



January 12, 2017

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Monroe Drive Update



The MLPA Traffic Committee continues to focus on the Monroe Complete Street planning, a project to revamp Monroe/Boulevard to improve safety and efficiency. We are studying 13 concepts that seek to lessen the anticipated cut through traffic once the Monroe plan is implemented. The Complete Street plan is still being studied and designed by the City and Renew Atlanta.

The next step in the process will take place on **Tuesday, February 28, 6:00 PM at Ebenezer Baptist Church**, 101 Jackson Street, 30312. The Renew Atlanta team should have several alternative designs to present. Those attending will have an opportunity to hear a discussion of each and to provide input on their preferred design.

Mark your calendars now. Plan to attend and bring your neighbors. This is our best opportunity to have input on the future of this vital artery through our neighborhood.

Security Patrol Adds Shifts in Response to Recent Crimes

As often happens during the holidays, there was a spike in petty crime in the neighborhood. You've probably noticed chatter on Nextdoor about cars being rifled through, mailboxes opened, and packages lifted from porches.

In response, the MLPA arranged additional shifts by the Morningside Security Patrol(MSP) to try and catch this latest round of crooks. As Officer Ric Vasquez, the head of the MSP, has said, "These types of petty criminals are often the hardest to catch. They drive around the neighborhood, often striking at different times so it's difficult to schedule officers to catch them."

Despite the difficulty involved, MLPA has added some overnight patrols in hopes that the extra patrols will either catch thieves in the act or at least deter them. We urge you to join MLPA as Security Plus members so we can continue to fund this vital function. In addition, we are organizing a Neighborhood Watch Security Committee that will meet regularly, taking concrete steps to make our neighborhood less attractive to criminals.

There are several steps you can take now to help out:

1. Meet your neighbors and get to know them. As we have reported before, criminals avoid neighborhoods where the people know and look out for one another. Talk to your neighbors so you'll know what's to be expected, that way you'll

people know and look out for one another. Talk to your neighbors so you'll know what's to be expected—that way you'll know and can report it when something unexpected occurs. Our best defense against crime is diligent neighbors.

2. Attend the Security Forum on **February 6th at 7:00 PM at Haygood United Methodist** and encourage your neighbors to join you there. We will meet with the new Zone 2 command leadership (see related article), discuss ways we can all stay safe, and hear how we can make our neighborhood a place criminals avoid. Check the mlpa.org website for updates including location.

3. When incidents occur, call 911 and request that a report of your incident be filed. You may not be aware, but depending upon the severity of the crime, reports may not be filed if no request is made. That is why you'll often see reports on Nextdoor that never show up on the Morningside Security Report.


4. Request improved lighting for your street. If there are wooden utility poles that either have dim or burned out lighting, call Georgia Power at **1-888-891-0938** for replacement. If the utility pole is metal, the lighting is the responsibility of the city-call 311 to report outages or go to atl311.com to report it.

5. Join the Security Committee. Go to mlpa.org to volunteer.

6. Get involved with Court Watch and legislative reform initiatives. It is estimated that approximately 75% of the petty crimes (car break-ins, mail theft) are the acts of teenagers, as they commit crimes without fear of punishment due to the lax point system currently in place. There are efforts to reform this to provide punishment to those committing the crimes. Again, express interest in these issues by going to mlpa.org to volunteer.


7. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, remember to lock up and store valuables out of sight. Many of the crimes we have experienced were crimes of opportunity.

Please contact neighborhoodwatch@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



Zoning Committee Update & Report on Rock Springs Presbyterian Property Rezoning

Hedgewood Properties met with the MLPA Zoning Committee on Tuesday, Jan. 3rd to present their rezoning case, Z-16-080, 2059 Manchester Street, which was deferred from December. The developer had acquired another industrial property adjacent to their Manchester Street development on the corner of Manchester and Liddell. They presented plans for adding 9 new units to the existing townhome community. The committee requested some modifications to the plan to eliminate the use of a curb cut as these often result in cars obstructing the sidewalk. We also requested that the developer obtain letters from the existing townhome owners whose property was adjacent to the proposed units. These conditions were included in the motion to approve which passed.

