



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

A S S O C I A T I O N

MLPA Launches New Website

Since first going online in the 1990s, MLPA.org has seen several iterations. When the new communications committee took over in March 2016, it made revamping the website one of its priorities. The old website had become very cumbersome with any changes requiring intervention by an outside contractor serving as webmaster. Newer technology was available that makes it easier for websites to be more dynamic—hence the need for change.

After several months of organizing, writing, photography, and editing, the new website has finally been launched. While you will note that much of it remains familiar, the content will now be more easily kept up to date. The new site is built on a platform that allows us to change, add and delete content as we need in the future.

You will notice differences as soon as you look at the homepage, www.mlpa.org. There is new photography taken by a volunteer, Rick Lockridge, of Vee Medifarm, along with links to our Facebook and Instagram pages. You can use the menu bar above the photos or scroll down to links to our main content including Memberships, Committees, Volunteer and Contact Us. On the right you will see a calendar that contains important meetings and events. Below are announcements for our neighbors and a listing of any zoning variances that will be heard at the following month's Zoning Committee meeting.

At the bottom of every page are links to important agencies and groups that our neighbors may need to contact.

Diving deeper into the site, you will see other changes. Under ABOUT, you will find a map along with a timeline showing some of



the highlights from Morningside Lenox Park (MLP) history. The board members are each shown by position with a link to their biography and links to contact them directly via email.

Under committees you will also note many changes. The new platform allows us to use a variety of plug-ins to make the site more user friendly. For example, on the Parks Information page, you can scroll over a map that shows all the greenspaces in MLP. Stars denote greenspace/passive parks, swings or recreation symbols mark the sites of playgrounds and athletic facilities, and hikers designate nature preserves. You can scroll over any of the symbols to find out the address and more data about each site. In addition, every committee page offers you a way to contact the committee chair to become more involved.

The website will continue to evolve as the organization grows and changes. We would welcome help in maintaining the website—contact communications@mlpa.org to volunteer.

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Letter from the President

The Morningside Lenox Park Association is YOUR neighborhood association. What does that mean? It means that it depends on the support and the energy of our neighbors to function. MLPA is all volunteer—none of the officers or committee members are paid for the considerable amount of time they devote to making our neighborhood an even better place to live, work, and raise our pets, kids, etc. It means that if there's an issue you care about, there is a place where your concerns will be heard and your passion put to work—the MLPA board meets the second Monday of each month at 7 PM at Morningside Presbyterian Church on the second floor, room 201, right off the large parking lot. Everyone is urged to come and participate.



The board that took office in March 2016 set some goals and we've made progress on many of them. One major goal was to increase community involvement. To that end, we've increased membership by 15%. New membership categories put MLPA membership within reach for every household. This helped us add to our rolls, but so did the number of new and renewing security plus members. We thank each and every one of you who has joined or renewed this year and urge those of you who have yet to commit to log onto www.mlpa.org/membership and choose a level that works for you.

Another goal was to actively represent neighborhood interest in enforcement of building codes and zoning ordinances. The MLPA Zoning Committee has heard more than a dozen cases this year as the pace of building and remodeling has picked up with the economy. This committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at Morningside Presbyterian Church in the room at the top of the stairs off the small parking lot. Anyone interested in their work is encouraged to attend—you can become a voting member of the committee by attending 3 meetings. Related to enforcement of building codes is enforcement of the city's Tree Protection Ordinance. One of Morningside Lenox Park's greatest assets is our tree canopy. The protection of it is another area where volunteers are needed.

I love our neighborhood, just like you!



Susan G. Schlittler
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We also know that safety is a big concern and MLPA is proud of the officers that serve in the Morningside Security Patrol. They are off-duty Atlanta police officers who are paid by us to check on the homes of members while they are out of town. (All Security Plus level members are eligible for this benefit of membership.) The Morningside Security Patrol officers also drive around the neighborhood to deter criminals. Often, the MSP officers are among those responding to 911 calls. With the advent of NextDoor, it has become even easier to let our neighbors know when issues arise in our neighborhood, but we would like to remind everyone that 911 is a much more effective response to safety incidents. In addition to our Security Patrol, MLPA also sponsors our Neighborhood Watch Program (see separate article) consisting of neighbors helping neighbors keep our entire neighborhood more connected and safer.

Traffic, the issue that originally spawned the MLPA, continues at the top of our agenda. This year we've held two traffic forums to inform the community about issues we are confronting. The latest, the Monroe Complete Streets project, will continue to be an active topic - one you will hear more about as the plans emerge. See the MLPA & Renew Atlanta's Plans for Monroe Drive / Boulevard for contact information to become involved in helping solve these problems.

Another initiative we're undertaking that needs community support is the effort to define our Mission and Vision. It has been quite a while since the MLPA took the time to set out the important principles that can help us and future boards by guiding the decision-making process. We welcome community input in this vital process.

In summary, the MLPA works because your support and talents make it work. Thank you to all the neighbors who are actively involved in making our neighborhood such a special place to live! If you are not now doing your part to support our neighborhood, we sincerely hope you will consider stepping up and contributing. Whether you would like to assist with short-term projects or take on a leadership position, your participation is needed. Please let us know how you would like to be involved by emailing me at president@mlpa.org.

Sally Bayless, President MLPA

Joining MLPA is Easy!

As the homepage states, "MLPA is an all-volunteer organization serving the residents of Morningside, Lenox Park, and Johnson Estates." Providing this service requires two elements:

- 1| Support from our neighbors in the form of the annual dues.
- 2| Volunteers offering their time and talent to make our neighborhood stronger.

Now it is easier than ever for neighbors to join MLPA and add your name to scores of neighbors who contribute financially to the vigor of our community. You will receive the monthly e-newsletter, an exclusive membership benefit, with the activation of your membership. So what are you waiting for? Go to www.mlpa.org/membership and choose the membership level that works best for you!

