

HTML Message



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



MLPA News | August 17, 2017

In This Issue...

Summer is wrapping up and school is back in session--that means there are a lot of activities in Morningside Lenox Park. They offer a great opportunity to meet your neighbors--see below for listings and other news:

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You've Seen the Signs, Now Come Meet the Candidates



Tracey Austin



Jennifer Ide



Kirk Rich

Candidates for Atlanta City Council District 6

It's hard to miss the new crop of political signs appearing on lawns throughout MLPA. To learn more about the folks behind the signs, the MLPA is teaming up with our adjacent neighborhood groups, Virginia Highland Civic Association (VHCA) and Piedmont Heights Civic Association (PHCA), for a candidates' forum featuring those vying for the Atlanta City Council 6th District seat currently occupied by Alex Wan. As you heard at our last Annual Meeting, Wan is vacating his seat to run for City Council President.

While there are plenty of forums featuring mayoral candidates, this may be your only chance to hear from the 6th District Candidates. We hope to continue the great relationship that MLPA has enjoyed with Representative Wan with the next office holder. We hope our neighbors will take the opportunity to learn more about the people who are running so they can make an informed choice prior to the November election.

This forum will be held at **Rock Spring Presbyterian Church, 1824 Piedmont Rd., NE at 7:00 PM** on Tuesday, September 19 so mark your calendars now and plan to attend. The discussion will be moderated by Tom Baxter, retired AJC Political Editor and contributor to the *Saporta Report*.

We have commitments from all three of the announced candidates including Tracey Austin, Jennifer Ide, and

Kirk Rich. As more candidates join the race, we will also include them. If you have specific issues you'd like to hear the candidates address, please contact events@mlpa.org. We hope to cover everyone's concerns during the forum.



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 Concerts in the Park Returned in August-Next Concert, Friday, September 8

Friday, August 4th at 6:00 PM about 300 families gathered in Sidney Marcus Park for the back-to-school MLPA Concert in the Park. The weather, which had threatened earlier in the day, was splendid with a slight breeze helping everyone keep their cool.

Carter Rude and Friends Band was in fine form, warming up the crowd with a range of tunes. They were followed by special guest DJ Crunk! That got the crowd going and all the kids up and dancing, ensuring everyone got a great night's sleep following the concert. Families brought coolers with picnics and/or patronized the food trucks from Dominic's NY Pizza, Doggy Dogg, SnoBayou and King of Pops.



Your membership dues and the support of our sponsors make these concerts possible. We thank our Presenting Sponsor, [Donna Boynton & Joy Myrick, Harry Norman Realtors](#), and Supporting Sponsors, [Keisha Lance Bottoms for Mayor Campaign](#) and [Silver Smiles](#). Their contributions keep these events free for our neighborhood. Remember to let them know you appreciate their support!

Thanks to all the neighbors who picked up their trash and deposited it in the bins or took it home with them. Sidney Marcus Park is a vital resource for our neighborhood and we appreciate your efforts to keep it clean and litter free. Overflowing trash cans are not only unsightly, they attract critters.

Mark your calendars and make plans now to attend the final two concerts of 2017 on **Friday, September 8 and Friday, October 20. Both concerts will begin at 6 PM.** You won't want to miss the fun! We will once again offer the concerts free, thanks to Presenting Sponsor Boynton & Myrick Real Estate and sponsors Silver Smiles and Keisha Lance Bottoms for Mayor Campaign. For the last two concerts we welcome new sponsors, Atlanta City Council 6th District Candidates, [Jennifer Ide](#) and [Kirk Rich](#).

Vote for the District
6 Candidate with

- Experience
- Knowledge
- Focus



KIRK RICH
FOR ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 6
KIRKFORATLANTA.COM

Atlanta Beltline Outlines Plans for the Northeast Trail

Thursday, July 13th neighbors gathered at Rock Spring Presbyterian Church to hear the Atlanta Beltline's plans for the Northeast Trail. The Eastside trail that is already completed near Morningside Lenox Park has been among the most heavily used and has stimulated millions in additional investment. The plans discussed at the meeting covered the Northeast Trail that will eventually connect our neighborhood to Buckhead via the Beltline.