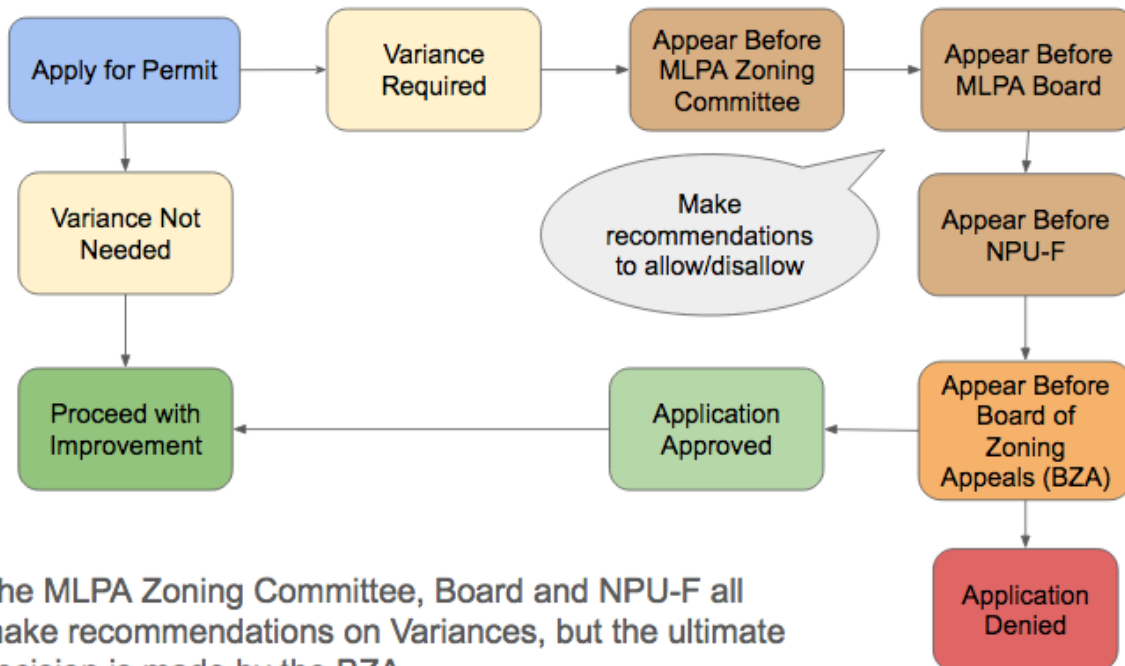
While at our meeting, the developer also updated us on progress for the Rock Springs Presbyterian property. In December we reported that Rock Springs Presbyterian entered into an agreement with Hedgewood Properties to develop a townhome community on their land in exchange for much needed funding to maintain this historic building.



Both the architect and developer answered many questions and issues raised by the neighbors and committee members in attendance. The presentation to MLPA Zoning was informational only so no vote was taken. Since the property is in the Piedmont Heights neighborhood, the next step is meeting with their zoning committee and board where votes will be taken. MLPA will continue to monitor progress and inform neighbors of opportunities to engage on this important rezoning.

Please check mlpa.org and scroll down to the announcements where updates will be posted.

The other variances the committee considered were V-16-326, 1620 West Sussex Rd., and V-16-345, 1653 North Rock Springs. V-16-326, 1620 West Sussex Rd. was to add a "sports court". The motion was to approve with the condition that no exterior overhead lighting be installed to light the court. V-16-345, 1653 Rock Springs Rd. sought to remove the existing addition and add back an addition to the rear of the house. It was also approved.



You may send input to zoning@mlpa.org or attend any of the upcoming meetings (see Events).

