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# WESTVIEW NEIGHBOR

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ISSUE 16

*Remembering the Past. Creating the Future.*

FALL 2016

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## 2016 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



The Westview Community will be celebrating National Night Out Tuesday, Aug. 2, from 5pm-8pm at the intersection of Westwood Ave. and Manson Ave. The event will feature free food and drinks.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign

that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. Together, we are making that happen. It is also an opportunity to speak with community leaders.



*Major Bryant at the 2014 National Night Out event.*

To participate, volunteer or for more information, please call Hattie Philpot at 404-484-4559 or send an email to [info@westviewatlanta.com](mailto:info@westviewatlanta.com).

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## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: MUTANA

*Thomas Wheatley*

If you've ever woken up and found yourself fresh out of coffee, you don't have to venture far outside the neighborhood. The same can be said if you're looking for natural body and hair products, clothing, or medicinal herbs and tonics from Africa. Located at the busy corner of Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard and Cascade Avenue, the long-running Mutana — the name means "The Marketplace" in the Ngemba Group of Languages of Western Cameroon — offers many all-natural, chemical-free products and much more. The store will soon move to a temporary location down the street in Westview Village, next to Westview Pizza, while its longtime home undergoes a renovation.

### **What made you decide to open the store?**

When Matti Foncha, a native of Cameroon, West Africa, first opened Mutana in 1997, his main objective was to share some of the riches of Africa with those who didn't have the means to experience it first hand. Initially, the main focus of Mutana were crafts, fabrics, and artifacts from

Cameroon and other parts of West Africa. He also saw it as an opportunity to create wealth in the African American community and empower people to learn more about where they come from. Another dream of Matti's in opening Mutana was to build a business that could be passed down through the family. This dream is now a reality, as his daughter, Azie, is now co-owner and manager of the store.

### **What might a customer expect when they visit the store?**

Mutana means "marketplace" in the Mbatu language of Northwest Cameroon. Upon entering Mutana, a customer should expect to be embraced by the warm, vivid atmosphere of an African marketplace, with sights and sounds that make you forget that you are actually in the middle of Westview Atlanta. Some have described their first experience at Mutana as "being in a different world." It is not uncommon for people to pass through just to soak up some of the vibrant, yet peaceful energy before carrying on with their days.

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**Do you have a story you would like to write about? Let us know: [info@westviewatlanta.com](mailto:info@westviewatlanta.com).**

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### What is your most popular product?

Our Meeya Brand line of products are our most popular items. Meeya is our in-house brand of body care products which includes liquid black soap and shea butter products (all of which are produced on-site), natural vegetable based oils, and a variety of other natural skin, hair, and body care products.

### What makes you most happy about your business?

What makes us most happy about our business is our loyal customers, many of whom have become like family. We have never used traditional advertising, and they have helped us grow our business through word of mouth and consistent support. We treat our customers like a part of a large extended family, and we look after their needs with this in mind.

### Why did you choose Westview as the location for your business?

Matti chose to open Mutana in Westview in 1997 because it was (and still is) a community of like-minded individuals and culturally based businesses who want to uplift the neighborhood and surrounding communities, while maintaining the unique identity of the area that so beautifully stands out from the rest of Atlanta.

### Mutana is temporarily moving soon while its current location is being renovated. Where will the temporary shop be and when can customers come visit you at your new location?

Our temporary location will be at 1552 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. (right next door to Westview Pizza Café in the Westview Village), which is just a couple of blocks north of our current location. We will be doing business in this new location beginning mid-July.

**Name:** Mutana

**Owner:** Matti and Azie Foncha

**Located in Westview since:** 1997

**Address:** 1552 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. SW, Atlanta, GA 30310 (new temporary address)

**Hours:** Tues.-Sat.: 10am-7pm; Sun.: 1pm-6pm. Closed on Mon.

**Website:** [www.mutana.com](http://www.mutana.com)

**Phone:** (404) 753-5252



## HALLELUJAH FESTIVAL

**Date:** Monday, October 31, 2016 from 5pm-7pm

**Location:** The parking lot of Calvary United Methodist Church, 1471 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd, Atlanta, GA 30310.

If you would like more information, please contact Calvary United Methodist Church at 404-753-8151.



Mutana's location since 1997 at 1388 R. D. Abernathy.



Mutana's temporary new location at 1552 R. D. Abernathy.

## BICYCLE SAFETY

Kevin Rinker

As Westview gets more and more bicycle infrastructure, from bike lanes and racks to multi-use paths and sharrows (those bike symbols with arrows above them painted on West Ontario), you may want a refresher on basic rules of the road and etiquette on the trail so you can take full advantage of these new resources.

### Riding On The Road

According to Georgia state law, bicycles are considered a vehicle. This means that when you ride down the road, you should ride as though you were driving a car, stopping at stop signs and lights, riding with traffic, or on the right side of the street, instead of against traffic on the left side, signaling any turns you make, and using lights at night, to name a few. This also means riding on the sidewalk is not allowed unless the person riding the bike is less than 12 years old.

