



November 10, 2016

### **In This Issue...**

Shorter days and cooler nights are finally here, but MLPA continues to turn up the heat on matters important to our community. We have a lot of work ahead, so let's get to it!

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### **Impending City of Atlanta Annexations Prompt Response from MLPA Board**

The recent and pending annexations that expand the eastern borders of the City of Atlanta have caused some unease, especially among parents of school age children worried that these expansions will impact our schools.

At a recent Executive Board Meeting, the board unanimously approved a policy statement, "It is the policy of the Morningside Lenox Park Association (MLPA) that since Morningside Elementary School is already at or over capacity, that any new students resulting from annexations be assigned to schools within the Grady cluster that have space to absorb them."

The board has sent a letter to the Superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools, Meria Carstarphen, communicating their position. A copy of the letter was also sent to Matt Westmoreland, Atlanta Board of Education Representative for our area, and Alex Wan, District 6 City Council Representative.

The MLPA Education Committee is working actively with the MES PTA as well as parents and other representatives of the schools in the Grady Cluster to create a long-term plan that would ensure that appropriate space and resources are available to all students in the Grady Cluster. This plan would allow for the possibility of additional annexations and would identify the resources and physical spaces that would need to be provided by the Atlanta Public School System to ensure that the schools in the Grady Cluster continue to be able to provide an excellent education to all students in the cluster.

Please contact [education@mlpa.org](mailto:education@mlpa.org) with any comments, concerns, suggestions or to get involved.

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### **Smith Park Ribbon Cutting Celebrates the Fountain Renovation**

Almost a year and a half ago, a group of neighbors banded together to make the water flow again at Smith Park on the corner of Piedmont and Monroe. This park, at the most visible entrance to the neighborhood, needed an investment of time and money so the neighbors and MLPA Parks Committee started working on both.





On Saturday, November 5th we gathered at the park to celebrate the restoration of this beautiful landmark. One of our Boy Scouts kicked off the ceremony, leading the attendees in a pledge of allegiance to the flag that the Morningside Scout Troop placed in the park to commemorate 9/11. A ribbon cutting ceremony honored the major donors that who invested so much time and money into the effort. Charlie Nalbhone, MLPA Vice President, officiated, recognizing the major contributors including Park Pride, J.W. Ayers Plumbing, Surrounding Landscapes, the MLPA, and all of the neighbors that organized/attended fundraisers and made donations to the park fund.



Dan Calvert, Atlanta City Park and Recreation Department, joined Nalbhone in cutting the ribbon to officially open the fountain. Amy Phuong, Parks Commissioner, offered her congratulations on a project well done. Alex Wan, District 6 Atlanta City Council Representative, and Debbie Skopczynski, NPU-F President, were also present. Please visit [www.mlpa.org/smith-park-renovation/](http://www.mlpa.org/smith-park-renovation/) for a complete list of supporters and remember to show your appreciation by patronizing their businesses.

Please contact [parks@mlpa.org](mailto:parks@mlpa.org) with any comments, concerns, suggestions or to get involved.



#### Half-Priced Wine

Stop by Tuesday and Wednesday for half-priced bottles from our Italian wine selection with the purchase of any artisan pizza.

**Tuesday** – Half priced bottles of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay

**Wednesday** – Half priced bottles of Montepulciano and Pinot Grigio



**MLPA Family Concert Series Concludes its 2016 Season**



The last concert of the season was a grand finale, with beautiful fall weather, and Carter Rude & Friends in fine voice joined by an a cappella quartet, the Haygood News. The evening was capped off with a family movie, Nanny McPhee.

During 2016, the series has presented five concerts in addition to entertaining us at MLPA's Annual Celebration of Summer. Each concert provided the families in our neighborhood a chance to come out and mingle, make new friends, and enjoy Sidney Marcus Park. Carter Rude and Friends, a group of very talented musicians, are the core entertainers, inviting other musicians and performers to step in and showcase their talents. Families come out to picnic and relax, making this series a fine addition to our neighborhood.



The MLPA Concert Series is supported by your membership dues. In addition, please remember to thank the series sponsors, without whom these fabulous parties could not take place. During 2016, in addition to MLPA the series was presented by Boynton & Myrick/Harry Norman Realtors. Google Fiber joined in to sponsor the last concert as well as providing games and popcorn. In addition, Green Home Solutions provided 'mosquito terminators' prior to each concert and Rick Lockridge of Vee Media recorded the concerts on video and photographs. Morningside PTA, Primrose School, and Northside Tool Rental also lent support for at least one concert.