MLPA Board of Directors

The MLPA Board of Directors is elected at the Annual Meeting in the spring. These officers took office in March 2016 and will serve until 2017:

President

Sally Bayless
president@mlpa.org

Vice President

Charlie Nalbhone
vicepresident@mlpa.org

Secretary

Kevin McGlynn
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Treasurer

Chuck Tobias
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Communications Chair

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Zoning Chair

John Ayers
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Security Chair

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Education Chair

Amanda Strawser
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Events Chair

Sonny Jones
events@mlpa.org

Traffic Chair

Kirk Rick
traffic@mlpa.org

Membership Chair

Bill Long
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MLPA Board of Directors *continued...*

At Large/Neighborhood Watch Chair
Phyllis Wingo
neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org

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MLPA Newsletter is a publication of the Morningside Lenox Park Association. It is mailed to all homes in the neighborhood. For advertising inquiries, contact advertising@mlpa.org. Editorial comments or letters to the editor should be addressed to communications@mlpa.org.

MLPA & Renew Atlanta's Plans for Monroe Drive / Boulevard

On Thursday, October 6, the MLPA Traffic Committee hosted a forum at Haygood United Methodist Church. The meeting provided our neighbors a chance to hear more about Renew Atlanta's planning process and discuss our specific concerns and questions.

MLPA, which was founded to oppose a plan to bisect the neighborhood with a major freeway, continues to represent the neighborhood on traffic issues. The work on Renew Atlanta's plans to revise Monroe Drive / Boulevard rallied the neighborhood to attend the presentation at Grady High School in late August. It has continued through emails urging neighbors to submit comments to the



Renew Atlanta website so that our collective interests are incorporated in the engineers' / designers' final recommendations.

While the Grady High School meeting was useful, it was so large (with an estimated 400+ in attendance) that there really wasn't much chance for discussion. Hence the MLPA Forum.

Kirk Rich, MLPA Traffic Chair, kicked off the meeting by thanking the 80+ attendees for their interest. He recognized Alex Wan, District 6 City Council Representative, and introduced the team from Renew Atlanta headed by Faye DiMassimo, General Manager of Renew Atlanta. Also attending were Regan Hammond, Renew Atlanta Project Manager, and Brian Bolick, Consultant, Atkins Traffic Engineering. In addition to the presenting team, representatives from Jacobs Engineering were also in attendance.

DiMassimo began the meeting by providing some background on Renew Atlanta. It is the bond program that was approved by citizens in 2015 to upgrade our infrastructure. There are more than 300 projects covered by the initiative. She urged us all to go to renewatlanta-bond.com, their website, that allows you to search project by street, NPU or council district to monitor progress. She also explained a bit about the make-up and governance of her team. DiMassimo is a city employee, reporting to the COO under Mayor Reed. She has a staff of city employees supplemented by consulting designers, engineers and managers. Her team is committed to transparency and responsiveness throughout the process—she urged us to use the website and to contact her personally with any questions or concerns we might have.

She went on to say that Monroe was included on the original list of projects presented to voters—it is a priority because of safety issues that continue to plague this major north-south artery. The Renew Atlanta team is taking a Complete Streets approach to all their transportation projects. Historically, roadways were just viewed as vehicular conveyances, but we now recognize the importance of other forms of transportation including mass transit, bicycles, and walking. To paraphrase her, “The Monroe corridor is complex. Optimizing mobility is a push/pull issue, but vehicular throughput is big—still the cycling and pedestrian community is important. Congestion and safety are important concerns. Complete Streets approach is being used to ensure the road works for all users.”



The Monroe project covers 3.5 miles from Piedmont Circle to Woodward Avenue. The project has been split in two, the parts north and south of 10th Street, but the team is taking a holistic approach to the project. Currently the roadway serves 18,500-21,500 vehicles/day according to traffic counts conducted in May 2016 before schools let out. “The roadway varies in number of lanes, width, and condition. Sidewalks are present on the majority of the corridor, but are often in disrepair. While there are currently no dedicated bicycle lanes on Monroe, several bicycle lanes connect directly to it. In addition, the corridor is designated a secondary bicycle route on portions between 10th Street and Piedmont Avenue. MARTA bus routes 2, 27, 36, 99 and 109 directly serve the corridor at over 30 bus stops. There are multiple crash hotspots along the corridor where 4 fatalities and 28 crashes involving bicycles or pedestrians over the most recent three year period have occurred. The corridor is also currently a designated truck [route].”

Regan Hammond, Renew Atlanta Project Manager, explained the process that is being used. The Grady meeting kicked off the conversation with neighbors as our input was solicited including a chance to ‘sticker vote’ on priorities for transit options, intersections that needed attention, etc. In addition, comment cards were collected at the meeting and afterwards through their website. Besides the estimated 400 in attendance, more than 150 comments were received. Even the input that was made through the unofficial survey monkey created by one of our Inman Park neighbors was reviewed.

The Renew Atlanta website has a PDF that contains all the feedback they received—go to renewatlantabond.com and click on Meetings>Grady HS to see how the sticker vote and priority poll turned out. Regan explained that besides the citizen input, the team is conducting traffic counts and reviewing all the traffic / master plans that were created by various groups (both Ansley Park and Virginia Highland were among those mentioned).

Rich interjected that while MLPA has not completed a traffic study and will not be able to do so before the Monroe project is undertaken, the current board recognizes the need to do a comprehensive neighborhood plan. While the MLPA’s emphasis in the past was almost exclusively security, we now recognize the importance of taking a more systematic approach to neighborhood advocacy. He asked everyone at the meeting to ensure that they are MLPA members, noting that there are several levels of membership available so that everyone can support our efforts to advocate for our neighborhood.

