

Historic Westside News



August / September 2019

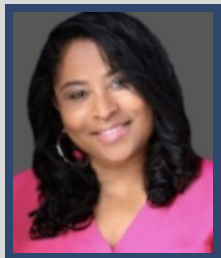
"Linking Neighbors and Celebrating Diversity"

Issue 14

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Atlanta's First Planned Black Suburb Historic Washington Park Celebrates Its Centennial

By C J Jackson

The Washington Park Neighborhood is Atlanta's first planned African American suburb community. It was developed under the leadership of entrepreneur, architect, developer and the founder of Citizen Trust Bank Heman E. Perry for Atlanta's black residents.

At the time of Washington Park's development, Ashby Street (now Joseph E. Lowery Blvd.) functioned as an early "color line," or street separating black and white neighborhoods. Many of the homes and civic institutions in Washington Park were designed and built by black architects and contractors for families relocating to the neighborhood. This was during a time when they otherwise had been denied professional licensure, and therefore denied commissions to work in other parts of Atlanta. As black families continued to settle on the west side of Atlanta, businesses and services migrated to this part of the city from areas such as Sweet Auburn and Old Fourth Ward.

By the middle of the 20th century, Washington Park was recognized as a strong and thriving neighborhood. It contained schools, shops, parks, medical facilities and professional offices to serve the community.

Washington Park: Atlanta's First Park for African Americans

In the aftermath of the Great Atlanta Fire of 1917, the City Council of Atlanta and Mayor Asa G. Candler, agreed to form a Commission to study the possibility of establishing big municipal parks in the destroyed territories to separate the races in that district.



Thunderin Tau Chapter Ques volunteers for day of service

By 1919 the 'city beautiful' plan influenced by increased political pressure from the Auburn Avenue African American leadership and the second burning of Atlanta caused a major population shift in the city.

The destruction in the "Fourth Ward" pushed many African Americans who lived there to relocate to the rapidly developing West Side of Atlanta. As a result, on November 3, 1919, the Alderman's Council voted to begin construction in the Westside on 6.57 acres of land to be known as Washington Park with the "understanding that it be used in perpetuity for park purposes and that it is to be properly equipped and supervised."

The Conservancy at Historic Washington Park

The Conservancy at Historic Washington Park is a 501c3 non-profit community organization that works to preserve the history of Washington Park and to advocate on behalf of the city of Atlanta's first Black park. Throughout 2019, the Conservancy has sought to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Washington Park with community ser-

vice days and special events, like the Beltline Jamboree and the Atlanta Jazz Festival.

Earlier this year, the Conservancy participated with the Atlanta Audubon Society and the Greening Youth Foundation to install a bird-friendly native demonstration garden in Washington Park. The new gardens provide opportunities to do direct outreach to the Youth of our community.



Camp Best Friend Youth Gardener

On July 22, 2019, Atlanta Audubon conducted the first official Bird Walk for children attending Camp Best Friends in the Washington Park Natatorium.

Continued on pg. 2

Building the Beloved Inclusive Community From Within!

Continued from pg.1

Atlanta Audubon's Ryan Schultz and Jason Ward led a tour of the park, highlighting the importance of the park's natural environment, its pollinators and the new demonstration garden. We look forward to presenting future events that have the power to invite the public to see the park in a new and exciting way. Our efforts to recognize the importance of this Centennial year will continue in the coming months.

We invite you to join us! For more information about how you can help support the work of the Conservancy at Historic Washington Park go to www.conservancyathwp.org

Donate...Become a Member. Volunteer!

*credit City of Atlanta Alderman's Council Minutes. Atlanta History Center



With intentionality, integrity and agape love for our neighbors as ourselves.

We have the power of the VOTE to elect our representatives and the responsibility as citizens to hold them accountable. Every election is critical and can determine the course of politics on state, local, and federal levels that impact our personal and collective quality of life.

On a local level, Atlanta lost a champion for the people, equality and justice with the passing of Commissioner Emma Darnell. Those who reside in District 6, please take the candidates seeking to complete her term seriously. Do your homework and met with them, share your concerns and align with the candidate that qualifies to address the need of your district.

We must all recognize that politicians are human beings whom need to hear from the residents that they are sworn to serve. When they fail to represent us we must hold them accountable. Commissioner Darnell was loved and admired, she mentored many including this writer. Her exemplary leadership as one who stood for justice and fought the good fight to the end, will be difficult to duplicate.