Please contact [events@mlpa.org](mailto:events@mlpa.org) with any comments, concerns, suggestions or to get involved.



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## Veterans Day around Atlanta



November 11 is set aside to honor all those who have served our country. Several events are planned in our area to honor veterans:

Friday, November 11, 11:00 AM, **Emory University Quad**, Emory Veterans Association will host its free annual flag ceremony. Jon Keen, veteran and Emory University's Goizueta Business School alumnus, will serve as a guest speaker.

Friday, November 11, 11:00 AM, **Atlanta History Center**, 130 W. Paces Ferry Rd., Joe Galloway, a Bronze Star awardee,

and co-author of The New York Times best-seller "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young," will speak at the Veterans Plaza.

Saturday, November 12, 11:11 AM, Peachtree Street, south of Ralph McGill and Ivan Allen Jr. boulevards, 35th **Annual Atlanta Veterans Day Parade**, with Gen. George Casey, grand marshal. Casey retired from a career in the U.S. Army after 41 years of service, advocates on issues such as suicide and combat stress that affect military families.

## Haygood Cub Scout Pack 17 Annual Mistletoe Fundraiser



For its annual fundraiser, Haygood Cub Scout Pack 17 will again be selling Fresh Artisan Mistletoe in decorative artisan containers from **November 26 to December 17 in Morningside and Virginia-Highlands** for \$10 (or \$15 online).

Our scouts will be selling mistletoe at **5 locations** including the Morningside Farmers Market, the Freedom Farmers Market at the Carter Center, Half-Moon Outfitters, San Francisco Coffee, and Haygood United Memorial Methodist Church.

You can also purchase mistletoe [online](#).

Bulk mistletoe orders for shipment in December can be placed by contacting [pack17scouting@gmail.com](mailto:pack17scouting@gmail.com).

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## Celebration of Summer Planning

Before we know it, the end of the school year will be upon us which means it's time to start planning the biggest party of the year, MLPA's Celebration of Summer. The event which starts the summer off with a bang will take place on Saturday, May 20, 2017 in Sidney Marcus Park.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend our first organizing committee meeting on Monday, January 23, 2017. This year we are especially interested in having members of the VHMPA and Morningside PTA join in the planning to make sure that the activities keep the kids engaged.

Please contact [events@mlpa.org](mailto:events@mlpa.org) with any comments, concerns, suggestions or to get involved.

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## Fall Tree Planting Needs Volunteers



Saturday, November 12 at 9:00 AM volunteers are joining Trees Atlanta to add to the tree canopy in Morningside and Virginia Highland. We need everyone who is able to help out-- simply bring your own gloves and sunscreen/water bottle. Trees Atlanta will provide the rest! Meet at Orme Park by the big mulch pile where there will be a short tree planting basics lesson before the volunteers begin their work.

Morningside will get new trees beginning at North Highland and Courtenay and following Courtenay down to Monroe. Planting will be on the north side of the street-- Trees Atlanta is putting in the trees in response to increased cut through commuter traffic. Volunteers will also add some crepe myrtles along North Highland's west side to continue the crepes that extend along the street through Virginia Highland all the way to

Amsterdam now.

Please contact [parks@mlpa.org](mailto:parks@mlpa.org) with any comments, concerns, suggestions or to get involved.

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## Holiday Safety Tips



Past holiday seasons have seen a spike in security concerns for our neighborhood. In response, MLPA is hosting a Security Forum. Watch your email for an announcement on the date and time.

Last month in this space we ran an article on [Protecting Your Mail](#). Review it and remember to make arrangements for package delivery during the season if you are not planning to be at home.

Earlier this month, one of our neighbors on Yorkshire shared an online posting from [11 Alive News](#) that we thought would interest MLPA members as the holidays approach. Their reporters had surveyed 86 convicted burglars about how they broke into homes. Reading the report, it's clear that the biggest deterrents for burglars are:

1. **Locking your doors and windows**
2. **Keeping the perimeter of your home clear of bushes and trees so that suspicious activity is easily detected and reported**
3. **Knowing your neighbors**

Other deterrents mentioned include having large breed, loud dogs, seeing parked cars in the driveway, and observing lights, radios and TVs on inside the home. Having security cameras and postings of security systems were a mixed bag: they scared some off but also indicated that there were valuable items in the home.