Hammond pointed out that much of the public comment and study review has already led to changes in the roadway. She explained that they were addressing “low hanging fruit” like changing the signals at 10th Street and Monroe to detect bikes/pedestrians and verbally direct them, and resurfacing Monroe Drive north of Piedmont, and installing school zone flashing beacons. In addition, at the behest of those attending the Grady gathering, Renew Atlanta has contacted APD to get more speed enforcement along the roadway.

She further explained the schedule--all the input is being gathered toward a goal of submitting several alternatives for vetting with the public in January. After that, the chosen plan will be massaged and presented as the recommendation in March 2017. At that point it will go to the City Council which will approve the contract for implementation.

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Brian Bolick, Atkins Engineering’s Complete Streets expert, gave some background on the Georgia Department of Transportation’s push for a different approach to our streets. He did point out that Complete Streets was not equivalent to a Road Diet, an inference made by one of the meeting attendees. Complete Streets is a transportation policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and

Possible Infrastructure Improvements to Reduce Cut-through Traffic:

The MLPA has begun compiling ideas that may help alleviate the problem of drivers using our residential streets as part of their commute. This is just a preliminary list and has not been studied, approved or funded. The MLPA Traffic Committee and Board are holding small group meetings on streets that will be affected by these proposals. If you have comments, contact traffic@mlpa.org.

- 1| Speed tables/humps on Windemere.
- 2| Rush hour turn restrictions at Windemere/Cheshire Bridge – no left turn eastbound on Windemere from southbound Cheshire Bridge during evening rush hour (4:30 pm to 7:30 pm).
- 3| Pending reconstruction and expansion of traffic circle, full stop signs at every intersection with North Rock/East Pelham/North Pelham/Wildwood and North Rock Springs Circle.
- 4| Speed tables/humps on North Pelham.
- 5| Rush hour turn restrictions at North Pelham and East Rock Springs – no left turn westbound on East Rock Springs from North Pelham during evening rush hour (4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
- 6| Rush hour turn restrictions at North Pelham and Berkshire – no left turn westbound on Berkshire from North Pelham during evening rush hour (4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
- 7| Rush hour turn restrictions at East Pelham and Piedmont – no left turn from Piedmont southbound onto East Pelham during evening rush hour (4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)

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abilities, regardless of their mode of transportation.

The floor was opened up for questions, comments and concerns. Here is a sampling of some:

Q| As part of the strategy to keep traffic on Monroe and off our residential streets, will traffic calming measures be considered?

A| The focus of the project is on keeping traffic on Monroe/Boulevard. The reality is that drivers cut through neighborhoods especially now with technology aids like Waze. Renew Atlanta is conscious of this problem, and DiMassimo promised that the group would consider this problem. They did state that the bond project covers a defined list of projects so it's unclear how far they will be able to go to accommodate us. It was pointed out that Waze is already impacting the neighborhood—in fact, the MLPA has compiled a starting list of ideas for infrastructure changes that could counter the increased traffic on residential streets.

Q| Considering Monroe in a vacuum is wrong—Renew Atlanta should be considering how any changes will affect Piedmont. Plus, all the new development on Piedmont with the high rises and mixed use developments must be taken into account.

A| DiMassimo pointed out that Renew Atlanta will not address all the traffic problems we face. For example, the traffic light system in the city has not been upgraded since the Olympics. While Renew Atlanta has some funding dedicated to this, it will likely spill over into funds yet to be voted on in November's new TSPLOST. In addition, the continued and expected population growth will necessitate more spending on transit to relieve the number of cars on the roads.

Q| Can you provide an update on the number of lanes being considered for Monroe and whether or not a bridge/tunnel might be constructed at 10th & Monroe?

A| They are not predetermining that lanes will be reduced. Some of the community plans that have been reviewed had suggested that as a solution, but they have not been analyzed for viability. Therefore, the team is considering several different alternatives to improve the serviceability of Monroe for all users.

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As far as a tunnel/bridge for 10th & Monroe goes, either will create its own set of safety issues—since either would need to comply with ADA requirements for accessibility, the ramps would need to extend well down the beltline and 10th and the structure itself could pose security concerns.

Q| Will we hear real-world before & after statistics on what will happen with traffic in our area?

A| Renew Atlanta is developing both quantitative and qualitative measures that will be used to judge the project. Right now they are concentrating on developing “base-lines” and modeling theoretical alternatives. These will be analyzed to choose the best options to present as alternatives.

Q| As a follow-up, the traffic figures that the team had on their handout (18,000-21,500 vehicles per day) differs from the figures GDOT uses which are around 26,000. Why the discrepancy?

A| Hammond speculated that the difference could come from the GDOT having modeled and extrapolated the figures where the Renew Atlanta numbers are based on actual traffic counts conducted in May 2016 before school dismissed for the summer. They not only counted the number of vehicles on Monroe/Boulevard, but they also did counts at signaled intersections. Based on the feedback from the Grady meeting, they are going back and doing counts on non-signalized intersections to establish baselines.

Q| How many Complete Street projects in Atlanta have not involved lane reduction?

A| The solution proposed for each project differs—in Buckhead, the changes on Peachtree near Piedmont addressed not only traffic flow, but also pedestrian safety and beautification. The approach for Monroe / Boulevard must be systematic. Whatever is proposed for the street is somewhat limited by the current right of way. There is very little wiggle room in the budget to acquire additional right of way so the team is working within the current roadway and sidewalk area.

Q| Any solution has to improve the appearance of Monroe / Boulevard. The sidewalks have not been maintained and the street is pretty unattractive.

A| Complete Streets include the cosmetics, some to improve appearance as well as to improve safety and efficiency. The alternatives proposed will address some of these cosmetic issues.