Let us honor her memory by exercising the power of the vote and holding elected officials accountable. The nine candidates running for Commissioner Darnell's seat include Gordon L. Joyner, a former county commissioner and a former city councilman, Joe Carn, a former College Park city councilman. Rafer Johnson, a former candidate for mayor in the city of South Fulton, and Sonia Frances-Rolle, an educator. Also, Sojourner

Marable Grimmett, a community activist, Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, a business owner, Yoshina Colbert Bradford, a real estate broker, Carl Winfred Dorsey Jr., an entertainment executive and Warren C. Head Jr. is a retiree.

A special election will be held on **Tuesday, Sept. 17**, and, if necessary, the runoff will be **Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019** to fill Commissioner Emma I. Darnell's unexpired term that ends on Dec. 31, 2020 for District 6. One of the registered candidates will get to represent the sixth district, which includes unincorporated Fulton County, College Park, Chattahoochee Hills, Palmetto, Fairburn and Hapeville as well as parts of South Fulton, Union City, East Point and Atlanta.

Darnell had been a member of the county commission since 1992, winning eight terms to represent the south part of the county. She was known as the voice for the voiceless and an advocate for vulnerable people and communities. Her term runs through the end of 2020.

These nine candidates say they are ready to continue her legacy. Now it is up to you to determine who will represent District 6 and hold them accountable.

A Call for Political and Cultural Activism



Vote Tuesday, September 17, 2019 District 6 Special Election

By Makeda Johnson

Every day we hear of another alarming tweet coming from the oval office. As we watch racial tensions increase and civil rights rescind we must acknowledge that **We The People** do not have to be passive victims. We can and must unite for our common interest and "Build the Beloved Community From Within." To do so we must engage in both political and cultural activism.



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- Historic Washington Park
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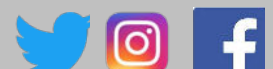
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Rodney Cook Sr. Peace Park at Historic Vine City

Much More Than a Name... A Place to Study War No More



By Andrea L Boone

In 2008, the city named the north border of Rodney Cook Sr. Peace Park for my late father, the Rev. Joseph E. Boone. The park located on Atlanta's west side will consist of 16 acres of green space, with a lake, and, of most significance, a Peace Pantheon with a library, 18 sculptures and tributes to civil and human rights leaders from the area. All said, it will be the largest peace park in America.

I often reflect on lessons my father taught me. As a civil rights leader, congregational minister and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s appointed chief negotiator for Operation Breadbasket, my father knew that the movement was not just about making life better for black people in America, but "redeeming America's soul." I'm confident he would have supported naming the "peace park" for Cook.

Cook and many other whites including my father's best friend, and Emmaus House founder, Father Austin Ford, an Episcopal priest and advocate for civil rights, made important contributions to the civil rights movement for which my father devoted his life. Ford proudly took a stand placing him on the right side of history. My family had great respect for Father Ford, who treated my sister and me like we were his own children. Both Ford and Cook stepped out on the front lines of this important fight at great peril. Cook placed himself and his entire family in peril during the period my father was most active, by taking a stand for what was right, instead of what was politically expedient.

So far, coverage of debate on this issue has centered around a decision by the Atlanta City Council to name the park for Cook, a white man who happened to be a Republican. The focus turned to Cook's race, versus his heart and courage, thereby missing the central message of the civil rights movement. To paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. – all people should be, "judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin."

Former District 3 Councilmember Jabari Simama, who preceded Michael Julian Bond and Ivory Lee Young, Jr., stated it most eloquently, saying: "The peace component elevates the park above just being a city park with a retention

pond. It makes it a real destination where peace leaders and lovers from around the world will come and meditate, pray and reflect upon world peace."

The disagreement over what to name the park is more complex than a perceived scrimmage between the more seasoned generation, including civil rights icon Ambassador Andrew Young, and the newer one that includes our newly elected councilmember. Support for keeping the park named for Cook came from Councilmember Michael Julian Bond, Maynard Jackson III, Councilmember Amir Farokhi and myself, along with other young residents of Vine City and English Avenue, who hardly identify as the older generation.



The Rev. Joseph E. Boone was a civil rights leader whose daughter says would have supported placing the name Rodney Cook Sr. on a park along Joseph E. Boone Boulevard. Credit: Andrea L. Boone

My father and his siblings were raised on Sciple Terrace, a small street located off then-Simpson Road. He attended Ashby Street Elementary and Booker T. Washington High School.

