



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION

MLPA
News



July 12, 2016

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Your MLPA has been busy this summer--read about what is happening and join our efforts. The more members and volunteers we have, the better!

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Get Ready for New School Year



Centralized registration for our cluster is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13.

All Kindergarten, students new to Atlanta Public Schools, or re-registering rising 6th and 9th grade students should register at Grady High School, on Monday, July 13th between 9am-12pm & 2pm-4pm.

For more information on documentation you'll need, etc. [Navigate Here for the Link.](#)

Atlanta Public Schools begin classes on August 3rd.

Here are some important items families should have on their calendars in preparation:

The Morningside Elementary Kindergarten Ambassadors* will host two summer socials for Rising Kindergarteners and their families.

Please come and enjoy these entirely optional and informal meet-ups! Come to one, come to both - whatever works for your family.

Popsicles in the Park Play Date:

Wednesday July 13, 4pm - 6pm at Sidney Marcus Park: [Navigate Here for the Evite Link](#)

Kindergarten Round Up:

Saturday July 30, 10am - noon at Sidney Marcus Park: [Navigate Here for the Evite Link](#)

*These are strictly social get-togethers for rising K families, and will not be attended by MES faculty or staff.

APS Back To School Bash:

July 30th 9am - 1pm at the Georgia World Congress Center: [Navigate here for the APS LINK](#)

Join Atlanta Public Schools for our second annual Back-to-School Bash, as we prepare our students for Day One on August 3rd. This free event is exclusively for APS students and their families with over 50 exhibitors, fun activities for children, free health screenings, educational, after-school and community resources. Students must be present to receive a free backpack filled with school supplies by showing their APS report card (while supplies last).

Open House	Monday, August 1, 2016
Morningside Elementary School	11:00am - 1:00pm
Inman Middle School	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Grady High School	3:00pm - 5:00pm
First Day of School	Wednesday, August 3, 2016

Please contact education@mlpa.org for any comments, concerns or suggestions.




Enjoy 1/2 Off bottles of wine on Tuesday for Lunch and Dinner
Excludes wine bottles over \$60

\$25 Wine Tasting 1st Wednesday of the month
\$35 Champagne Tasting 3rd Wednesday of the month
All tastings include 5 taste of wine (2oz pour)
and 5 paired single bite Amuse-Bouche

Enjoy \$6 Home-Made Sangria, red or white
For brunch, lunch, dinner for just \$6.

French cuisine made just for you, whenever you want
Call anytime to request your specific dish

1620 Piedmont ave., Atlanta - www.atmospherebistro.com

Enjoy 20% Off
Until Aug 30th
Not applicable on special events or prix-fixe menus

How to Survive a Tear Down Next Door



Beth Schapiro, a Virginia-Highland resident, recently posted the results of her inquiry on Nextdoor. With all the scrape-offs in our neighborhood, we thought this was worth reprinting. We are grateful to Beth for her willingness to share.

This is her summary of the advice she received when she asked MLPA and VaHi residents how to cope with an impending demolition and build on the property next to hers. It's presented in roughly chronological order (although #11 may be useful throughout the process):

1. Take a thorough set of photos of your house & property before construction begins, during the project, & after it ends. Include landscaping & surfaces between the properties, especially if your driveway is between your house & the new one. Include interior photos as well, to document whether vibration from the construction caused cracks to walls or foundation.
2. Conduct a survey of your property so that you know exactly where the boundaries are.
3. Be sure your house is shielded from any vermin or pests that may be displaced by the demolition.
4. Become familiar with city ordinances, particularly those addressing building & garage setbacks, noise, construction hours, & placement of dumpster & porta-potty.
5. Look up the building permit requests so that you'll know the size of the house, what trees may be coming down, etc.
6. Establish a good relationship with the builder & project manager before the project begins. Get their cell phone numbers. Find out their rules for subs (e.g., quitting time, clean site) & how they intend to keep your property clear of dust & debris. Also discuss their planned improvements to your shared lot line (fences, landscaping). Many will need to use your water (for pay), so negotiate the details of that.
7. If any issues arise, communicate directly & clearly to the builder or project manager. Don't let things fester & don't go to the city unless all else has failed. Though the city can red-tag the builder for violations that ultimately ends up stretching out the project.
8. Beware of: potential drainage issues if your property is lower than your neighbor's; tire damage from roofing nails (consider getting tire hazard insurance); other damage to your car(s); & possible asbestos issues if the house is old enough.
9. If the new house has already been sold or is being built by your current neighbors, you have a better chance of a smooth process than if it's a spec house whose builder may have less interest in your concerns.
10. Stay positive & remember that it's only temporary. This will be harder for folks whose daytime lives are centered around their home, but this is where knowing what to expect & good relationships with the builder/project manager are key.

