

Do Our Children Stand a Chance?

Beautify Westview!

Crime-Stopping Strategies

Spring Break Fun



Remembering the Past. Creating the Future.

WESTVIEW neighbor

Mar / Apr
2012

In Search of Education

Perspectives from Southwest Atlanta Educators and Parents by Ayana Gabriel

The Atlanta Public School System (APS) has often made headlines for unfortunate reasons: a national cheating scandal, troubled board relations, and more recently, talk of school closings. These events prompt a serious question – do Atlanta children have an opportunity to get a quality education? *Westview Neighbor* spoke with parents and educators in the community to get their viewpoints.

At Brown Middle School's monthly Principal's Roundtable, Principal Joyce Thomas explains to parents the importance of having a secure testing environment. Several raise their hands to volunteer as test monitors. The conversation turns to the potential closure of nearby Kennedy Middle School and the impact this could have on Brown. "I've heard a lot of things," one parent states, "But I want to know what you think." Principal Thomas repeats a sentiment, "We have no concern with taking extra children. We *are* under capacity." Thomas does have one reservation – she wants to make sure that "our kids on the Southside" are not the only ones bearing the burden of switching schools.

Just over a mile away, KIPP Metro

Atlanta (MA) plans to launch KIPP STRIVE Primary – its first elementary school in Atlanta. "Our philosophy is with more time and great teachers, there is no limit to what we can do," says Ed Chang, Principal of KIPP STRIVE Academy. Parents are drawn to the school's 7:30 – 5 pm school day and its great academic success: 95% of KIPP MA's first class graduated high school and 85% attended college. This popularity does have a downside. The new elementary school has already received over 200 applications for only 100 slots.

The innovative model of the Kindezi Charter School is based on the practices of the Bantu people of the Kongo kingdom, and focuses on small classrooms where children get one-on-one attention. Principal Dean Leeper envisioned creating a school where rigorous academic content is taught "without sacrificing the arts, creativity, and project-based learning." The model has worked. In their first year, Kindezi children showed significant progress in a nationwide assessment.

Westview parent Kwabena Nkromo believes that "a teacher's job and primary responsibility is my child's education. However, I'm not going to leave that responsibility solely to the teacher." Other residents, including Nia Knowles, have chosen to home-school their kids. "A young mind is impressionable," says Nia. "I want my children to have strength and values – that is why I don't have them in public school." Nia taps into the many citywide discounts – such as the Georgia Aquarium – that exist for home-schooled children.

Both educators and parents hope to see more quality education options for Westview children in the future. Ed Chang has a similar vision: "We want children who can compete with those who attend the best schools. There is nothing that we do that is rocket science – it is hard work, more time, great teachers. We want to frame the conversation in a different way, from 'why can't we?' to why we can."



Newsletter Staff

Patrick Berry, Ad Design

Keith Blackmon, Photographer

Ayana Gabriel, Writer / Ad Sales

Katherine Little, Copy Editor

Earl Picard, Writer

Kisha Solomon, Editor

For questions, story ideas, and advertising,
contact: westviewnews@yahoo.com

Keep Westview Beautiful!

It's almost that time of year again – get ready for the bi-annual Westview Neighborhood Cleanup. This year's cleanup will occur over 3 Saturdays in the month of April. We need your support to make this effort a success. So mark your calendars and come out to meet your neighbors, get some sun, and help make our community beautiful!

Westview Cleanup Dates:

- April 7: *Tire Recycling Day; Stokes Avenue Garden Project*
- April 14: *Trash/Junk Day*
- April 21: *Weed Control Day*

Volunteers will meet at KIPP STRIVE Academy (1444 Lucile Avenue) at 9:00 am each Saturday.

For more details, contact Ken Carey at 404.788.3431.



Advertise Here!

Contact: westview-news@yahoo.com for rates and ad

Meet the Gambrells *Westview Neighbors*

Raymond Gambrell proudly serves as Chaplain of the Westview Community Organization. *Westview Neighbor* sat down with Raymond and his wife, Mary, to talk about the neighborhood.

What is/was your profession?

Raymond: I operated a nightclub on Auburn Ave, the Atlanta Veteran's Club.

Mary: I was a homemaker and now I'm a nurse.

When did you move to Westview?

Raymond: My mother moved here in 1966. In 2000, we moved back here from Peachtree Battle. We were living in a condo and wanted more space for the grandkids. I had a dream where my mother, who by then had passed, said, "You can always go home." We made arrangements to renovate the house.

What is your favorite memory of the neighborhood?

There used to be a pharmacy at Beecher and Cascade, and a Dairy Queen at Laurel and RDA. You could go in there, get a Cherry Smash and hot dog for about 30¢, and sit at the soda fountain. There were two grocery stores, a hardware store, and a tailor. You could find anything you

wanted in that hardware store. This was back in the '60s. The neighborhood went down in the '80s; it is nice to see it coming back. We're starting to see persons taking care of their homes and yards again.

What is your favorite aspect of the neighborhood?
We love that there is a lot of character in the homes. Plus, we are right in town.

What are your hopes for Westview in the future?
We want to see young people moving back in the neighborhood. Thinking

about how it once was, and what it can be – it can be bigger and better than it ever was if people come together. It used to be a friendly community, people cared about the neighborhood. This is what I'm hoping for in the future – we as a community, as neighbors come together and look out for one another.



*One Taste Is
All It Takes!*

**The BEST
HOTWINGS
WORLDWIDE!**

**Mention this ad
and get 10% off**

**misscrumpshotwings.com
404-758-4321
1540 RDA Blvd.**

Smart Tips for Preventing Crime

by Earl Picard

Like most inner-city communities, Westview has its share of crime. According to the Atlanta Police Department, burglary and larceny are the most common. Here are suggestions to help protect your home and your community.