Closing comments included a prediction that any alternative that is viewed as reducing vehicular throughput on Monroe/Boulevard will likely be looked at askance by the neighborhood. A number of attendees suggested that the Beltline offers a wonderful avenue for accommodating bicycles and pedestrians and should be considered in a holistic approach to a Monroe/Boulevard Complete Street.

Several members commented that we are looking for traffic improvements even if they are only marginal. Morningside Lenox Park is already being impacted by cut-through traffic. One only needs to stand on any of the streets that abut Piedmont or Monroe to witness the phenomenon, one which, has only worsened with the advent of Waze and the increased development on Piedmont that is now spilling over to Cheshire Bridge.

Renew Atlanta commented that their aim is to provide a corridor-wide master plan that can be implemented over time. Stay tuned as this story continues to unfold. You can go to the MLPA website (mlpa.org) for updates on neighborhood meetings. By joining the MLPA, you will receive our monthly e-newsletter with an events listing and notifications about upcoming meetings.

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- 8| Speed tables/humps on East Pelham.
- 9| Speed tables/humps on Hillpine Road between Monroe and Middlesex.
- 10| Implement East Morningside Traffic Calming as called for by the Belt Line Subarea 6 Plan, including parking/ planting bulb outs, cobblestone or other median to narrow and slow traffic lanes, reconstruction of cross walks with speed tables and curb bulb outs on East Morningside, as well as stop signs both directions on East Morningside at Cumberland Place.
- 11| Rush hour turn restrictions at Yorkshire/Monroe – no right turn eastbound on Yorkshire from Monroe during evening rush hour (4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
- 12| Rush hour turn restrictions at Cumberland/Monroe – no right turn eastbound on Cumberland from Monroe during evening rush hour (4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
- 13| Rush hour turn restrictions at Sherwood/Monroe – no right turn eastbound on Cumberland from Monroe during evening rush hour (4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)

Morningside Elementary Named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School!

U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King, Jr. announced today that Atlanta Public Schools' Morningside Elementary School has been named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School in the Exemplary High Performing Category! Morningside Elementary is among 279 public and 50 private schools receiving this honor.

Principal Audrey Sofianos and a teacher will represent Morningside Elementary at a two-day awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 7 and 8, where the school will be formally recognized by the Department of Education.

“Our school is honored and thrilled to be recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School!” said Sofianos. “I am so proud of our students and their love of learning. This national award honors our entire school community – teachers, parents, volunteers, partners and our school system, who come together each day in support of our young people and their education.”

The school was nominated by the Georgia Department of Education, and then was required to complete a comprehensive application about school practices. All schools are recognized in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

- 1| Exemplary High Performing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. Morningside was awarded in this category.
- 2| Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's subgroups and all students over the past five years.

The following public schools received the recognition: Morningside Elementary (Atlanta Public Schools), Mount Bethel Elementary (Cobb County Schools), Sharon Elementary (Forsyth County Schools) Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science and Technology (Gwinnett County Schools), Newton County Theme School at Ficquett (Newton County Schools), Midway Elementary (Pierce County Schools) and Jacob G. Smith Elementary (Savannah-Chatham County Schools).

Three Georgia private schools, Calvary Day School in Savannah, St. Joseph Catholic School in Marietta, and St. Thomas More Catholic School in Decatur, were also named National Blue Ribbon Schools.

“These Georgia schools are to be commended for their outstanding student performance,” State School Superintendent Richard

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Woods said. “They are doing an excellent job making sure all students are ready to learn, ready to live, and ready to lead. To every one of the teachers and leaders in these schools – thank you for the incredible work you’re doing on behalf of the children of our state.”

“This national award honors our entire school community”

About the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program - Now in its 34th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on fewer than 8,500 public and private schools. A total of 420 schools nationwide may be nominated each year.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. The award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. The National Blue Ribbon Schools flag gracing a school’s building is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning. National Blue Ribbon Schools are an inspiration and a model for schools still striving for excellence.

Neighborhood Watch

The MLPA Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) has matured into a vibrant and wide-reaching communication network in the neighborhood. During the past year, the program reached several milestones.

First, the MLPA program met the criteria to be recognized as a Neighborhood Watch Program of the Atlanta Police Department. To achieve this designation, the neighborhood had to demonstrate that it was supporting multiple activities in 4 subject areas: 1) creating a safe community, 2) communicating within the community, 3) community building, and 4) connecting with outside resources. In June, Major Van Hobbs, the commander of the Zone 2 precinct, and Lajuanna Solomon, the neighborhood Crime Prevention Inspector, attended the MLPA monthly meeting and administered the neighborhood watch program pledge to the street captains and the MLPA board of directors.

Second, the MLPA NWP’s communication network now covers most of the neighborhood. More than 55 neighbors have stepped up to volunteer as street captains. Neighborhood Watch Programs are a low profile activity until there is a pattern of criminal incidents in the community. Then the community is eager to know the details about what is happening. Please remember, the network will work best when criminal incidents and suspicious activities are



reported to 911.

If you are willing to be a street captain or want to know who your street captain is, please send an email to Neighborhood-Watch@mlpa.org.

Street Captains receive the MLPA (Morningside Lenox Park Association) weekly security updates. They also receive incident reports that are relevant to their street and occasional BOLOs (be on the look out). If there is a security event occurring on your street (e.g. a break in), your street captain will do his or her best to distribute this information to others on the street.

For those of you who are members of MLPA, some reports will be redundant with what you receive from them. However, the MLPA strongly supports security in our neighborhood. As such, they have agreed for the security updates to be distributed to all who live in the neighborhood (and sign up with Street Captains to receive them), regardless of MLPA membership or not. Thank you, MLPA!