11. Wine is the most popular coping mechanism of choice!

Please contact zoning@mlpa.org for any comments, concerns or suggestions.



1397 N. Highland Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306
www.Morningside-Kitchen.com
404-347-9747

We love e-mailing special offers and news only to our closest Morningside Neighbors so don't be left out!

Sign up on our secret page at
www.Morningside-Kitchen.com/neighbors

Weekend Brunch 10am-3pm reservations accepted
Dinner Sun-Thu 5-10pm, Fri-Sat 5-11pm

Featuring wood fire grilled fish & meats
and Peruvian style rotisserie chicken



Zoning Committee Hard at Work

The first Tuesday of every month a group of neighbors meets to review zoning variances in our neighborhood. All neighbors are welcome to attend-anyone wishing to join the committee need only attend 3 meetings to qualify. During the June meeting, members rejected two variance applications:

- **1205 Lanier** - variance to reduce the required half depth yard from 15 feet to 11.6 feet to build a new single-family dwelling (replacing the current home). Neighbors opposed to the variance were allowed to state their objections which included the loss of trees (two 16 inch hardwoods were to be destroyed) and the fact that the structure would loom over the street. In addition, the developer knew about the setbacks when the home on the site was purchased. Both the MLPA board and NPU-F also voted to deny the variance request. It will now be heard before the BZA at their regular meeting on July 14 at noon. A group of neighbors plans to attend.
- **Pine Ridge** - a variance to reduce the front yard setback and increase the front yard coverage to allow a circular drive and canopy addition in the front yard. After the variance was rejected by the zoning committee, the applicant modified the plan, only requesting the canopy modification.

The following variances were approved:

- **1002 Amsterdam** - reconstruct an existing carport that was grandfathered in when the zoning regulations were adopted.
- **732 Amsterdam** - to construct a two car garage closer to the back property line to minimize the impact on existing trees on the property.
- **722 East Morningside** - to reduce a setback to allow the construction of a pool. All adjoining neighbors were fine with the plan as submitted.

At the July 5th Zoning Committee meeting, we heard a variance for 1682 North Pelham Road. The homeowners requested a variance in order to build out an attic space addition to their home. Since the current home falls into the front yard setback, it requires a variance even though the home's footprint remains the same. This passed the committee unanimously. Next the homeowners will appear before the MLPA board at their July 11th meeting and then they will go on to the NPU-F meeting on July 18th.

Please contact zoning@mlpa.org for any comments, concerns or suggestions.



Bottomless Brunch @ Varuni Napoli

Every Saturday and Sunday until 5:00 PM, Varuni Napoli is offering bottomless brunch specials for singles and couples! Enjoy one of our incredible brunch pizzas with a bottomless mimosa to wash it down!

25.00 single / 40.00 couple



Traffic In Morningside Lenox Park

The MLPA Traffic Committee continues to work on the issues raised during the Traffic Forum it co-sponsored with Alex Wan in March. Two items have already been implemented-please pay attention to these changes as you drive through the neighborhood:

- **4-Way Stop signs** were installed at the corner of Amsterdam and Lanier
- **25 MPH Speed Limit signs** were installed on N Morningside from Lanier to N Highland (reduced from 30 MPH)

The committee's work on other items on the Master Traffic List, including closely monitoring the impact of the development at Piedmont and Cheshire Bridge, continues. The lanes are now all flowing with new traffic signals and turning lanes, but the committee will stay in touch with developers as the build out progresses.

We are working with the Virginia Highlands Association on the Monroe Drive Smart Street Initiative to make sure our concerns will be heard. MLPA will alert membership as information progresses. We are also working on another Public Traffic Forum that will be INFORMATIONAL ONLY explaining the engineering logic and real world examples of 'Street Diets'. This will help all of us better understand what is being proposed as we prepare to make substantive contributions at public meetings.

Finally, we are looking at hiring a City-vetted Traffic Engineer to do a comprehensive Traffic Plan for all of MLPA to ensure the impact on our neighbors is minimized.

Please contact traffic@mlpa.org for any comments, concerns or suggestions.