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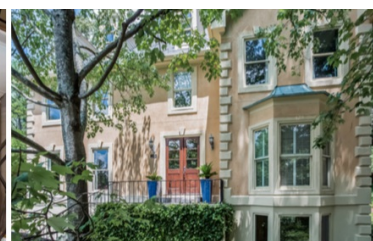
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Notes from the President by Sally Bayless

In Friday's New York Times, columnist David Brooks talked about common mistakes buyers make in choosing a home. As he said, "Choosing this or that house has only a moderate effect on joyfulness. The neighborhood you choose, and the social fabric you enter, is more important than the structure you adore." This seemed to describe Morningside Lenox Park perfectly--while the homes are indeed beautiful, it is the community that makes this such a special place to live.

The MLPA has been working on several initiatives designed to benefit the neighborhood in tangible ways:

- **Tour of Homes.** We are planning to revive the Morningside Lenox Park Tour of Homes. This event would raise funds for neighborhood projects such as traffic planning, park revitalization, and monument maintenance.
- **Security.** We are working with the Morningside Security Patrol, the Neighborhood Watch Committee, and several volunteers to identify ways to ensure that our neighborhood remains the livable, walkable, family-friendly in-town neighborhood it is known for being.
- **Sidney Marcus Park.** We are forming a friends group for Sidney Marcus Park with the goal of revitalizing one of our most popular and family-friendly parks.

Also, please plan to come to the **annual meeting on April 10, 2017**, to learn more about these projects and be sure to renew your membership to keep the momentum going.

We need your ideas and your participation! To be included in a planning committee, email president@mlpa.org.

Trees Atlanta in Morningside



Trees Atlanta has two projects slated for Morningside in January. It begins with a reforestation project in Morningside Nature Preserve on **Saturday, January 14 at 9:00 AM**. This is followed by a street planting along Courtenay in Morningside slated for **Saturday, January 28 at 9:00 AM**.

Trees Atlanta is asking that neighbors help out by volunteering for either or both. Here's more details:

On Saturday, **January 14th** Trees Atlanta will work at Morningside Nature Preserve! There will be plenty of opportunities for all ages, but note that children must be accompanied by an adult. Not only will you be helping our urban forests, but you'll also learn about controlling invasive species and the correct way to plant new trees.

Here's the details from Trees Atlanta:

What: Forest Restoration Planting & Chinese Privet Removal

When: January 14, 2017 9am - 12pm

Where: 1944 Wellbourne Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30324 (Morningside Nature Preserve | Park along street near Morningside Trailhead)

Who: Volunteers of All Ages

The second opportunity to help out comes on **Saturday, January 28 at 9:00 AM - 12 PM** when there will be a tree planting along Courtenay Drive in Morningside. There are more details [here](#).

Some guidelines for helping out include:

- It is important to arrive on time so each volunteer sees our demonstration (it takes 10 minutes). We also want all volunteers to stay for the entire project.
- Dress in warm layers, closed-toed shoes or boots (waterproof is best), and clothes that can get dirty.
- Bring drinking water in a reusable container. No one-time-use plastic bottles, please. It is important to stay hydrated even in the cold.
- Forest Restoration is hard work, so eat a good breakfast and come prepared to work hard.
- Projects happen rain or shine, so please check the weather beforehand and come prepared.
- Trees Atlanta will provide all necessary tools and instruction, though volunteers may prefer to bring their own work gloves.

To sign up please visit: treesatlanta.org/volunteer

Contact Kevin Mink, Trees Atlanta Project Coordinator with questions: kevin@treesatlanta.org or **404-681-4899**

Changes in APD Command Structure Affect Zone 2

Incoming Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields announced changes to her command structure prior to taking over on December 29th. As part of the changes, Zone 2 Commander Major Van Hobbs has moved to Code Enforcement while Major Barry Shaw will be the new Zone 2 Commander. Shaw previously headed up Code Enforcement.

Assisting Major Shaw at Zone 2 is Captain Michael Butler who will serve as Assistant Commander of Zone 2. MLPA looks forward to working with the new leadership to ensure the safety of our neighborhood.