The meeting featured the team behind the design and construction of the Northeast Trail that is taking shape between Ansley Mall and Mayson Street NE. Atlanta Beltline Inc. (ABI) unveiled timelines and other key details about the project, and gathered input from the community that will help shape the trail's design. If you missed the meeting, you can [view the presentation](#) and submit ideas about how the Georgia Power maintenance pads can be incorporated into the trail design.

See Alex Wan's newsletter and the Events calendar for news on the latest citywide update by the Atlanta Beltline on **Thursday, August 10 at 6:30 PM at All Saints Episcopal Church, 634 West Peachtree St.**

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Meet the Officers of the MLPA Security Patrol - Ric Vasquez



For the next several issues of the MLPA e-newsletter, we will spotlight the officers from the Atlanta Police Department who man the MLPA Security Patrol. Please greet them and thank them for their work when you have the opportunity. They keep our neighborhood safe every day.

Ricardo 'Ric' Vazquez leads the MLPA Morningside Patrol. Lieutenant Vazquez has worked in our neighborhood since the MLPA established the patrol in the early 1990s. He was part of the original group of Atlanta Police Department (APD) officers who helped our neighborhood. In 2005, he assumed the management of the MLPA Security Patrol. In this role, he recruits officers to do vacation checks every day each week and to patrol in the neighborhood for several nights. He is responsible for maintaining the shift coverage, paying the officers, getting the vacation logs out to members who have been out of town, and performing other related tasks. On a holiday weekend like July 4th, for example, the officers typically conduct vacation checks for more than 50 houses twice each day.

Lieutenant Vazquez has worked for the APD for 28 years. He started as a patrolman on the beat for the Morningside neighborhood. Hence, he knows our community very well and cares about it. In addition to working the Morningside beat, he has worked in Zone 5 downtown as a plainclothes investigator, and in Zone 2 (which includes Buckhead and our neighborhood) in narcotics and as the morning watch supervisor. Lieutenant Vazquez is currently the

APD Homicide Commander. Here is a link to the Atlanta Journal Constitution's report about one particular investigation: [Video Link](#).

When asked what he likes most about his job, he spoke about his work in homicide. He likes doing investigations that really matter, and that his work affects people's lives every day. "Homicides are very tough with the strong emotions in the affected families. Homicide investigations are the final link between the deceased, and the surviving family members. Convictions help to bring closure to the families."

Lieutenant Vazquez has been married to his high school sweetheart for 29 years, and they have 3 sons ages 25, 21, and 17. When he is not doing work for the APD or our neighborhood, he enjoys being the grill master. He loves to grill whole pigs in a la caja Chinese box. YUM!!! He also enjoys a good cigar and Cuban rum with his brother and family.

Thank you, Lieutenant Vazquez, for all you do for the MLPA!!! And thanks to all the MLPA Security Plus members! Your dues fund the work of the Morningside Security Patrol and promote the safety of our neighbors.

Fontaine's
OYSTER HOUSE

MONDAYS
 1/2 Price Burgers

TUESDAYS
 @ 4pm 1/2 Price
 Raw Dozen Oysters

WEDNESDAYS
 1lb. Snow Crab Legs \$15

1026 1/2 N. HIGHLAND AVE. NE 404-872-0869 *Freshest Oysters in Atlanta*

Social Happenings in Morningside Lenox Park

Morningside is home to a varied and interesting group of neighbors. Many have organized into small groups to get to know each other better and generally create a greater sense of community. You are invited to join as your interest and time allows. Contact the organizers listed below to express interest in becoming a regular member of the group:

Morningside Book Club-In July the group discussed Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale. The September selection is The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls, the topic for their September 20 meeting at 7 PM. The group uses Book Movement and a dedicated Facebook page to organize-contact [Jill Cobb](#) to be added or get details.

Morningside Garden Club-A small group interested in reviving the Morningside Lenox Park Garden Club is forming-if you are interested contact [Marti Breen](#).

Couples' Dinner Club-This monthly group shares drinks and dinner at nearby venues. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and make new friends. Contact [Mark Reaves](#) if you'd like to be added to the email listing. Last month's meeting was at Goin' Coastal on Friday, July 28 and this month they plan on going to Loca Luna in Amsterdam Walk on Friday, August 25. Contact Mark to RSVP and for details.