In 2008, the city honored my father by renaming Simpson Road as Joseph E. Boone Boulevard. It was much more than a renaming. It was an acknowledgment of his courage and his determination. Each time I see that sign, I'm reminded of my father's bold fight for justice. I'm energized when I consider my father's unwavering determination as he held up picket signs to oppose institutions that would not receive African Americans, Jews, and others.

During our last council meeting, I glanced at my mother who was sitting on the front row. As an educator in Vine City, she invested 40 years in the teaching profession. She dedicated her life to instilling much more than reading, writing and French. She taught values. She taught integrity. Her voice and sentiments inform my every decision.

As I listened to the often contentious debate, I asked my colleagues to be fair to the Cook family. I reminded them that a task force re-visiting this issue equates to the re-opening of an old wound. This family has been good to the community. Cook's son and former Councilmember

Ivory Lee Young met with Atlanta's 59th mayor several times, sharing his vision for this park. The former mayor and a delegation traveled to England, meeting with the Prince of Wales to discuss the park's design, construction and fundraising efforts. Young met with his beloved District 3 residents in multiple meetings seeking input from all who committed to attend. A groundbreaking was attended by over several hundred citizens, all gathered with the goal of naming that parcel of land Rodney Cook Sr. Park.

Today, America is torn by racial, national, religious and ethnic strife. I am proud to sit on a city council that is committed to building a park and monuments honoring those who have laid down their swords and shields, regardless of race, and agreed to study war no more. My father devoted his life to this goal, and I will forever be influenced by his life and humbled by his sacrifices.

On July 1, 2019, the Atlanta City Council voted to file legislation that would have delayed progress on the park. I believe it was the right thing to do. Now we can move swiftly on completing the peace park honoring Rodney Cook, Sr., Sen. Julian Bond, Mayor Maynard Jackson, Rev. James Orange, the Rev. C.T. Vivian, Dorothy Bolden, Grace Hamilton and others whose sacrifices for peace and freedom are too often taken for granted or forgotten.

Now, let's move forward and turn our attention to the other pertinent issues facing the city of Atlanta.

Note to readers: Article was published in the Saporta Report Andrea L. Boone Atlanta native is serving her first term on the Atlanta City Council, representing the citizens of District 10. Boone is the daughter of the late civil rights leader Rev. Joseph E. Boone and longtime Atlanta Public Schools educator Alethea W. Boone. She has served the citizens of Atlanta through her work in the office of former Atlanta City Councilmember C.T. Martin. She also served over seven years as the City of Atlanta's commissioner in the Mayor's Office of Constituent Services.



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The Importance of Your Credit Score

By **Anna Foote**

Report released recently by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) tell us that having a credit record is an important aspect of financial well-being. For example: credit reports and credit records influence whether consumers can access credit and how much they will pay. Economically vulnerable consumers are more likely to have limited financial resources and a lack of a credit record can further limit their opportunities. Consumers with low or no credit score also potentially face barriers to credit, housing and employment.

Credit scoring, how it is done, how it is established, how it is built and how it is fixed can be a real mystery to the average consumer. However, everyone seems to know that it is important to keep your score as high as possible. Here are the score categories and implications for each.

300-549: Poor. You will likely receive a rejection of credit every time.

550-620: Subprime. It's possible to get credit, but not guaranteed. If you do, you will pay much greater interest rates, fees and penalties. If you are approved for credit, you will likely be asked for a higher down-payment or asked to get a co-signer.

620-680: Acceptable. You will most likely be given credit, but your interest rates will likely still be pretty high and so you will pay more per month and on the total loan. Also, if you are approved for certain services you may be asked to put down a cash deposit.

660: Prime. Once you reach a score of 660, you are considered to have good credit and pose little risk to lenders and creditors. Your interest rates will be lower, your access to products and services is greater and the cost of acquiring new services like gas and electricity is less as you likely will not have to put down a deposit.

Consumer Beware (Credit Repair vs Credit Coaching and Counseling)

There are agencies advertising 'credit repair' and they promise a quick fix of your credit report and increase in your credit score by removal of collection items or other negative items reported on your credit report. These offers are generally expensive and most of the promises made cannot actually be done. Anyone can say they do credit repair and may charge a lot to do so. However, many are just scammers with empty promises. Although supporting documentation can be submitted to the credit bureaus to correct errors on your credit report, only the credit bureaus can make those corrections. Your creditors can re-

quests that updates be made to your credit report after a mutual agreement (settlement offers) between you and the creditor has been orchestrated.