[Here is more information](#) on the announced changes.

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

MLPA Board Welcomes Jeff Zweben

MLPA is pleased to announce that Jeff Zweben has agreed to lead the Parks Committee and has been welcomed to the MLPA board.

Jeff and his family recently moved into the area and are buying a home in Morningside. He has been to several of our zoning and board meetings where he expressed an interest in becoming more involved. After speaking with Sally Bayless, MLPA President and Parks Committee Chair, he agreed to take on the Parks Committee chairmanship so she can concentrate on leading MLPA.

Please welcome Jeff and contact us at volunteer@mlpa.org if you would like to help out on this or any other committee.



Susan G. Schlittler
President, Associate Broker

867 Greenwood Ave. NE Atlanta, GA 30306
404-876-4526 (office) 404-358-5929 (mobile)
susan@homesteadatlanta.com
www.homesteadatlanta.com

Noble Park resident since 1987
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School News by Matt Westmoreland

Please join Superintendent Carstarphen and Board Members at Inman Middle on **February 8 at 6pm** for a Grady Cluster community meeting and an update on short-term and long-term solutions to capacity challenges.

Over the next five years, the Cluster will see a \$20 million renovation of Morningside Elementary, a \$33 million renovation and addition at Grady High, a \$52 million renovation and addition at Howard to become the cluster's new middle school, and an \$8 million investment for additional field space.

You can find other APS updates in my [Winter Newsletter](#).

Some highlights:

- The district recently received a \$1m grant to fund literacy training for 1,500 elementary teachers.
- Last fall, the district launched a Request for Information, which asked applicants to present ideas around early learning and literacy, alternative school programming, wraparound services, school turnaround, and talent development. The administration will present any recommended partners at the February Board meeting for action in March.
- Last month, the Board established a task force to examine surplus APS properties and to what extent they could be used to grow the supply of affordable housing in Atlanta. The commission will meet monthly and present recommendations in June. The Board also adopted a policy outlining preliminary affordability goals for projects involving APS buildings that receive public funding.

Please don't hesitate to reach out ~

Matt Westmoreland,
District 3, Atlanta Board of Education
404.408.0980
mwestmoreland@atlanta.k12.ga.us

 <p>1397 N. Highland Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306 www.Morningside-Kitchen.com 404-347-9747</p>	<p>We love e-mailing special offers and news only to our closest Morningside Neighbors so don't be left out!</p> <p>Sign up on our secret page at www.Morningside-Kitchen.com/neighbors</p> <p>Weekend Brunch 10am-3pm reservations accepted Dinner Sun-Thu 5-10pm, Fri-Sat 5-11pm</p> <p>Featuring wood fire grilled fish & meats and Peruvian style rotisserie chicken</p>	
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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 at 7:00 PM at 798 Yorkshire Rd.** 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.

Refreshments will be served so let us know if we can expect you or you have questions at events@mlpa.org.

CHARM Holiday Recycling Schedule

Holiday Cleanup Event

Recycle your holiday waste with us! Old electronics, x-mas tree lights, styrofoam, packaging, boxes, etc. Visit www.livethrive.org for details...

And CHaRM is an official Bring One for the Chipper site! Bring us your trees!

**Begins January 7
1110 Hill Street
Atlanta, Ga 30315**

Wondering what to do with that burned out light string, pile of dead batteries and other holiday detritus? CHARM (the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials) is hosting a special holiday recycling service beginning January 7.

Besides their regular items including electronics, household chemicals, paints, and light bulbs, they will accept trees and other leftover holiday items.

The center at [1110 Hill Street](http://1110HillStreet.com) is open **Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 AM-4 PM and Saturdays 8 AM- 4 PM.**

It's south of the zoo about 20-30 minutes away from Morningside Lenox Park so clean out your basement or garage and head on down. Note that they will be closed on 12/24, 12/29, and 12/31 for the holidays, but will have Holiday Cleanup beginning January 7 accepting trees, lights and other holiday leftovers.