Let's Get Social

MLPA's Events Committee wants you!

Join with your ideas for ways to connect our residents, meet our neighbors, and strengthen our community. The Events Committee just finished up the work on one of our most successful Celebrations of Summer ever. Now we are gearing up for the next set of gatherings. If you enjoy meeting your neighbors and want to help plan future get-togethers, contact events@mlpa.org to sign up for this vital committee.

MLPA Neighborhood Watch Program Needs Street Captains

Our neighbors are the "eyes and ears" of the security patrol. With "eyes and ears" on every street, we can improve security in the community.

Please consider volunteering as a street captain. The job mainly involves forwarding emails from MLPA patrol. This is not a difficult or time-consuming job. It is also a great way to get to know your neighbors better. When there is criminal activity that is of concern (e.g., break-ins, robberies, a pattern of crimes), additional emails may need to be shared. The most time-consuming task involves collecting email addresses for the neighbors on your street who want to participate.

If you are willing to be a street captain or want to know who your street captain is, please send an email to NeighborhoodWatch@mlpa.org. The following streets do not have captains:

Cumberland Rd (N Highland to N Morningside)

Dutch Valley Dr and Pl

Greystone Pk

Highpoint Dr

Helen Dr

Kings Court

Lenox Rd (Peachtree Creek to Johnson Rd)

Mifflin Pl

N Highland Ave (Lanier Pl to E Rock Springs)

N Morningside Dr (E Rock Springs to Cumberland)

N Morningside Dr (N Highland to Lanier)

Pine Ridge Dr

Berwick Marstevan, and Wayne (Many email addresses have been collected; street captains moved)

Please contact neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org to get involved or for any comments, concerns or suggestions.

MLPA History Corner

Forty-five years ago, a core group of Morningside women banded together to form a political action committee (PAC) to stop the Georgia Department of Transportation's plan to build I-485 through Morningside. The road was to run from I-85 a bit north of Cheshire Bridge Road south, bisecting Morningside and Virginia Highlands before ending in a nest of ramps south of Ponce to connect with the proposed GA-10 roughly paralleling I-20.

[Navigate Here for More Info](#)

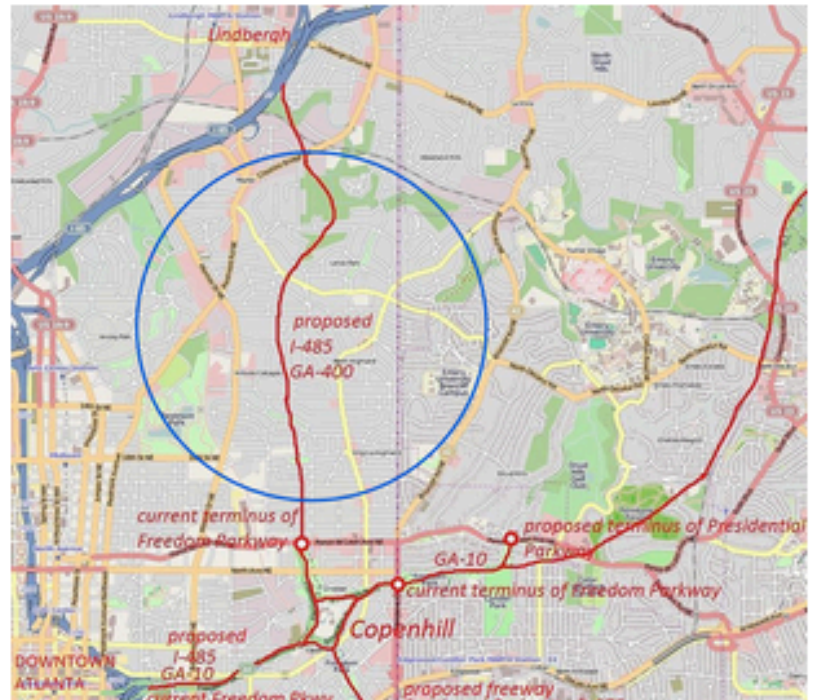
It was originally proposed in the sixties, forming the impetus behind the formation of the Morningside Lenox Park Association (MLPA). The MLPA was founded in 1965 to oppose the freeway, but in a classic case of David vs. Goliath, shortly after its formation, GDOT began the condemnation and razing of homes within the neighborhood.

MLPA sued to stop the road, but was denied and lost on appeal. It seemed a done deal, until Mary Davis, Virginia Taylor, Barbara Ray, Adele Northrup, and Virginia Gaddis stepped in and "stopped it dead in its tracks."