True Credit Repair

Only you can establish, maintain and improve your credit score, but there are legitimate people and agencies that can teach you how, like On the Rise Financial Center (OTRFC), Consumer Financial Protection Agency or Credit Builders Alliance. Each offers material and information that will help you to make smart decisions about credit. OTRFC offers one-on-one personalized coaching that will help give you the skills and access to tools (like low interest rate credit building loans through credit union membership). OTRFC will also teach you how to manage your own credit score, lower your debt and improve your savings habits. These services are provided free to any resident of English Ave, Vine City and Castleberry Hills.

Steps to Take Now

Here are simple steps you can take to build your credit now.

1 – Know the reality of your credit and not just your guess. Get a copy of your credit report. All three of the major credit reporting agencies are required to provide you a free copy of your credit report every 12 months upon request by phone or letter.

Equifax: 1-800-685-1111 (P.O. Box 740256, Atlanta, GA 30374)

Experian: 1-888-397-3742 (P.O. Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013)

TransUnion: 1-800-916-8800 (P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19022)

2 – Pay your loans on time, even if you only make a minimum payment

3 – Dispute anything on your report that is inaccurate or not your debt.

4 – Call creditors that you owe money to and ask for a repayment plan AND ask them to update your credit report to reflect the new agreement and when it is paid in full.

5 – Get off the 'hamster wheel' of title loans. If you can't ever seem to pay off your short term, high interest loan then get a credit builder/credit consolidation loan from a reputable lender (not a title loan shop) to consolidate and pay off high interest debt. Talk with OTRFC about how to do this.

Don't Just Ignore the Problem

Yes, some things can 'fall off' your credit report after seven years BUT creditors, landlords, utilities, medical collection agencies, etc. can continue to report a collection owed for as long as they want to. Some items reported, like past due taxes, liens and delinquent child support, will never drop until they are paid in full. Just waiting for something to go away is not an option for correcting your credit. Take your credit into your own hands and learn how to manage it yourself.

The power is in **YOUR** hands, and we are here to assist you **on your rise** to financial sustainability.

Anna Foote is the Southeastern Regional Director On The Rise Financial Center

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OPINION

The Declaration of Independence Told Us What to Do About Tyrants Like Trump

ARE WE COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO TAKE ACTION?

By Zenobia Jeffries Warfield

Over the past week, I've done a pretty good job of ignoring the trash that comes from U.S. President Donald Trump and his supporters. Even the comment telling four mostly U.S.-born congresswomen of color to "go back" to the "totally broken and crime infested places from which they came."

I wish more people would do the same.

I mean c'mon. There's nothing new here: Lots of White folks have been spouting such ignorance to Black and Brown folks since Reconstruction. And guess what? *We're still here!*

We know Trump is an agent whose role and sole purpose is to further this nation's particular brand of imperialist white supremacy capitalist patriarchy, while lining his and his family's pockets. Although a dwindling minority of the population might wish to cling to this crumbling structure, more of us have the passion and drive to dismantle it.

As is our *right*.

As American racists increasingly make themselves known, often claiming to be "patriots" upholding the Constitution, I'm drawn to the most fundamental lines in the Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness.

Most folks focus on that first part: "*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*" And stop there.

But there's more. Baked into this nation's founding is a remedy for exactly the kind of dangerous politicking currently oozing from the Oval Office. "*That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness.*"

It is our right to abolish any government



which fails to protect our safety and happiness.

The government's powers are derived from the consent of the governed, and it is our right to abolish any government that fails to protect our safety and happiness. And while Trump's screeds often target Black and Brown people in the U.S., we surely are not the only ones suffering.

Poor and working-class Whites, and even some middle and upper-middle class White people, have allowed themselves to become pawns in the game of race. Our current times have shown that they are nothing more than collateral damage.

Yet, many of those same White folks would rather defend and protect their whiteness to the death. They have bought into the construct of whiteness, to the point that they would rather let their loved ones suffer than do the work required to create a society that also benefits people who do not look like them.

There's not much we can do about that. But if we're going to survive, we, as a country, must meaningfully grapple with and repent for our atrocities.

We can start with the genocide of Native peoples and theft of their land, the enslavement of African people and the continued oppression of their descendants, and the internment of Japanese Americans, to name a few. While there may have been some attempts at correction (such as reparations for Japanese Americans), none has gone far enough to right these wrongs that persist to this day.