VOLUNTEER NOW!!!

5 Streets Need Street Captains:

Cumberland Rd

(N Highland to N Morningside)

Dutch Valley

Highpoint Dr

Helen Dr

Pine Ridge

Please send an email to NeighborhoodWatch@mlpa.org to volunteer or if you would like to know who your street captain is, regardless of MLPA membership



TIPS

CARVE OUT A MUMPKIN

Excerpt from Southern Living: "Best Ideas for Fall Container Gardening"

What do you get when you combine the fun of a pumpkin with the beauty of a mum? A "mumkin," of course! Fill smaller gourds with containers of pansies to create a trio of trusty sidekicks.

Bring a seasonal splash of color to your entryway by mixing and matching eye-popping blooms with rustic grasses and foliage in your fall container gardens.

Container gardens are a great way to enjoy seasonal splashes of color. For fall container gardening, mix eye-popping blooms with rustic grasses and foliage.

If color is your inspiration, fill your outdoor space with a Pink Petunia Window Box, or the Bright Gold Fall Container Gardens. Whatever your inspiration, these fall container gardening ideas will make every autumn day feel like it is filled with beauty.



Fall is for Planting, but first...

Before you visit the nursery to add to your landscaping, make sure you've taken care of the plants already growing. The late summer/early fall drought has taken its toll on our tree canopy. Spending a bit of time now to protect these valuable landscape anchors will pay dividends for years to come.

Start your fall regimen by checking the moisture level around your trees. Dig down 6-8" from the soil surface at the trees' driplines (an imaginary line extending from the outermost branches to the ground). If the soil is dry and crumbly, begin with a thorough watering (adhering to watering restrictions) of all the large trees and shrubs on your property.

The amount of water you should use depends upon the size of the tree—begin by estimating the tree's diameter. For each inch of diameter, the tree should get 10 gallons of water, evenly distributed from the tree out to the dripline. Most hoses at medium pressure deliver about 2 gallons per minute so for a 4 inch diameter tree, hand water it for about 20 minutes. Even better, reuse the water you capture in your shower, waiting for it to warm up. During a drought, trees should be watered at least twice a month.



Watering is only the first step. Next you need to mulch. Trees should have 2-4 inches of organic mulch (bark, leaves, evergreen needles, etc.) to retain moisture and help the roots stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Make sure that the mulch is not too deep—over mulching can have negative effects so make sure that the recommended depth is not exceeded.

Avoid using fertilizer during a drought as it can encourage growth that a tree under stress cannot easily support. Inspect the tree and have it treated for any infestations, pruning it to rid it of diseased or insect-ridden areas. Lastly, avoid the use of herbicides as they may leach into the ground and harm your trees.

Slow Down and Be a Good Neighbor

People walking dogs, children riding bikes, moms pushing strollers, families enjoying our parks; these are some of the things that make our neighborhood so great! But the reality is that for every walker, there are a lot of cars. This has become increasingly problematic, especially as phone apps encourage motorists to cut through our streets! Along with the volume of traffic, the speeds have also increased.

Speeding has become a real problem in our neighborhood and it affects everyone. Many residents have reported seeing trucks barreling down the street at 45/50 MPH in a 25 MPH zone. On top of that, we have all witnessed people running stop signs and not paying attention to the road and pedestrians.

Speeding and safety are concerns that the city is trying to address. One of the reasons Monroe Drive / Boulevard made it onto the Renew Atlanta list is the safety problems it has seen. Speeding affects us all, but we're not powerless.

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The easiest way you can lower the speed limit in our neighborhood is by observing the posted speed limits yourself. Be a good neighbor by driving at the posted speed—it will encourage those cars behind you to do the same. It might even make our streets less attractive for cutting through.

You can also remind folks driving through that we care about our neighborhood and are working to protect it. City Council President Caesar Mitchell's office is distributing "Slow Down" yard signs as part of its #ATLSlowDown.org campaign. This citywide initiative has been designed to help reduce vehicular speeding in our neighborhoods and communities. It would be great if all Morningside Residents would participate in this campaign by showing their support and placing a yard sign in their yard. The city will come and place this sign in your yard at no cost. You can order up to two signs for your yard by going to <https://act.myngp.com/Forms/-2078691603496566784> and filling out the form.

Off- Leash Dogs Threaten Wildlife and Neighbors

On any given day, you can take a walk through Morningside Nature Preserve, Herbert Taylor Park, or Daniel Johnson Nature Preserve and encounter several off leash dogs wandering about, bounding through the brush, and swimming in the creeks. "So what?" you may be thinking.

Morningside Nature Preserve, Herbert Taylor Park, and Johnson Nature Preserve are great resources in our neighborhood. They are the home to a wide variety of native

"The have been designated as nature preserves in order to allow the flora and fauna in the area to survive and, hopefully, thrive."

plants and animals. They have been designated as nature preserves in order to allow the flora and fauna in the area to survive and, hopefully, thrive.

As the signs note as you enter the parks, off-leash dogs are not allowed. In fact, City of Atlanta Code of Ordinance (Sec. 110-70) requires that dogs in public places be leashed. While this may seem an arbitrary rule, it is there for good reason: When dogs are allowed to roam in these pristine settings, they cause irreparable harm to the environment. They can spread invasive plant seeds, disrupt nesting areas and scare off wildlife.

In addition, off-leash dogs pose a threat to neighbors walking in the woods for a bit of respite, and those strolling with their own dogs properly leashed.



If you would like to take your dog to an open space where they can be off leash, there is a wonderful dog park in Piedmont Park. There is a very large space for large dogs and a somewhat smaller space restricted to small dogs. Watering areas are provided for the canines and refreshment stands are open for their human friends. Please avail your pets of these wonderful facilities and save our nature preserves for our wild friends.

