.

WINTER 2015

GREETINGS WESTVIEW NEIGHBORS!

Welcome to another wonderful year in the Westview Community. Our neighborhood is 105 years old this year and has seen many changes. With major development projects coming in and our around our community, we will be seeing lots of transition in the next few years. Now is a great time to get involved to be part of the changes to come.

2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the Westview Community Organization (WCO). Over the years countless persons have volunteered many hours to make our community a "better place to live." Last year was no exception. We accomplished so much as a community:

- Spring is the time for planting in Westview. Our Beautification committee maintains the triangle parks in the community including at S. Gordon and RDA, S. Gordon and Willard, and Ontario and Stokes. We also saw our highest number of membership in the past decade in large part due to the hard work of our Membership committee. The Membership committee also revived this Westview Neighbor newsletter you are reading now. The summer is the height of harvest season for the Westview Community garden located at 1439 South Gordon Street.
- The summer is the time where we have the most events in Westview. In June we had our seventh annual Summer Solstice Celebration festival on Muse Street. The festival included vendors, a grill competition, kids games, and live music. In July the Youth and Garden committees, in conjunction with the John Perdue Legacy Project, hosted a two week summer camp focused on S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). The children displayed the art work created at the camp at our annual National Night Out celebration in August. Our Safety committee also kept strong ties with Zone 4 officials to ensure a safe neighborhood.

- Fall was a very busy time for development in Westview. In November the Westside BeltLine trail broke ground. We also had two major developers purchase property in the Westview Village: the Old Gordon Street Presbyterian Church and Old Fire Station 17. Expect to see at least one of these open as early as May. Our Development committee also led an initiative to have Westview included in the City of Atlanta's infrastructure bond. Due to their efforts Westview is scheduled to receive complete street improvements on Ralph David Abernathy totaling \$1.5M. Make sure to turn out on March 17 to vote for the bond referendum.
- We ended the year with our annual holiday dinner potluck at Fire Station 17. Sponsored by the Special Events committee, this is a time for neighbors to come together, celebrate the holiday season, and get to know each other better. Westview neighbors also contributed to a toy drive at Pathways Christian Church. Over 50 children received toys for Christmas. By the end of the year the Zoning and Code Enforcement committee saw the successful placarding and demolition of several vacant properties in the community.

All of these accomplishments would not be possible without your support through dues and volunteer hours. If you are interested in joining any committee see more information in the back of this newsletter. Also come out to our March 2nd community organization meeting where we will focus on committees.

Looking forward to seeing you at a neighborhood event soon!

Ayana
President
Westview Community Organization

INFRASTRUCTURE BOND

Steffi Langer-Berry

The fight for improvements of infrastructure in the Westview neighborhood perhaps dates back as far back as the neighborhood itself, but for the sake of this article we will start in the year 2008, when a resident on East Ontario Avenue questioned why no money from the Quality of Life Bonds made its way to Westview. Thanks to the actions taken by the concerned neighbor Councilmember C. T. Martin (District 10) was able to allocate money to lay new sidewalks along East and West Ontario Avenue, as well as to repave East Ontario Avenue. But the larger question remained – how do residents ensure Westview is not left out for future infrastructure improvements?

The question escalated to the City of Atlanta's Office of Planning where members of the newly formed Development Committee were informed that Westview didn't have any projects on "the list." The list was referring to the City of Atlanta's Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP), which is updated and adopted every few years, and dictates which infrastructure projects should be worked on when funding becomes available. To incorporate projects into the CDP Westview neighbors would have to rally to create a Master Plan for the neighborhood.

Thanks to a grant by the Community Foundation the Development Committee was able to host a Master Planning Workshop in May of 2010. Residents were able to provide input about specific projects they wanted to see and to create a general vision for Westview's future. The Westview Master Plan would be adopted by City Council and the Mayor in



Deteriorating sidewalks are a safety hazard for pedestrians.

2011, just in time to be included in the updated CDP. Then the waiting game began.

Fast forward to 2014 when conversations about the Infrastructure Bond started. The first public Infrastructure Bond meeting would be held in June 2014. Shortly after the Development Committee hosted a meeting to discuss which Master Plan projects residents deemed a priority and came up with the following list:

Priority #1: Streetscape improvements, pedestrian infrastructure, and street repaving along Abernathy Blvd (between Westview Dr & Cascade Ave).

Priority #2: Streetscape improvements, pedestrian infrastructure, and street repaving along Cascade corridor.

Priority #3: Streetscape improvements along Langhorn St.
General: Deteriorated infrastructure needs updating throughout neighborhood - particularly the sidewalks.

Early on the draft infrastructure list would include redoing Cascade Avenue as well as Beecher Street; however, R. D. Abernathy Blvd, Westview's vital human-scaled small business corridor and number one priority, was not on the list.