Empty Nesters' Dinner Club-Singles, divorced, widowed, and a smattering of couples make up this group that gathers periodically either at a venue or someone's home. [Jill Deutchmann](#) can add you to the email list so you know of the next gathering.



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MLPA Education News

Schools are back in session so please exercise caution and patience on our streets and watch out for small pedestrians!

Note that on **Monday, August 21**, Atlanta Public Schools will dismiss students 30 minutes later than normal so that teachers/students can share the solar eclipse experience. Busses will run on a 30 minute delay. Parents can notify the school if they do NOT want their children to participate in the activities.

You may have seen reports about drinking water safety-- Water testing was conducted on APS school campuses in June. You can learn more about water quality investigations at www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/49677 or contact Yvonne Douglas, Project Manager, APS Energy and Environmental Services at 404-802-3720 or ydouglas@atlantapublicschools.us. Click here for the superintendent's statement on the matter: <https://atlsuper.com/2016/06/30/aps-tests-for-lead-to-ensure-safe-water-in-schools/>

Interested in helping to improve pedestrian and bike safety every morning at Inman Middle? The school is looking for a new Crosswalk Parent Coordinator as well as volunteers for the Crosswalk Parent Team. Please contact Gail Price or Brandon Bransford at operations@inmanmiddleschool.org if this interests you.

If you plan to drive to the upcoming Piedmont Park Arts Festival (see Events Listing) or any other festival at Piedmont Park, please use the Grady HS lots and help fund the school's PTSA! Grady High School's Football season begins Friday, August 18. For the season calendar of games, visit <http://www.maxpreps.com/m/team/schedule.aspx?gendersport=boys.football&schoolid=1db16208-7051-440f-845c-de618617f520>



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Morningside Kindergarteners Gathering A Success

School has started now, and the beginning of the school year was easier for the kids thanks to a July gathering in Noble Park. The Morningside Elementary School (MES) Rising K group organized a playdate that brought together about 60 families of new MES students. As the pictures show, a great time was had by all. Thanks to the organizers for making the transition into school a smooth one for all these families.



MLPA Parks Committee Notes

[Julia Payne](#), MLPA Parks Committee Chair, has been forming an active group to look after our gorgeous tree canopy, parks, and greenspaces. If you'd like to become involved, you can use the link above to contact her.

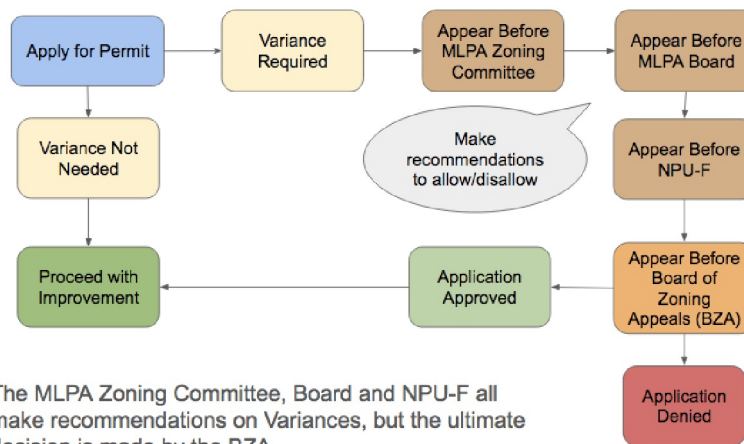
The committee reminds neighbors that beginning August 15, the Atlanta Audubon Society's Lights Out Atlanta program gears up to protect migrating birds. You can join in the effort by signing the pledge at <https://www.atlantaudubon.org/lights-out-atlanta>. Then just make sure you extinguish all non-essential lights to give our bird friends a rest along their way.

Since 77% of the trees in Atlanta are located on single-family residential properties, our yards are an essential piece of the local ecosystem. The more dense and redeveloped Atlanta becomes, the more important our yards become to maintain continuity with the natural world.

Correction:

In the July e-newsletter, the MLPA Security article on the Morningside Nature Preserve stated, "The preserve is believed to be owned by the South Fork Conservancy and the state Department of Transportation." This is incorrect-the Morningside Nature Preserve is owned by the City of Atlanta and managed by the Parks Department. We apologize for the inaccuracy.