Harden Your House. According to security experts, 85% of all break-ins are committed by non-professional burglars. Of those, almost 80% gain access through a first-floor door or window. Good quality doors, windows, and locks are the best preventive measure.

- Make wooden door frames kick-resistant by installing a full-length metal wrap plate.
- Install a quality dead bolt lock above the doorknob. Consider adding a second deadbolt two feet from the top of the door.
- Security doors should have few "pull points" to thwart burglars who try to yank on the door. Screws should be one-way or those that require a special tool.
- Lexan, an unbreakable clear plastic, is more secure than glass.
- Install burglar bars or security locks on vulnerable first-floor windows.
- A monitored alarm system is desirable, especially one with an external siren.
- Consider remotely-monitored motion-sensing cameras.

Watch Out for Your Neighbors.

Collective action by residents is an effective crime prevention strategy. A Neighborhood Watch program where citizens identify and report suspicious activity is among the best approaches.

- More participating neighbors means wider coverage within the neighborhood. Consider volunteering to be a Westview Neighborhood Watch participant.
- Neighborhood Watches should have a clear strategy and build a partnership with law enforcement to determine which problems to address together.
- Training ensures that every vol-

unteer knows what to do when suspicious activity is noticed. If you are or plan to become a Neighborhood Watch volunteer, be sure to take advantage of the training programs available.

Parents, Get Involved. Some burglars may come from outside of Westview, but young people from the community may also be involved in these crimes.

- Parents, are your teenagers and young adults not in school and not working, but out and about during the day? Neighborhood groups, churches, and schools often provide constructive activities.
- Do your kids seem to have wads of money or expensive items like iPods, smartphones, or jewelry that they didn't get from you or from work? Ask questions. If their explanations are shaky, don't let them off the hook.
- Are your kids hanging out with older friends or relatives who are known bad influences? Know and watch your children's friends closely!
- Keep in mind – children who start with petty burglaries may eventually turn to more serious crimes.
- Once ensnared in the criminal justice system, kids may become permanent second-class citizens – unable to find a decent job or to qualify for training programs and social benefits (public housing, student loans, etc.). Their youthful indiscretions have life-long implications. Parents, you can break this cycle by getting involved in your children's lives before it is too late.



Providing the best quality and most highly trained barbers in Atlanta.

Our harmonious environment results in a great experience!



Wi-Fi Hot Spot

1538 RDA Blvd.
404-758-9700
thebarberloft.com

One Source Atlanta



Property Management & Eviction Company

We Rent Houses!

Section 8 * 2nd
Chances Welcome



1534 RDA Blvd.
678-705-7877
onesourceatlanta.com

westview facts...

The growth of the Westview neighborhood is distinctly reflected in its architecture. The majority of the houses on the eastern edge of the neighborhood are built in an Arts and Crafts style. As the neighborhood continued to develop, so did its housing styles. Tudors and cottages are common on the western end of Westwood and Rogers Avenues, and post-WWII housing can be seen along Derry Avenue and Alvarado Terrace.



Spring Break – Ideas for Kids and Teens

by Ayana Gabriel

Looking for something for the kids to do during Spring Break? Check out these family-friendly events around town.

Atlanta Fair 2012: Try some good old-fashioned family fun. Rides, food, and games come to Turner Field Gray Parking Lot until April 8. Open Mon–Fri at 5 pm, Saturday at noon, and Sunday at 1 pm. All ages are welcome! Info: www.atlantafair.com or 404.913.FAIR



Atlanta Blooms!

300,000 Watts of Flower Power: Enjoy the beauty of spring at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. From hot pinks to fiery oranges, the 2nd annual springtime celebration is held March–April. Info: 404.876.5859 x2556 or www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org

Peter Pan, Center for Puppetry Arts

Arts: Enjoy this new musical adaptation, for everyone who is young at heart, with original music, songs, and a Neverland full of adventure. Playing April 5–May 27; previews: April 3 & 4, 10 and 11:30 am.

Info: www.puppet.org/perform/peterpan.shtml or 404.873.3391

Black Voices: Unbreakable Faith, Clark Atlanta University:

A student play focused on the many challenges faced by contemporary African Americans, with a collection of vignettes woven with music and dance. March 30 –April 2. May not be suitable for children under 12. Info:

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/233900 or 404.880.8175

West End Easter Egg Hunt: Join our sister neighborhood in their annual Easter Egg Hunt. April 7, 10 am, West End Park.

Wildlife Rescue, Fernbank Museum of Natural History: Kids will enjoy experiencing the hands-on excitement of rescuing and returning diverse species back to the wild. Runs until May 6. Info: 404.929.6300 or www.fernbankmuseum.org

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

April 2 — Westview Community Organization Meeting, 7:00 pm

Calvary United Methodist Church, 1471 R.D. Abernathy Blvd.

April 7 — Community Cleanup, 9:00 am, meet at KIPP STRIVE, 1444 Lucile Ave.

April 11 — NPU-T Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm, KIPP STRIVE,

April 14 — Community Cleanup, 9:00 am, meet at KIPP STRIVE

April 21 — Community Cleanup, 9:00 am, meet at KIPP STRIVE

Stay in Touch

Web: www.westviewatlanta.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/westviewatl

Message Board: groups.yahoo.com/group/westviewcommunity

NPU-T: www.nputatlanta.org

areawest
REALTY

O: 404-228-2995 | M: 404-414-3289

W: NiaKnowsRealty.com

AREA West Realty Group of
Morris & Raper Real Estate Consultants

Clean One, Inc.
Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning

A complete turnkey service
Home cleaning starting at \$99

770-885-9536

2001 M.L. King, Suite 310