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# WESTVIEW NEIGHBOR

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ISSUE 17

*Remembering the Past. Creating the Future.*

WINTER 2016/2017

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## ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

*Bontia Johnson-Corey*

Our 2016 Annual Holiday Dinner for the Westview Community Organization (WCO) is quickly approaching. I am excited and really looking forward to share this occasion with my neighbors, council persons and local fire/rescue personnel. The cuisine prepared and/or purchased by loving hands and hearts will make this a cheerful season worth celebrating. It was uplifting to see our community come together for activities and events such as the Summer Solstice and Atlanta Street Alive.

Now it is time we prepare to celebrate one of the most joyous time of the year with fellow neighbors. Since there is not a community center in Westview, Fire Station #17 is hosting this event. I am grateful and believe this is a wonderful opportunity to express our appreciation for their dedication in serving the community. We will connect with neighbors, familiar and new. Your assistance to make this celebration successful is requested. This event is potluck and neighbors are asked to bring or donate side dishes and other items. I need volunteers to serve on the committee and/or sign up to bring items for this event. We are expecting to serve at least 75 people, including the fire/rescue.



*The 2015 holiday dinner at Fire Station 17.*

The WCO Holiday Dinner is on Saturday, December 17, 2016, at 12:00p.m. to 2:30p.m. The location is Fire Station #17, 1489 Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard S.W., Atlanta, GA 30310.

You can sign up to bring something to the holiday party online through Signup Genius via <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a45a8aa2ba2f49-westview>.

I can be reached by email at [verryblueberry@yahoo.com](mailto:verryblueberry@yahoo.com) or (678) 592-6585.text

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## SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS

Council member Andre Dickens has put together a website full of programs that provide senior discounts to reduce your cost of living, including:

- Utility Assistance
- Medicare Assistance
- Mobile Phone Discounts
- Property Tax Exemptions
- Internet Assistance
- City of Atlanta Services
- Affordable Housing & Home Repairs

Visit [www.opportunities4atlanta.com](http://www.opportunities4atlanta.com) or call 404.330.6041 to receive the program list as a printed paper mailer.

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## 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Congratulations to your 2017 Westview Community Organization Executive Committee. The following officers were elected at the December 5, 2016 meeting:

- President - Jacinta Williams
- Vice President - Blake Jimerson
- Secretary - Kiyomi Rollins
- Assistant Secretary - Louis Ali
- Treasurer - Bonita Johnson-Corey
- Assistant Treasurer - Altovise Ewing

## 2016 IN REVIEW

2016 has been a year full of new developments and marks a new era for the Westview Community Organization (WCO) and Southwest Atlanta at large. I would like to recognize the following people and organizations that keep WCO running:

- All officers and committee chairs who served on the 2016 Executive Committee
- Rebecca Cater, Immediate Past Membership Chair
- John Davis, Immediate Past Beautification Chair
- Calvary United Methodist Church

The list above is just a small snippet of the people who help to make things happen day to day and by no means is exhaustive. I would like to offer a special thank you to all of the unnamed persons that have volunteered so much time and energy to ensuring that Westview is a "better place to live."

This year began with great tragedy as we lost a grandmother and her two grandchildren at the corner of S. Gordon and Rogers. Although the WCO is deeply saddened at this loss we are grateful our elected officials came together to provide funding to install speed humps on E. Ontario, S. Gordon, Rogers and Westwood Ave. Even with the speed humps we know that speeding is still a problem that our neighborhood continues to face and will require continued effort on our part. The even more inspiring result of this tragedy was the outpouring of support from the Westview community and other neighborhoods in support of this family. Thank you to everyone who went to visit the family and who donated to offset costs.

As always our Beautification Committee has done a wonderful job of maintaining the triangle parks in the community at S. Gordon and RDA, S. Gordon and Willard, and Ontario and Stokes. The Membership Committee has continued to ensure that the *Westview Neighbor* newsletter you are reading now provides relevant and hopefully



*Speed hump installation on East Ontario Ave.*

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entertaining information. You can still become a paying member via PayPal or in person at a monthly meeting or community event. Dues are \$20 for the year and will renew in January. Our Safety Committee has also kept strong ties with Zone 4 officials to ensure a safe neighborhood. Our Garden Committee chair has continued to work to rebuild what was demolished last year and has been awarded a small grant through the Center for Civic Innovation to work with youth and young adults to start their own agricultural businesses. Although the WCO was not able to host a STEAM Camp this year, the Youth Committee was steadfast in providing support and resources to families that needed them the most.

We also had our ninth annual Summer Solstice Celebration festival in the Westview Village on Ralph David Abernathy. This was the second year we hosted this festival in our commercial district. The festival included vendors, a grill competition, kid's arts and crafts, and live music. The Summer Solstice will reach its ten-year anniversary in 2017! The WCO would like to make this event bigger and better than it has ever been, but in order to improve this event we need many volunteers and a chair to make it happen. This is the second year that the Veggie Taste was hosted in Westview. The Veggie Taste is used as a tool to expose and educate the importance of changing over to a healthier eating lifestyle to everyone.

This year continues to bring major developments that have far and wide reaching impact on our schools, infrastructure, culture, and health. On the education front our neighborhood school, Connelly Elementary, was combined with Venetian Hills and is now the Tuskegee Airman Global Academy. Even if you don't have children, please make plans to stop by and visit with the faculty and consider joining the PTA. The education of our children is more important than ever. Please consider joining the Washington Cluster Advocacy Group (WCAG) on Facebook or attending a meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of every month to help shape decisions that will have a great impact on

Westview for decades to come. WCAG has advocated for a STEAM -centered charter cluster and was influential in the \$19 million renovation of Brown Middle School. Our Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) also has an education committee that needs support from people who are passionate about education. For more information about joining the NPU Education Committee please reach out to Tigist Slation at [s\\_tigist@hotmail.com](mailto:s_tigist@hotmail.com).