This report emphasizes the importance of MLPA's Morningside Security Patrol (MSP) and Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP). The MSP employs off duty Atlanta Police to patrol our neighborhood. These officers are often the first responders when you call 911-and MLPA Security Plus members can request that they check their home while they are away. If your holiday plans include travel, don't forget to contact the [Morningside Security Patrol](#).

The NWP organizes volunteer street captains who inform and connect our neighbors as a first line of defense against criminal activity in our neighborhood. If you have not already joined, go to [MLPA Neighborhood Watch](#) for more information. If you happen to live on one of the five streets without a street captain, consider becoming one-it's a relatively easy job and provides an invaluable service to the MLPA.

MLPA wishes all a happy and safe holiday. For those of us who are not traveling, keep an eye out for your neighbors and call 911 to report any suspicious activity-then you can safely post it to [Nextdoor.com](#)!

Please contact [NeighborhoodWatch@mlpa.org](mailto:NeighborhoodWatch@mlpa.org) with any comments, concerns, suggestions or to get involved.



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](http://www.Morningside-Kitchen.com/neighbors)

Weekend Brunch 10am-3pm reservations accepted



## Atlanta-Fulton County Property Tax Update



Earlier we reported that the property tax billing cycle had been delayed at Fulton County (see September 13, 2016 MLPA E-News). The county has now resolved the issues and mailed bills to property owners.

If you pay your taxes yourself (not through your mortgage) you should have received a bill. If you have not, you can contact the county tax assessor's office at 404-613-6100 to request a copy or you can go to [The Official Website for the Fulton County Tax Commissioner](#) and do a search for your bill. Note that you must check real estate for the property type.

Since the bills were delayed, the due dates have also changed, but check your bill to avoid late fees.

## Sunday Evening Events Series Kick-Off-Next Up Garden Lights

The inaugural Sunday Event Series for MLPA, the Beltline Art Walk on November 6th, ended up morphing into some of us just meeting for dinner at [Varuni Napoli](#). It was a fitting way to usher in the early darkness of standard time over pizza and new friends.



We are planning to continue the series, scheduling an event where you can come and meet some of your neighbors on the first Sunday of each month. One exception is January when we are scheduling the event for January 8th since the first Sunday is New Year's Day. Go ahead and jot the dates onto your calendar and plan to join us for one of these outings-we'll typically gather late afternoon or early evening with the specifics published in this space and on the calendar at [mlpa.org](#).

The next event is scheduled for Sunday, December 4 from 5-10:00 PM. We will visit the [Atlanta Botanical Garden Lights](#). Tickets are available for advanced purchase (at a discount from day of show prices), but some tickets may be sold at the door.

Email [events@mlpa.org](mailto:events@mlpa.org) to RSVP or call 404 219-5699. Once we have an idea about the group make up, we can decide about dinner plans.

## House Concerts around the 'Hood (by Alan Perry)

While we are not aware of any House Concerts within our borders, the phenomenon is a growing part of the evolving music scene. As music streaming replaces CDs and albums, house concerts are growing as a way for musicians to build a loyal fan base in a more intimate setting than is typically found in a concert venue or bar. Below are some FAQs to introduce you to the concept:

### **What is a House Concert?**

Typically they are private events held either in someone's home or a small venue. Friends, neighbors, acquaintances, and a musical performer are the key ingredients. Tickets are usually not sold, but attendees make a donation, typically \$10-20 that goes straight to the musician. The host provides the home or makes arrangements for the venue-often there is a pot-luck/BYOB or refreshments are offered for sale. Musicians are invited for a two set gig with an intermission that allows them to grab some food/drinks and sell CDs and concert gear. These "pop-up" concerts have become so popular in some cities (think NYC) that spaces have been dedicated to these performances.

### **What makes them so special?**

House concerts provide the audience with a chance to see music 'up close and personal' in a casual, intimate setting. Unlike performances in bars, the performance is the focus of the event. That means the smoke, crowd noise, and separation between audience and artist are missing. The performers are free to interact with the audience, which is sometimes as close as three feet in front of them. For performers, it is a great way to build a fan base and test out new material. For music fans, it's a chance to see great performances at an affordable price in a small setting-typically the audience size is limited by the home/venue in which it's held.