Another important provision in the law says that people riding bikes should do so as far to the right of the road as possible, with several exceptions: if you're turning left, avoiding hazards (like litter or potholes), riding the same speed as traffic, there is a right turn-lane and you are not turning right, and, perhaps most importantly, if the lane is too narrow to share safely with a motor vehicle. This last exception is important because it means if you ever feel unsafe because drivers are passing too closely, you can move to the middle of the lane. This makes you more visible to drivers behind you and makes them less likely to pass if there is oncoming traffic, which is typically when drivers pass too closely.

### Riding On The Path

Multi-use paths, or trails, often look like wide sidewalks. The difference is that they are intended for bikes (remember anyone over the age of 12 is not allowed to ride a bike on a regular sidewalk) in addition to pedestrians travelling in both directions. Two examples of multi-use paths in Westview are the West End BeltLine trail that travels along Muse and Langhorn Streets and the newer path that stretches along Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard from the entrance to the Westview Cemetery to West Ontario Avenue. There are a few ways to tell these trails apart from sidewalks: Oftentimes they have dashed lines like you'd see on a road used to separate cars traveling in each direction; in Georgia

they may have a sign that says "Path Foundation" or "Atlanta BeltLine" at the entrance to the trail; and they are usually much wider than your typical sidewalk.

Like riding or driving on the road, always ride (or walk) on the right side of the trail. This makes it easier for people who might be moving faster than you to pass when safe.

It's important to remember that unlike riding on the road, when riding on a multi-use path you are the fastest and therefore most dangerous user. That means you must be careful around people walking on the path as well as children who may not be as experienced riding a bike. If you are going to pass someone, first make sure there is no one coming toward you in the opposite direction. Then, let the person who you are about to pass know that you are there either by ringing your bell if you have one or by saying "on your left."

Regardless of whether you ride your bike on the road or the path this summer, remember to have fun, be safe and stay hydrated!

More on laws pertaining to bikes can be found at: <http://www.georgiabikes.org/resources/educational-resources/ga-bicycle-laws>

**KEEP IT LOCAL**  
*Shop & Dine with the Locals*  
 Every 4th Friday 5:00pm - 9:30pm  
 Shop & Dine with the businesses in the  
 Westview Commercial District  
 along with local farmers & artisans.  
 May - September  
 \* May will be May 20 based on Holiday.  
 More info: [westviewcda@gmail.com](mailto:westviewcda@gmail.com)

WCDA  
 WESTVIEW COMMERCIAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Steffi Langer-Berry

In July the Atlanta BeltLine demolished the former service station located at 1385 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd. The purpose of the demolition was to eventually make room for a ramp and entry plaza. At the April Westview Community Organization meeting the general body voted against the demolition of the building, instead requesting a solution to build the ramp while coming up with an adaptive reuse of the old service station building.

Unlike the Eastside Trail, the Westside Trail features a lot of residential houses abutting the path, as well as large-scale warehouse spaces. The former service station was one of only four small-scale commercial buildings sitting directly on the Atlanta BeltLine that would have provided for an easy and quick redevelopment opportunity and destination for visitors. It remains to be seen how this lack of destinations will impact the trail's use. The Westside BeltLine Trail is scheduled to open in the fall of 2017.

In more positive news, the small-scale commercial buildings across the street from 1385 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd., at the intersection of Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd. and Cascade Ave., are getting ready for a facelift. The former fire station and adjacent properties will undergo renovations over the next few months. As part of the renovations, long-term resident Mutana will temporarily relocate to the Westview Village (see *Business Spotlight* article), where it will occupy one of the vacant center units in the Denny's Super Save building block.

## SUMMER SOLSTICE PHOTOS



## ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

### WESTVIEW COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, August 1:** Westview Community Organization Meeting @ 1471 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 7:00-8:00pm

**Tuesday, August 2:** National Night Out @ Westwood Ave & Manson Ave, 5:00-8:00pm

**Saturday, August 6:** Mimosas & Brunch @ D Cafe, 1540 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 9:00am-2:00pm

**Wednesday, August 10:** NPU-T Meeting @ KIPP STRIVE Primary, 1444 Lucile Ave, 7:00-9:00pm

**Monday, August 15:** Westview Commercial District Association Meeting @ D Cafe, 1540 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 7:00-8:00pm

**Friday, August 26:** 4th Friday Keep It Local @ Westview Village, 5:00-9:30pm

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Zone 4 Police: Code Enforcement:  
(404) 756-1903 (404) 330-6190

Sanitation/Public Works:  
(404) 330-6333

### STAY IN TOUCH

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

[www.facebook.com/westviewatl](https://www.facebook.com/westviewatl)

[www.twitter.com/WestviewAtlanta](https://twitter.com/WestviewAtlanta)

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

[info@westviewatlanta.com](mailto:info@westviewatlanta.com)

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