To download the flyer, [Click Here.](#)

Sunday Evening Events Series Announces Plans for February

The **MLPA Sunday Evening Events Series** took January off as the first Sunday fell on the holiday. We will recommence gatherings in February with a family friendly outing on **Sunday, February 5th at 3:00 PM.**

We will meet at the Wellbourne entrance to the Morningside Nature Preserve to explore this neighborhood gem. Wear comfortable shoes for hiking and dress for the weather. Note that we will cancel in the event of inclement weather. Check the MLPA.org homepage for updates.

If you know of upcoming events in our neighborhood, remember to let us know at communications@mlpa.org so we can add it to our events and reporting!

News from Alex Wan's Office



ALEX WAN
CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 6



Click here for Alex Wan's [January District 6 Newsletter.](#)

In the News Highlights:

- New parking contract adopted by the city
- Atlanta's recent annexations
- Water restrictions that have been adopted
- Tips on holiday safety



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

Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 14, 9:00 AM - 12 PM, Trees Atlanta Volunteers needed at Morningside Nature Preserve. Help maintain and improve this wonderful neighborhood greenspace by spending a few hours helping Trees Atlanta experts remove invasive plants, primarily Chinese privet, and plant a few nice native trees. Meet near the Wellbourne Dr. entrance to the park at 9 AM sharp with your gloves, water bottle and appropriate outerwear. Trees Atlanta provides tools and instruction.

Monday, January 16, 7:00 PM, NPU-F Meeting, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Drive. All neighbors may attend and vote.

Wednesday, January 18, 12:00 PM, Mary Lin Elementary Media Center, Council of Intown Schools (CINS) presents, Grady Cluster Data Dig, with APS's Director of Research and Evaluation, John Keltz. See how the Grady Cluster schools stack up against other APS cluster schools and how we fare within the State and even within the Nation. Where do we shine? What can we do to improve? Bring a lunch. And if you cannot make the midday meeting, we will videotape the presentation and post it online.

Friday, January 20, 9:15 AM, Inman Middle School Media Center, Coffee with the Principal.

Monday, January 23, 7:00 PM, Celebration of Summer Committee Meeting, 798 Yorkshire Rd.

Saturday, January 28, 9:00 AM - 12 PM, Trees Atlanta planting on Courtenay Drive. Trees Atlanta is seeking volunteers to help with their effort to restore and protect one of Atlanta's proudest legacies. Click [here](#) for details and to sign up.

Monday, February 6, 7:00 PM, Haygood UMC, MLPA Security Forum. Plan to attend with your neighbors to discuss security with the Morningside Security Patrol, MLPA Security committee, and new Zone 2 command.

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

Wednesday, February 8, 6:30 PM, Grady Auditorium, CINS presents State of the Grady Cluster, with APS's Superintendent Dr. Meria Carstarphen. Send in or bring your questions on the APS Budget, Facilities, Proposed SPLOST Expansions, Annexations, Capacities/Crowding, School Turnaround Progress, and more. Send your questions to Christa Martin at mart791@bellsouth.net.

Monday, February 13, 7:00 PM, MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside. All are welcome to attend.

Monday, February 20, 7:00 PM, NPU-F Meeting, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Drive. All neighbors may attend and vote.

Tuesday, February 28, 6:00-8:00 PM, Ebenezer Baptist Church, 101 Jackson St. NE, ATL 30312, Monroe Drive / Boulevard Complete Streets Community Engagement Meeting. Plan to attend to review progress on this project and provide input on design alternatives.

SAVE THE DATE Monday, April 10, 2017, 7:00 PM, Morningside Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1401 North Morningside, MLPA Annual Meeting. Come meet your neighbors, hear important updates and vote for new officers. Join at mlpa.org in order to vote.

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

Morningside Lenox Park Association

www.mlpa.org