### **How do I find local house concerts?**

Googling various combinations or doing a Facebook search will pull up a list of organizations that sponsor house

concerts in the area. You can often find them listed on your favorite artists' sites. Some concert providers specialize in a music genre, while others offer more eclectic performances. In a recent search we turned up concerts presented by [ALOMA](#) (Atlanta Lovers of Music Association), [Whistle Pig Productions](#), [Red Boots Roots](#), [AAFFM](#) (Atlanta Area Friends of Folk Music), [Housley High Rise](#), [Bowman](#), and [Grocery on Home](#)-some are in-home concerts, other are at music venues or performance spaces.

### Can I host my own?

There are a number of websites offering a "how-to" for people interested in starting their own pop-up concert series or musicians looking for a new experience. Here is a link to a [how-to video](#), a [blog](#) about how to host, one [geared to musicians](#), and [another FAQ](#). These should give you a good start on pulling together a music series of your own.

And if you do, remember to let us know at [communications@mlpa.org](mailto:communications@mlpa.org) so we can give our neighbors a heads up!

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## Trust Company Bank Building News



For those who have been following the fate of the Henri Jova building on Monroe by I-85 that currently houses Cirque Daiquiri Bar and Grill (MLPA E-news September 13, 2016), we have an update. You may recall that the owner was considering razing the building to make way for a five story self-storage facility on the site when the Beltline Design Review Committee and Atlanta Urban Design Commission became involved.

We contacted District 6 Representative, Alex Wan, who emailed us, "As of now, the developer has put this [plans for the storage building] on pause as everyone continues to explore ways to preserve the structure. No imminent threat, and it sounds like all stakeholders are working towards the same end."

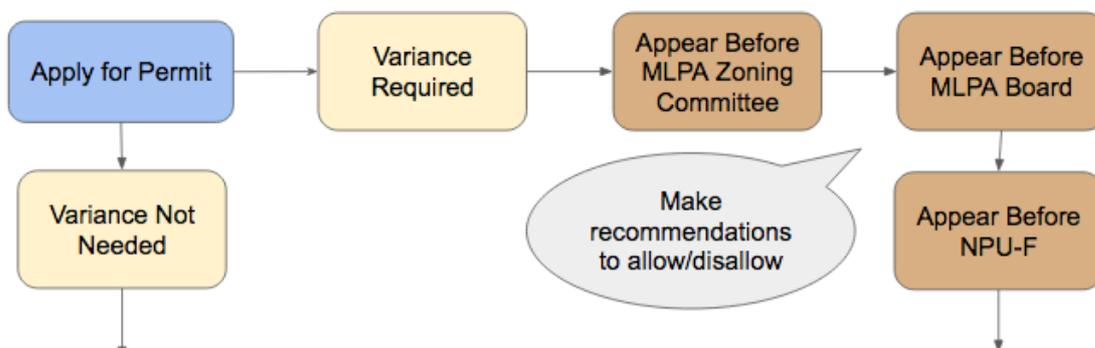
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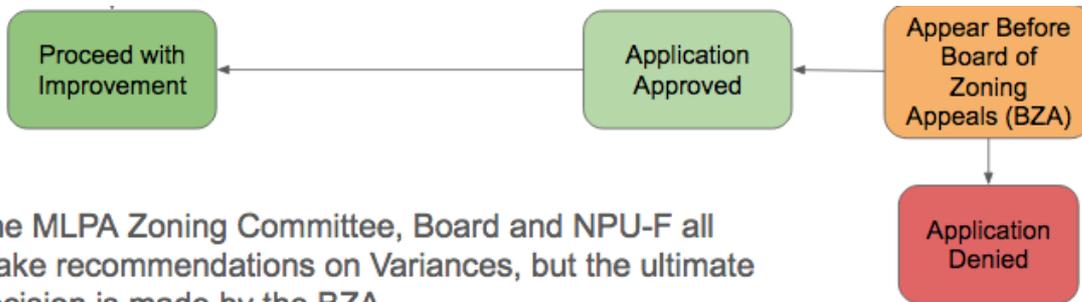
## Zoning Committee News

MLPA's Zoning Committee met Tuesday, November 1st at 7:00 PM at Morningside Presbyterian Church to consider **V-16-269** for a proposed change at **1705 Merton Road**.