If we're going to survive, we, as a country, must meaningfully grapple with and repent for our atrocities.

We don't have to wait for Congressional consensus on reparations to begin addressing the harm being done right now. What *we can* do is not let the hatred take us off our square. *We cannot* allow those in power to distract us with petty, ignorant comments. *We can* demand the implementation of policies that punish those who call

911 on us for merely existing. *We can* call out—or call in—racism, sexism, and any other "ism" when we see it. *We can* hold those we know accountable for their foul behaviors. *We cannot* just join, but be active in programs, groups, and organizations that have anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-classist visions and missions.

And we can vote! Not only with the aim of voting out Trump, but voting for radical, systemic change.

I don't agree that the sole goal of the 2020 election should be to "get rid of Trump." We should also be focused on electing a candidate who is not afraid to *listen to the people* and *institute a new form of government*. One that cares enough about *all* its citizens and visitors who live within its borders to:

1. Apologize for the harm that has been exacted on Black and Brown people in this country.
2. Institute policies that help to repair that harm.
3. End mass incarceration and all its facets and components, including militarization of law enforcement, surveillance of Black and Brown communities, cash bail, and so much more.
4. Forgive student loans for those whose income is below a certain amount.
5. Enact effective climate change policies that work to correct the toll of environmental racism on low-income neighborhoods and communities of color.
6. Make higher education affordable.
7. Make housing affordable, and work to provide housing first to those experiencing homelessness.
8. Stop waging and supporting wars on and in poor countries for our own selfish and climate-destroying desires.
9. Abolish the Electoral College, which was created in part to protect the political influence of slave states.

Zenobia Jeffries Warfield wrote this article for YES! Magazine. Zenobia is a senior editor at YES! She covers racial justice. Follow her on Twitter @ZenJWar.



Georgia's New Voting Machines with Paper Trails



By MD Johnson

Republicans and Democrats disagreed over whether voters should use computer-printed ballots or paper ballots bubbled in with a pen. Democratic legislators have agreed with cybersecurity experts in opposing the new voting system, finding the new system as an imminent threat to election security. They have recommended paper ballots bubbled in with pens, a voting method that avoids the inherent risks of a computerized system.

However, House Bill 316 passed with the Republican majority's prevailing approving the new voting system. The Georgia House's voted 101-69 along party lines to replace electronic voting machines with a touchscreen-and-paper ballot election system.

Georgia election officials supported the new system and believe that voters should trust them to keep results accurate in the future, just as they have during the past 17 years! They have dismissed concerns from the tech community,

which warns of the potential danger of vote manipulation.

The new statewide system includes the same kind of touchscreens that Georgia voters have been using for the past 17 years, with the addition of printers that have been designed to spit out paper ballots for voters to review and then insert into a scanning machine for tabulation. The state's current voting machines lack a paper ballot.

Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger announced that his office is awarding a \$107 million contract to election-technology vendor Dominion Voting Systems to replace the state's voting machines ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

In total, the state plans to buy more than 30,000 ballot-marking devices and more than 3,500 optical scanners to count completed ballots. The contract requires that the new equipment be distributed across Georgia's 159 counties in time for the state's presidential primaries next March 24. A handful of counties may have the new machines ready for municipal elections this fall.

The Dominion contract still have some potential legal hurdles. A lawsuit brought by election-security advocates who want Georgia to switch to paper ballots marked by pen or pencil is awaiting federal ruling. Meanwhile, the Georgia Supreme Court is deliberating a separate case alleging that faulty programming in the 17-year-old DREs led to the disappearance of tens of thousands of votes in last year's race for lieutenant governor.

The Georgia secretary of state's office has had a

checked history on cybersecurity.

Raffensperger's predecessor, Brian Kemp, who is now Georgia's governor, was faulted for rejecting the federal government's offer to conduct vulnerability assessments of the office's computer systems as a safeguard against foreign hacking attempts. Kemp's time as secretary of state was also marked by multiple instances of him mistaking legitimate network activity for a cyberattack.



The new voting system will require increased voter's advocacy, education as each voter must ensure that they have checked their ballot for accuracy before casting their vote.

The new voting machines allows voter to pick their candidate on a touchscreen attached to a printer that then spit out a paper ballot for them to then place into a scanning machine for tabulation.