Recently, the Atlanta BeltLine Inc. announced that it will work with Invest Atlanta to issue a new \$50 million bond to finance projects, affordable housing, and economic development. This has far reaching implications for Westview as Enota Park could possibly receive \$10 million through this fund for design and construction. Trees Atlanta has received a federal grant for invasive species removal and erosion control that will ramp up in early 2017 at Enota Park. Construction crews have been hard at work on the Westside trail which is scheduled to be completed in the late summer of 2017. The Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, the fundraising arm of the BeltLine, with sponsorship from the Kaiser Foundation released a request for proposals soliciting responses from health organizations and businesses to provide health programming/classes once the trail is completed. Be on the lookout in 2017 for an announcement of grantees.

As our community continues to transition with homes listing as high as \$300,000, affordable housing and displacement have become pronounced issues in Westview and other neighborhoods close to the Atlanta BeltLine. Recently, Ryan Gravel (creator of the BeltLine) and Nathaniel Smith resigned from the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership Board to raise awareness around these issues. The new bond would provide approximately \$7.5 million to capitalize the existing affordable housing fund, but this is not nearly enough to address the issue. Council member Andre Dickens led an effort to pass an affordable housing ordinance that was approved in May and was enacted July 1, 2016. He has also been leading an effort around inclusionary zoning. In Westview, elders and renters will need additional support to remain in our community. There are existing resources for elders such as property tax freezes and housing rehab support from a variety of organizations. If you are an elder, please see the ad in this newsletter for a plethora of information that can help you remain in your home.

The Westview Commercial District Association (WCDA) has continued to create a vision for our commercial corridor along RDA by leading development and addressing business related-concerns. We have welcomed several new businesses over the course of the year. You may have noticed that historic fire station 17 is being renovated at the corner of S. Gordon and RDA. If you own or plan to start a business in the Westview Village, please consider attending a WCDA meeting on the

third Monday of every month. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/westviewcda>. More changes will be coming to our commercial corridor with the restriping and resurfacing of RDA by the GADOT in the spring of 2017. We hope to coordinate this work with the \$1.5 million Renew Atlanta funding RDA received to address sidewalks and beautification along this corridor.

Both the WCO and WCDA have worked closely together with the City of Atlanta Office of Planning on the rezoning of the Westview Village to a Neighborhood Commercial (NC) District. This rezoning will allow development to flourish in our commercial district while also providing guidance for developers, property owners, business owners and protections for Westview residents.

We will end this year with our annual holiday dinner potluck at Fire Station 17 on December 17, 2016, from noon-4:30pm. 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.

All of these accomplishments would not be possible without your support through dues and volunteer hours. 2016 has been a year of tremendous growth and transition. Now more than ever our neighborhood is positioned to be a leader on decisions about the redevelopment of Southwest Atlanta. Major development projects will continue to come in and around our community. Displacement and affordable housing are huge issues that we, as a community will have to face head on in the next few years. Now is a great time to get involved to be part of the changes to come.

Looking forward to seeing you at a neighborhood event soon!

Octavia  
President, Westview Community Organization



*The Atlanta BeltLine Westside Trail under construction in 2016.*



## DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Steffi Langer-Berry

Westview continues to see exciting developments on both the commercial and residential fronts:

- In July speed humps were constructed along East Ontario Ave, South Gordon, Street, Westwood Ave, and Rogers Ave. This will help alleviate some of the speeding and make Westview's streets safer to pedestrians.
- The Westview Neighborhood Commercial (NC) District was approved by City Council on December 5, 2016. Residents and businesses alike had worked together for years to create the plans and see the project through. The zoning will help ensure the district will retain its human-scale, pedestrian-friendly feel.
- Restaurants that have opened, or will open soon: KarbonStar Vitality, a vegan cafe and juice bar, at 1542 R. D. Abernathy Blvd; D Cafe is relocating to 1550 R. D. Abernathy Blvd; and another new restaurant will soon open in the former D Cafe location at 1540 R. D. Abernathy Blvd.
- Retail shops that have opened, or will open soon: Take your pets to Atlanta Meet the Groomers (AMG) at 1529 R. D. Abernathy Blvd; buy antiques and housewares from The Urban Tastemaker at 1546 R. D. Abernathy Blvd; and watch the Spelman College Dance Department at 1388 R. D. Abernathy Blvd.
- A new bike rack was installed in front of The Good Hair Shop at 1548 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd thanks to the City of Atlanta - Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs. The bike rack was painted by artist David Bardis as part of a city-wide Mural Bike Rack project.
- Google Fiber has been busy installing conduit in the neighborhood.



## 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

**Saturday, December 17:** Holiday Dinner @ Fire Station 17, 1489 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 12:00-4:30pm

**Saturday, December 17:** Holiday Party & Market @ 1552 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 7:00-11:00pm

**Monday, January 2:** Westview Community Organization Meeting @ 1471 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 7:00-8:00pm

**Wednesday, January 11:** NPU-T Meeting @ KIPP STRIVE Primary, 1444 Lucile Ave, 7:00-9:00pm

**Monday, February 6:** Westview Community Organization Meeting @ 1471 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd, 7:00-8:00pm

**Wednesday, February 8:** NPU-T Meeting @ KIPP STRIVE Primary, 1444 Lucile Ave, 7:00-9:00pm

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

P.O. Box 89306, Atlanta, GA 30312

## 2017 DUES

Pay your 2017 Westview Community Organization (WCO) dues of only **\$20 per household**. Your membership in the WCO helps sponsor ongoing community efforts, such as beautification, special events, newsletters, and more.

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