A campaign was setup to ensure Westview's message of priority projects would be heard loud and clear. Residents sent emails to the various city departments encouraging the addition of Westview's top priority projects. The emails were backed up by a large number of residents, many in "Westview" t-shirts, appearing at the September 2014 and January 2015 public Infrastructure Bond meetings vocalizing their project requests.

Neighbors' persistence would pay off. Following the last public Infrastructure Bond meeting Councilmember Mary Norwood (District 2-at-Large) invited the Development Committee, along with staff from the Department of Public Works and other Councilmembers, to City Hall to discuss Westview's project list. At the meeting the community leaders were presented with an updated draft list, newly updated that morning, which would confirm that hard work can pay off – the prized R. D. Abernathy Blvd. project would also be included.

The following Westview projects are slated to be included as part of the 2015 Infrastructure Bond Referendum:

Cascade Road/Avenue: The project scope may include milling

and repaving, sidewalk & bus stop improvements; bicycle lanes and median/pedestrian refuge islands along Cascade Ave/Road between Delowe Road and Abernathy Boulevard. Estimate: \$3,040,000

R. D. Abernathy Blvd: Complete Street improvements inclusive of curbing, sidewalk and pedestrian improvements from Cascade Avenue to Westview Drive. Resurfacing will be completed by GDOT (separate budget). Estimate: \$1,500,000

Beecher Street: Resurfacing from Donnelly Avenue to Ferris Street. Estimate: \$456,300

R. D. Abernathy/Georgia Avenue: Upgrades along major thoroughfares to optimize signal operations and communications network to ATCC. Estimate: \$612,700

Next Steps

Now we need your help once again. These Westview infrastructure improvements projects will not happen unless we, the citizens of Atlanta, go to the polls on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, to approve the referendum. So please mark your calendars and help us achieve this final step towards a safer, more beautiful community!

ROCK THE VOTE

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Location: Your regular polling location (visit www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/ for info).

BOND FAQ'S

How Much Money Will The Bond Be For?

\$250 million (out of a \$1 billion backlog).

Will The Bond Raise My Taxes?

No. The City of Atlanta will make these necessary investments without raising property taxes.

For Detailed FAQ's Visit:

<http://www.westviewatlanta.com/2015/02/infrastructure-bond-faq/>

TRASH, YARD WASTE AND BULK PICK UP

Rebecca Cater

Westview's Trash pick-up schedule is Wednesdays. Please place your trash and the curb Tuesday night and remove by Thursday morning. Please clean up any trash from around your trash can as to limit rodents and an unsightly street.

Our bulk trash pick-up is scheduled for the 3rd full week of the month. Please place your bulk items, as described below, by the curb on Sunday. The City of Atlanta will remove those items during the week. You can call for special pick up, but may be charged a fee. Please do not leave waste on the curb during other times.

From City of Atlanta Solid Waste Services:

- Bulk waste refers to materials with a total weight, volume and/or size too large for the City's residential garbage collection trucks to remove. This includes items such as appliances, large furniture, large piles of tree branches, large metal or wooden playground equipment, or similar items.



Blue ReCART recycling bin.

- Yard trimmings in excess of piles 4 ft in length and 6 inches in diameter are considered as a bulk waste pick up and will not be picked up on the scheduled pick up day for household garbage and recycling. Bulk yard trimming will be picked up per the posted bulk pick up scheduled described above.
- As a result of the new Solid Waste 3n1 service initiative, bulk items will be picked once per month per the posted bulk pick up scheduled described above.
- Place all items scheduled for pick up at the curb on the Sunday of the scheduled per the posted bulk pick up scheduled described above.

2015 DUES DRIVE

Rebecca Cater

It's time to pay your 2015 Westview Community Organization (WCO) dues of only **\$20 per household**. We need 150 members to fully fund the WCO.

Your membership in the WCO helps sponsor ongoing community efforts. Your Westview neighbors are actively involved, amongst other things, in maintaining the community garden, pocket park, and traffic triangles, distributing newsletters, sponsoring the STEAM camp, National Night Out, and having a voice at city hall.

Neighbors can pay annual dues in person (cash or check) at meetings or online at: <http://www.westviewatlanta.com/community-organization/membership/>

You can also mail your check payable to "Westview Community Organization" to: Westview Community Organization, P.O. Box 89306, Atlanta, GA 30312

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Circle any volunteer areas in which you are interested:

- Summer Solstice Development Newsletter Youth Membership
- Block Captain Public Safety Special Events Beautification
- 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

- Thursday, February 19:** Westview Pizza Night @ 1550 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 6:30pm
- Monday, March 2:** Westview Community Organization Meeting @ 1471 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 7:00-8:00pm
- Monday, March 9:** WCO Membership/ Newsletter Meeting @ 1540 Rogers Ave, 7:00-8:00pm
- Wednesday, March 11:** NPU-T Meeting @ 1444 Lucile Ave, 7:00-9:00pm
- Thursday, March 19:** Westview Pizza Night @ 1550 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 6:30pm
- Monday, April 6:** Westview Community Organization Meeting @ 1471 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 7:00-8:00pm

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

WESTVIEW COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Meetings on the first Monday of the month at 7:00pm, Calvary United Methodist Church, 1471 RDA Blvd.