The new system is scheduled to be online in time for next year's presidential election, the cost for the new voting machines is \$150 million.



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The Trust for Public Land is proud to be partnering with the City of Atlanta and the National Monument Foundation in the implementation of **Rodney Cook, Sr. Park in Historic Vine City.**

Recent Cook Park construction activity by TPL:

- Assemblage of steel pedestrian bridge across project pond
- Installation of stainless steel guardrails & handrails throughout park
- Placement of granite veneer on all retaining walls

Upcoming Cook Park construction activity by TPL:

- Completion of outdoor classroom and stage with terraced seating
- Installation of park lighting with security cameras
- Construction of terraced pools to aerate collected stormwater in pond
- Planting of native trees and shrubs within park



Creating parks and
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Learn more about our work in Georgia
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Anti-Displacement Tax Fund



Heights, Just Us and Historic Booker T. Washington neighborhoods due to increases in property taxes.

The ADTF program pays for increases in homeowners' existing property tax bills for up to 20 years. The program operates as a grant to individuals and **does not** require participants to pay back any funds. As part of its mission to ensure that current residents can stay in their communities for generations to come, WFF is providing all funding for the program, sourced from philanthropic contributions.

Westside Future Fund (WFF) just completed the first full cycle of its innovative Anti- Displacement Tax Fund (ADTF) program with its first payments being made on Sept. 21. More than **90** homeowners have been approved

for the ADTF program this year.

The ADTF program was put in place to prevent the displacement of legacy homeowners in the English Avenue, Vine City, Atlanta University Center, Ashview

For details on the ADTF program, please visit: westsidefuturefund.org/news/tax-fund/ Email: info@westsidefuturefund.org or Call: 678-902-7889

"If I didn't have access to Westside Future Fund, I couldn't afford to live in my neighborhood in the next 2-3 years."

Ebony
English Avenue resident
Anti-Displacement
Tax Fund Recipient



The Westside is Vital for All of Atlanta to Thrive

Westside Future Fund launched the Anti-Displacement Tax Fund to pay qualifying legacy homeowners' property tax increases in the English Avenue, Vine City, Ashview Heights, Atlanta University Center, Just Us and Booker T. Washington communities. To date, 97 current homeowners like Ebony have enrolled in the program. We're helping to ensure they are not displaced due to rising property taxes. Learn more: westsidefuturefund.org



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2 Walk-In spots Monday-Thursday
\$80

Any ZIP code, no proof of income, does NOT establish care

What's New at the Good Samaritan Health Center:

By Veronica Squires

If you've driven by Good Sam recently you probably noticed that we are under construction! You can keep tabs on our progress online at <https://goodsamatlanta.org/building/> where we post weekly updates. While we are excited about the new resources; a fitness center run by the YMCA of Metro Atlanta, a multi-use outdoor pavilion for our daily farmer's market, a gorgeous double fireplace and event place, and a large greenspace for active play, we realize they are only buildings unless the community makes them their home. Construction is expected to be completed by end of August, after which we'll host a grand opening and the whole Westside is invited! Why are we adding these services to our health center? Because the health of our neighbors matters. Residents deserve a safe place to work out, a one-stop shopping experience, a lush grassy field to let their kids play, and benches for meditation overlooking the city skyline. We want everything from the seasonal flowers to the paver selection to demonstrate our commitment to

quality and our patient's health and wellness. We hope thousands of new community members will sense our mission, Spreading Christ's Love Through Quality Healthcare to Those in Need, and decide to trust us to be their doctor. We are here to serve.



Good Sam's First Annual STEAM Summer Camp a Success! The Good Samaritan Health Center, in partnership with The Logan Wilkes Foundation, launched our first annual week-long Eat Well Live Well Kids summer camp! The program provided opportunities for students to learn about healthy eating through farming, fitness, and daily hands-on cooking demonstrations. Twenty three rising 6th-8th graders were exposed to urban farming, chef-

led cooking lessons, fitness activities including yoga, and STEAM breakout sessions such as creating solar-powered t-shirts! Campers enjoyed a jam-packed week that stimulated their knowledge and curiosity in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. If you are a Westside resident interested in signing up your student for our next health education program, contact Anthony Wilkes, Community Partnerships Manager, at Anthony@goodsamatlanta.org.



Veronica Squires, author and Administrative Officer of The Good Samaritan Health Center, Photo credit Good Sam.

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English Avenue, Vine City, Atlanta
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