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More Social Opportunities to Connect with Neighbors



Morningside Lenox Park is home to some fabulous folks, many who have recently started up new social groups in our area. These are great ways to get to know your neighbors and to make our community stronger by increasing our social networks. Thanks to all of them for their efforts!

Amy Woodhouse has organized a book club for neighbors. They had their first organizational meeting and have scheduled their first book for their November meeting.

Jill Deutchman has organized a divorced/widowed/empty nesters group to share dinner, drinks, walks etc. She hosted the first potluck at her home so we could all meet. It was a great success, the first of many more planned.

A couple's dinner club was started by **Jennifer Schweidel**. Their first gathering at Madre + Mason was a huge success, that was followed up by a gathering at One Mid-town Kitchen in October.

If you'd like to connect with any of these groups, email events@mlpa.org

JOIN MLPA TODAY!

Go to mlpa.org/memberships and chose a level of membership.



In addition to receiving the monthly e-newsletter, your membership and support provides insight and leadership for **Events • Traffic • Communications • Morningside Security Patrol • Zoning • Parks • Schools • Neighborhood Watch Program**. Support our neighborhood!

MLPA Parks

The MLPA Parks Committee works with the City Parks Department to protect and improve the greenspaces in Morningside Lenox Park. This year we've recruited some new members, but we always can use more neighbors interested in making sure our parks are maintained and upgraded. Contact parks@mlpa.org to volunteer.

The committee has worked hard and has accomplished much. The most visible example is the restoration of the fountain at Smith Park. The centerpiece of the historic entrance to our neighborhood is now running again, a fact that was celebrated with a ribbon ceremony on November 5th during which the sponsors and contributors to this project were recognized and thanked. Please visit www.mlpa.org/smith-park-renaissance to view photos from the event and please thank these sponsors by patronizing their businesses. Next on the agenda for this site is an upgrade of the landscaping.

Our nature preserves have also received attention. The MLPA Parks Committee has been working with the city to enforce park ordinances, especially those related to reducing the damage inflicted by off-leash dogs (see related article on page 11); construction run-off; and other construction-related issues that affect our nature preserves. Plans are underway to renew Herbert Taylor Park / Daniel Johnson Nature Preserve by removing invasives. A project to inventory native trees and plants present in the nature preserve is also underway and an application has been made to include the nature preserve in the Old Growth Forest Network. Volunteers are being sought for projects to remove invasive species this winter. The Steering Committee for Morningside Nature Preserve is also focusing on removal of invasive species and maintenance of the existing trails and bridges. There is a long-term goal of providing environmental education as a complement to the focus on maintenance of habitat and water quality to support wildlife in the preserve. Contact parks@mlpa.org if you or your group can help out with this work.



Newly Renovated Smith Park Fountain



NPU-F Land Use Policies

Every five years the City's Comprehensive Development Plan is updated for the next 5 year period. As part of that update, each Neighborhood Planning Unit reviews and updates its Land Use Policies. The Morningside-Lenox Park neighborhood is part of Neighborhood Planning Unit F. This summer, as part of the 2016-2021 Comprehensive Development Plan update, NPU-F updated its Land Use Policies.

Some highlights from NPU-F's Land Use Policies follow: These serve to protect the character and livability of existing single-family residential neighborhoods.

A complete list of NPU-F's Land Use Policies is available here: <http://npufatlanta.org/landusepolicy.pdf>

1| Protect the historic integrity and single-family character of the Atkins Park, Edmund Park, Lindridge Martin Manor, Morningside-Lenox Park, Piedmont Heights and Virginia-Highland neighborhoods and the low density residential character of the St. Charles-Greenwood neighborhoods.

2| Given the cumulative detrimental effect of significant development within NPU-F over the last 5 years without any expansion of transit, recognize that transit facilities, in particular transit on the Beltline, must be constructed concurrently with any further redevelopment within NPU-F generally, and in particular within Subarea 6 of the Beltline Overlay District.

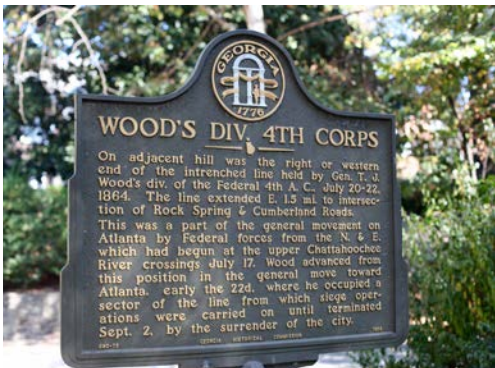
3| Focus new development on property throughout the NPU which is currently zoned for denser development and underutilized, and oppose rezoning of lower density properties to higher density categories.

4| Preserve the single family neighborhoods in NPU-F and provide density, height, and design guidelines, in particular, where applicable, parking deck screening requirements, to act as appropriate buffers between different land uses (i.e. commercial and residential) that serve to protect the character and livability of existing single-family residential neighborhoods.

5| Encourage pedestrian mobility by completing the sidewalks throughout the NPU and upgrading and adding crosswalks. Improve pedestrian amenities such as street trees and wide sidewalks to further encourage pedestrian travel.

6| Encourage safe and responsible driving patterns throughout the NPU through implementation of traffic calming measures, rush hour traffic restrictions and enforcement of speed limits. Take into account new mapping and guidance technologies (e.g. Waze), when implementing both traffic calming measures and rush hour traffic restrictions.

Morningside Lenox Park and the Civil War



In 1864, Atlanta, including the farming community that had become established in the area that is now Morningside Lenox Park, watched as General William T. Sherman and the Federal Army advanced on the city from Chattanooga. Sherman commanded his troops from his headquarters just east of MLP at what is now the intersection of Briarcliff and North Decatur.