- President – Ayana Gabriel
- Vice President – Octavia Vogel
- Secretary – David Cater
- Assistant Secretary – Kiyomi Rollins
- Treasurer – Kendal Carey
- Assistant Treasurer – Jacinta Williams
- Parliamentarian – Elijah Tutt
- Chaplain – Sean Wall

- Development Committee – Patrick Berry & Steffi Langer-Berry
- Special Events Committee – Bruce Williams
- Public Safety Committee – Darrick Young
- Zoning and Code Enforcement Committee – Sherry Bailey
- Beautification Committee – John Davis
- Membership Committee – Rebecca Cater
- Youth Committee – Catherine Aaron
- Garden Committee – Abiodun Henderson

STAY IN TOUCH

- www.westviewatlanta.com
- www.facebook.com/westviewatl
- www.twitter.com/WestviewAtlanta
- <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/westviewcommunity/>
- info@westviewatlanta.com
- Phone: (678) 883-8849
- P.O. Box 89306, Atlanta, GA 30312

Westview STEAM Empowerment Camp

Westview Summer Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) Empowerment Camp

The Westview Community Organization (WCO) recently applied for and was awarded a grant from the Neighborhood Fund to expand the annual summer camp hosted by the Westview Youth Committee since 2011.

Westview has received \$11,000 to build on the 2014 STEAM Empowerment Camp led by Ms. Patricia Perdeu (Past Youth Chair), Abiodun Henderson (Garden Chair) and Ashley Dopson (Artist responsible for mural at Westview Community Garden).

Twenty-five youth learned new skills, were exposed to a variety of professionals/opportunities were provided meals and a safe place to go during the day. The free, daily camp ran for the last two weeks in July culminated in an art showcase and school supply give-away during the 2014 National Night Out.

The 2015 camp will be able to serve 50 youth at no cost. Camp dates will be June 29, 2015- July 24, 2015 and is open to teens and young adults ages 11-17*. A small stipend will be provided each week that youth attend. The camp will build on groundwork laid last year by offering five subject tracks.

Tracks include:

- **Science** - Introduction to the scientific method, science literacy, and skills needed to conduct research.

- **Technology** - Will use projects involving computers, multimedia, construction, and electronics skills to give campers hands-on exposure to valuable real world technologies.
- **Engineering** - The application of scientific, economic, social, and practical knowledge in order to invent, design, build, maintain, and improve structures, systems, materials and processes.
- **Art** - Development of creative skills through the use of abstract art projects and other associated topics including animation and communication.
- **Mathematics** - Incorporated throughout the other five tracks.
- **Leadership/Council** - Training in civic engagement, leadership and programmatic skills.

An orientation for interested parents and students will be held in April; date and location forthcoming.

Please visit www.westviewatlanta.com/steam-camp for more information or call 678.870.4317. The enrollment application included in this newsletter can be sent to *P.O. Box 89306, Atlanta, GA 30312* or dropped off on Wednesday's to Bruce Williams at the Pathways Church from 11:30am-1:00pm.

In order to continue to offer the camp for free the camp planning committee needs to raise additional funds. Donations are tax deductible and can be made at www.westviewatlanta.com/steam-camp/steam-camp-donation.

A special thank you to Patricia Perdeu, Abiodun Henderson and Ashley Dopson for their vision and tireless efforts. Thank you to Jamie Fischer-Montague for her leadership as past Youth Chair and the 2015 Planning Committee members without you this would not be possible.

**Arrangements can be made on a case by case basis for youth outside this age range by calling the number listed above.*



Westview STEAM Empowerment Camp

Registration

Mail to:
P.O. Box 89306
Atlanta, GA 30312

Drop off:
Bruce Williams, Pathways Church
Wednesday's between 11:30am-1:00pm

Child's Name: _____ D.O.B: _____

Gender: _____ Is your child allergic to anything: _____

Any special needs: _____

Child's Name: _____ D.O.B: _____

Gender: _____ Is your child allergic to anything: _____

Any special needs: _____

Child's Name: _____ D.O.B: _____

Gender: _____ Is your child allergic to anything: _____

Any special needs: _____

Parent's Name: Mother / Guardian: _____

Father / Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Emergency contact in case parent's cannot be reached:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship to Child: _____