Their timing couldn't have been better. Forming in 1971, they were able to use the new National Environmental Policy Act passed in 1969 and a subsequent Supreme Court decision (December 1969) as the basis for a new lawsuit to stop the freeway. At the same time, the city was undergoing a change in the charter that would replace city-wide elected aldermen with council district representatives, giving neighborhoods a stronger voice.

To fund the lawsuit and their PAC, the group turned to neighbors and the MLPA—a series of fundraisers was held and an MLPA-sponsored forum in March 1971 brought donations that became the seed funding for the effort. The group formed a coalition with other neighborhoods that became a political force in state and city elections, electing anti-road, pro-neighborhood candidates including Mayor Maynard Jackson and Governor George Busbee. The plans for I-485 were stopped, beginning with some legal defeats in 1973 and culminating with Busbee's 1975 order to the GDOT to remove the project from their maps.

The land that was to be used for the road was eventually deeded back to the city and became Sidney Marcus, John Howell and Freedom Parks. Sidney Marcus Park commemorates the efforts by State Representative Marcus who helped prevent the road that would have bisected Morningside, effectively destroying this beautiful neighborhood



Inaugural 4th of July Parade on Lanier



MLPA congratulates the Virginia Highland / Morningside Parent Organization (VHMPO) on a successful first Independence Day Parade in the neighborhood.

The bike and stroller contest brought out all sorts of patriotic décor, giving spectators and participants alike a wonderful start to their July 4th celebrations.

Families show off their flag bedecked bikes and strollers as they await the start of the Inaugural

Independence Day Parade.



Daisy Troop 16393 members Evie Fisher, Finley Holaway, Ava Piduru and Addie Schreiber wear the colors to celebrate July 4th.

Alex Wan's Newsletter

The latest issue of our City Council Representative's newsletter is available by navigating to the [Link here](#).

Calendar of Events

Monday, July 18, 7:00 PM, NPU-F meeting, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Drive, all residents are welcome and may vote.

Saturday, July 23, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 1189 S Ponce De Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA, The Zac Team Shredding Event.

Saturday, July 23, 9:00 AM, Morningside Farmer's Market Chef Demo featuring Woody Back, the porch at Morningside Kitchen, 1397 N. Highland.

Tuesday, July 26, 7:00 AM-7:00 PM, Run-off elections, various voting locations. Note that Morningside Elementary School no longer serves as a polling location. If you previously voted there, you should have received a new card.

Saturday, July 30, 9:00 AM, Morningside Farmer's Market Chef Demo featuring Nick Melvin, the porch at Morningside Kitchen, 1397 N. Highland.

Tuesday, August 2, 7:00 PM, MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside, enter from the Wessynton Parking Lot, all are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, August 3, First Day of School for APS Students.

Saturday, August 6, 9:00 AM, Morningside Farmer's Market Chef Demo featuring Gary Donlick, the porch at Morningside Kitchen, 1397 N. Highland.

Monday, August 8, 7:00 PM, MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside, enter from the Wessynton Parking Lot, all are encouraged to attend.

Monday, August 15, 7:00 PM, NPU-F meeting, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Drive, all residents are welcome and may vote.

Saturday, August 20, 10:00 AM, Ribbon Cutting in Smith Park to celebrate the completion of the fountain.

This Is YOUR Newsletter

Please contact communications@mlpa.org with comments on our newsletter. We welcome your input and will consider all suggestions.

Neighborhood Meeting Schedule:

MLPA Zoning Meetings - 1st Tuesday of every month, 7:00 pm, Morningside Presbyterian Church

MLPA Board Meetings - 2nd Monday of every month, 7:00 pm, Morningside Presbyterian Church

NPU-F Meetings - 3rd Monday of every month, 7:00 pm, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Drive

All neighborhood meetings are open to the public and your involvement is always welcome.

Quick Links:

[MLPA - Morningside Lenox Park Association website](#)

[NPU-F - Neighborhood Planning Unit F website](#)

[APD - Atlanta Police website-- we are in Zone 2](#)

[PEDS - A quick link to report pedestrian hazards to city](#)

[City of Atlanta - City's website](#)

[Atlanta District 6 - Our City Council District website](#)

[VHMPA -Virginia Highland Morningside Parent Association](#)

[NextDoor - Neighborhood list serve- not affiliated with MLPA](#)