All through the summer, the armies of Sherman and the Confederacy clashed in Atlanta, culminating with the city's surrender in early September. MLP was right at the center of the offensive line the Union set up to take the city, a fact attested to by three historical markers:

1. Zimmer at North Highland was part of the defensive line that Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston set up before the Battle of Peachtree Creek. The line snaked northeast of the city from Marietta across Howell Mill over to a point slightly south of where the connector splits going north,

through MLP, forming a point at Zimmer and North Highland before heading south toward the Carter Center.

2. East Pelham and Piedmont (in the traffic island across from Morningside Baptist Church) marks the site of Union lines. When Sherman crossed the Chattahoochee River on July 7 1864, he advanced on Atlanta from the north to the east. Troops from the armies of Ohio and Cumberland formed a continuous line except for a small gap from around the East Pelham/Piedmont traffic island over to the traffic island at-

3. Johnson & Lenox Roads. Troops were moved from Buckhead to close the gap so that when the Battle of Peachtree Creek

“MLP was right at the center of the offensive line”

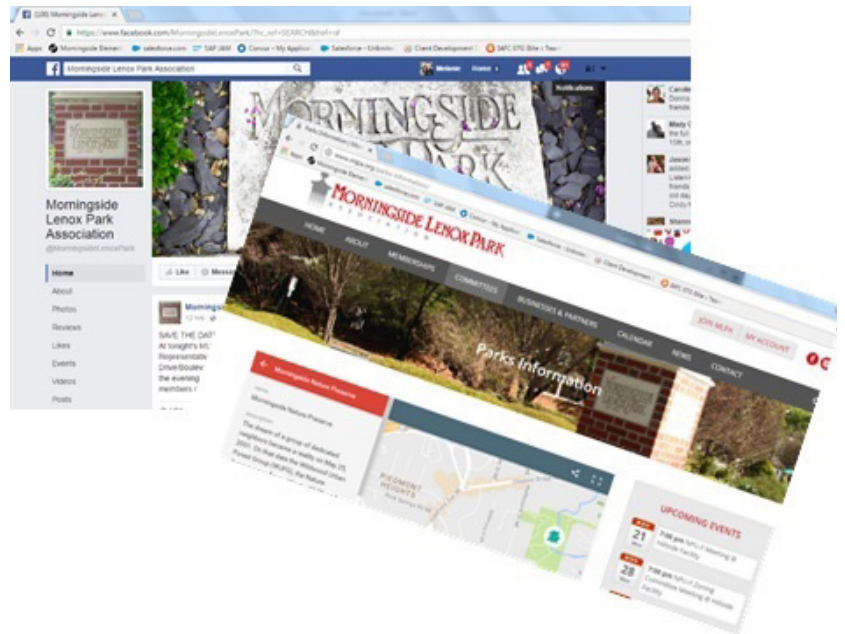
held against the Confederacy leading to their eventual surrender of the city on September 2, 1864.

Atlanta civilians were evacuated in September and in November Sherman ordered the city burned as he began his march to the sea. The gruesome battle for Atlanta resulted in more than 65,000 casualties—the three historical markers within our borders serve as a reminder of the grave losses suffered on both sides.

segued into the Battle of Atlanta in late July, the Union line

News from the Communications Committee

Headed by board member Marti Breen, the communications committee includes Chase Horner, Alan Perry, Chip York, Melanie Spillman and Rick Lockridge. Together the group is responsible for the website, e-newsletter, printed newsletter, videos and photography, Facebook page, ad sales and ad hoc communications through our database and Nextdoor. It's a big job and we are always in need of extra volunteers to help lighten the load! Contact communications@mlpa.org if you'd like to help out—it's a great way to meet your neighbors, contribute to the neighborhood, and expand your skill set / pad your resume.



The committee has worked on a number of objectives:

- 1 | To increase the content and frequency of member communications, most notably the E-newsletter and Facebook page. The Facebook page is open to all and is used to note items of interest to the neighborhood as they happen. Go to Facebook and follow Morningside Lenox Park Association to hear about what's happening in the area. The E-newsletter is published around mid-month each month and is sent to members—it is one of the great benefits of membership. The E-news contains regular columns from the MLPA committees (traffic, zoning, security, neighborhood watch, education, etc.) as well as an events listings, columns by local leaders, and history features.
- 2 | To revamp the website, transferring it to a new platform that could be kept up to date more cost effectively and efficiently. Morningside was on the cutting edge when we premiered a neighborhood website in the 1990's. However the most recent version relied upon an outside contractor to make updates, a cumbersome process that entailed a monthly cost. In addition, there were several pages on the website that were never completed, sporting the "Coming Soon" promise that was never fulfilled. The committee determined the best course would be to completely redo the website, porting it to a new platform that could be updated by committee members. See the article on the Website Launch for details on its transformation.
- 3 | To broaden the support for the MLPA by reaching out to more area businesses for sponsorships. The committee began by building a database of current and past supporters of the MLPA which was then supplemented by a list of businesses in and around MLPA. We are reaching out to these businesses and urge our neighbors to patronize and thank the companies that support our work through their ads and sponsorships.
- 4 | To provide fresh photography documenting the beauty of our neighborhood and the events that make MLP such a great place to live.

While some progress has been made, there is still much work to do. Please join us in our efforts—the communications committee values your input and would like to hear from you about how we can better keep you informed about important news. In addition, we are always looking for new volunteers to help with our work—contact us at communications@mlpa.org.

Volunteers Needed

It may seem a little early to start planning for the end of the school year, but presenting a capstone event like the Celebration of Summer needs your help. The committee is forming now that will find volunteers, enlist sponsors, handle the logistics and plan for the best Celebration of Summer ever.