The applicant was seeking a variance in order to build a swimming pool. Since the lot is on the corner of Merton & Berkshire a variance was required to build the pool in the back yard. A motion was made to approve the variance based on the site plan dated September 27, 2016.

**The motion was approved 7-0-0 (approve, deny, abstain).**





The MLPA Zoning Committee, Board and NPU-F all make recommendations on Variances, but the ultimate decision is made by the BZA.

## News from Alex Wan's Office



Click here for Alex Wan's [November District 6 newsletter](#).

In the News Highlights:

- Voting precinct changes
- Atlanta City Design Studio's Presentation Series
- America Recycles Day Activities
- A special birthday Trees Atlanta Plantings
- Forever Young Ball

For more information about Councilmember Alex Wan and District 6, Neighborhoods, or for additional city resources [click here](#).

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, November 12, 9:00 AM**, Trees Atlanta planting in Morningside. Meet at Orme Park for instructions. Contact [parks@mlpa.org](mailto:parks@mlpa.org) with questions.

**Saturday, November 12, 9:00 AM**, Morningside Farmer's Market Chef Demo featuring Mary Moore, The Cook's Warehouse, the porch at Morningside Kitchen, 1397 N. Highland.

**Tuesday, November 15, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**, America Recycles Day. Celebrate by visiting [CHARM](#) (Center for Hard to Recycle Materials) at 1110 Hill Street, today or any Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. During the Fall 2016 Citywide Scrap Tire Drive, residents of District 6 can recycle old tires at no charge.

**Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 AM**, Walk to School Wednesday in conjunction with APS Crossing Guard Appreciation Week.

**Thursday, November 17, 9:15 AM**, Inman Middle School, Principal's Coffee.

**Thursday, November 17, 6:30-7:30 PM**, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition to Middle School, Inman Middle School.

**Saturday, November 19, 3:30-4:15 PM**, [Saturday Family Crafternoon Story-Craft with Mr. Ken](#), Peachtree Branch Library Meeting Room, 1315 Peachtree St.

**Monday, November 21, 7:00 PM**, NPU-F Meeting, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Drive. All neighbors may attend and vote.

**Tuesday, November 22, 11:00 AM**, [Ponce Kids' Lunchtime Movie Matinee](#), Ponce de Leon Branch Library, 980 Ponce de Leon Ave.

**Thursday, November 24, Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Half Marathon** 7:30-11:30 AM. Watch out for runners and road closures through Midtown and around Piedmont Park.

**Wednesday, November 30, 6:15 PM**, Couples Dinner Club, contact [events@mlpa.org](mailto:events@mlpa.org) for details before 11/23.

**Saturday, December 3, 9:30 AM**, [Atlanta Beltline Eastside 10K](#), from the Stoveworks on Krog to Piedmont Park. Watch out for runners & road closures at the beltline.

**Saturday - Sunday, December 3pm - 4pm**, [Virginia-Highland Tour of Homes](#).

**Sunday, December 4, 5:00 PM**, MLPA Events First Sunday Series goes to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens Garden Lights. See [mlpa.org/calendar](http://mlpa.org/calendar) and click on December 4<sup>th</sup> for details.

**Monday, December 5, 7:00 PM**, Single/Empty Nester Group Soup Swap, contact [events@mlpa.org](mailto:events@mlpa.org) for details before 11/29.

**Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 PM**, MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside. All are welcome to attend.

**Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 AM**, Walk to School Wednesday. Watch out for parents and students during your morning commute.

**Thursday, December 10, 9:00 - 10:30**, Morningside Elementary School Prospective Parents' Tour.

**Monday, December 12, 7:00 PM**, MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside. All are welcome to attend.

**Monday, December 19, 7:00 PM**, NPU-F Meeting, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Drive. All neighbors may attend and vote.

**Monday, December 19, 7:00 PM**, CINS (Council of Intown Neighborhood Schools) Meeting, Grady HS Cafeteria.

**Monday, January 23, 7:00 PM**, Celebration of Summer Committee Meeting.

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## This Is YOUR Newsletter

Please contact [communications@mlpa.org](mailto: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