If you and your kids have enjoyed this signature event, please sign up to volunteer a bit of your time to continue this tradition. If you're new to the neighborhood, this is a great way to get involved and meet your neighbors. Contact volunteer@mlpa.org and put Celebration of Summer in the Subject Line. We look forward to working with you!

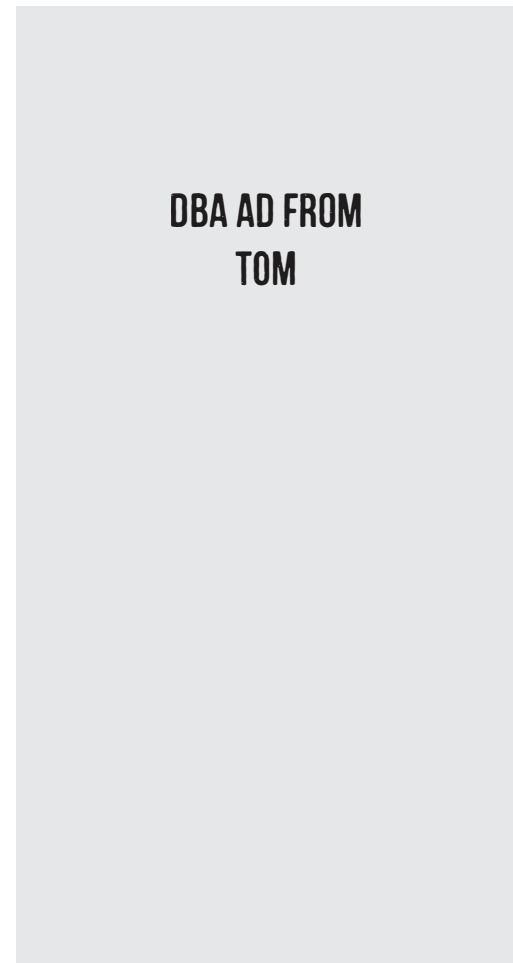


Concerts in the Park Wrap Up the Season

MLPA's Family Concert Series went out with a blast, from the crowds, band and the weather. Neighbors gathered for picnics on the grounds at Sidney Marcus Park for the last music and movie night on Friday, October 21st.

Kids enjoyed playing in the leaves, dancing and playing games at the Google Fiber booth, our newest sponsor for the series. They joined sponsors Joy Myrick & Donna Boynton, Harry Norman Realtors and MLPA in supporting these gatherings. Green Home Solutions provided mosquito control, while Willy's and King of Pops supplied dinner for the hungry concert goers.

Check www.mlpa.org/concerts-in-the-park/ for videos and to view the schedule for the coming season.



**DBA AD FROM
TOM**

Atlanta City Design at Ponce City Market

Described as “the first pop-up urban design laboratory focused on shaping the future of city neighborhoods,”

Atlanta City Design Studio is now located on the second floor of Ponce City Market near the top of the spiral staircase. The studio, a project of the Atlanta Department of Planning and Community Development, houses architects, designers, transportation experts, and a rotating exhibit.

Most of its communication is through their Facebook (FB> Atlanta City Design) page which states, “It’s an exciting time in Atlanta and we created this space to celebrate the momentum and design for a better future. We envision a city where all citizens have access to parks, better pedestrian experiences, bike paths and affordable places to live—and this space was built to invite you into the conversation and to make a plan for Atlanta’s best path forward.

We will pop up in a new location every few months so that we can interact with our many communities and neighborhoods.

Stop by to see what we’re working on or join us for one of our upcoming

events, including informal meet-ups with the design team, book talks, lectures, films and more.”

Regular events include a book club, film night and “Design over Donuts” on the second and fourth Fridays each month where Tim Keane and Ryan Gravel guide a discussion of issues the city must confront as we plan for the expected growth.

When the space opened, Department of Planning and Community Development Commissioner Tim Keane said, “This is as much about people as it is design. The Atlanta City Studio will help manage the design elements of our changing city experiences, and commu-

nity engagement and involvement will be an integral part of this process.”

The Atlanta City Studio will remain at Ponce City Market through the end of the year, after which it will relocate twice per year so residents across the City can experience the interactive and innovative concept. Stop by and talk with the team the next time you’re in Ponce City Market or visit their Facebook page and sign up for an event.



EVENTS

AROUND THE COMMUNITY ...

Through Mid November | Art on the Beltline, Atlanta's largest public art installation. See art.beltline.org for details and schedules.

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 5th Grade Transition to Middle School, Inman Middle School.

Monday, November 21, 7:00 PM
NPU-F Meeting, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Dr. NE.

Sunday, December 4, 5:00 PM | EMLPA First Sunday Events goes to Atlanta Botanical Garden Lights. More info at mlpa.org/calendar

Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 PM
MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside. All neighbors welcome. See mlpa.org for variances that will be discussed.

Thursday, December 8, 9:00 AM
Morningside Elementary School Prospective Parents' Tour.

Monday, December 12, 7:00 PM MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside, Room 201. All neighbors welcome.

Monday, December 12, 7:00 PM
CINS (Council of In-town Neighborhood Schools) Meeting, Grady HS Cafeteria.

Monday, December 17, 7:00 PM | NPU-F Meeting, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Dr. NE.

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MLPA.org



Get Informed

Visit www.MLPA.org for more information on The Morningside Lenox Park Association. Sign up for membership to receive our email news to stay up-to-date on current events.

Get Involved

The Morningside Lenox Park Association conducts most business at Morningside Presbyterian Church (1411 N. Morningside Drive, Atlanta, GA 30306). All neighbors are welcome at meetings of the board and any of its committees. See www.mlpa.org/calendar/ for a complete listing with dates and times.

Give Back

If you would like to volunteer for the coming year, please contact volunteer@MLPA.org.

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