Zoning Committee Report



At the August meeting, the Zoning Committee voted as follows:

- **V-17-200, 1831 Homestead Ave** - Voted to Approve 10-0-0
- **V-17-210, 836 Yorkshire Rd NE** - Voted to Approve 10-0-0
- **V-17-211, 1727 North Pelham Rd NE** - Voted to Approve, **CONDITIONED** upon receiving letters of support from the neighbors. 10-0-0

The committee also heard about the application to encroach on the riparian buffer at 924 Cumberland. The applicant is seeking two building sites on the property. The MLPA board addressed all these applications on Monday night where there was a lengthy discussion on the Stream Buffer Encroachment Application for 924 Cumberland Rd. The next step for these applications is appearing before NPU-F on **Monday, August 21 at 7:00 PM**.

The next Zoning Committee Meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 5**. The cases to be covered will be posted at www.mlpa.org/zoning/. Any neighbors interested in the outcome should come to these meetings.

Check the bottom of the mlpa.org homepage for listings of the variances that will be discussed. All our meetings are open. Contact zoning@mlpa.org with questions.

Music Midtown Road Closures



It's time for the annual fall [Music Midtown](#) in Piedmont Park, **Friday, September 15-Sunday, September 17**. The official festival times are 12:00 PM-11:00 PM on Saturday and 12:00 PM-10:00 PM Sunday, but sound checks will occur on Friday and earlier on the weekend days.

The festival has once again secured a permit to close the two lanes on 10th Street closest to the park beginning on Friday, September 8-Friday, September 15. One lane of Charles Allen Dr. between 8th and 10th will be closed on Thursday, September 14-Friday, September 15.

Access to the park on Park Drive between the bridge and Orme circle will be closed to all traffic Friday, September 15-Monday, September 18. On Saturday and Sunday, many of the roads in midtown will be restricted to residents only.

In addition, on Monday, September 18, 10th Street will be closed between Monroe Dr. and Charles Allen, although according to the permit, "Grady HS access preserved in and out bound per schedule between Charles Allen and Lot access." Tuesday-Thursday, September 19-21, the two lanes closest to the park will remain closed on 10th street. Copies of the road closure maps and a letter from Music Midtown have been posted on the [MLPA website](#).

Yard Sale Scheduled, Sunday, Oct. 22

Now that the kids are back in school, it's a great time to clean out the outgrown clothes, toys, household items/furniture and make a little extra cash at the MLPA Yard Sale. Organizers are putting the finishing touches on plans now, so all you need to do now is start collecting those extra items that need a new home.

Mark your calendars now and get to work going through all the extra 'stuff' that's taken over your home. Stayed tuned for next steps-if you'd like to help out with the effort, contact events@mlpa.org to volunteer.

News from Alex Wan's Office



ALEX WAN
CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 6



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

In the News Highlights:

Emory University, CDC and Children's Healthcare Annexation
DeKalb County Adjusts 2017 Property Assessments for City of Atlanta Residential Properties
Keep Atlanta Beautiful Community Recycling in O4W Is Moving
Atlanta's Public Water Meets or Exceeds Standards
Atlanta BeltLine Transit and Planning Update

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

Calendar of Events

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, [CHARM Recycling](#), 1110 Hill Street, SE.

Friday, August 18, 8:00 PM (doors open at 6:00 PM), The Promenade at Piedmont Park. Rain Plan: Same location on Saturday, August 19 at 8:00 PM. Tickets are free of charge to the public, but quantities are limited. Please click to reserve your tickets today. All tickets are general admission and no tickets will be available on site. You may reserve up to 4 tickets. Capacity is limited, so get your tickets while supplies last. Reserve tickets now: <http://www.tcm.com/park/>

Saturday & Sunday, August 19 & 20, [Piedmont Park Arts Festival](#). Cars are encouraged to use the Grady High School lots to help fund the PTSA.

Monday, August 21, 2:25 PM, Solar Eclipse. APS will delay dismissing students 30 minutes.

Monday, August 21, 7:00 PM, NPU-F Meeting, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Dr. The neighborhood planning unit is open to all neighbors, each of whom has a vote.

Wednesday, August 24, 8:15 AM, Morningside Elementary School PTA General Meeting.

Thursday, August 24, Time varies [click for specifics by class](#), Morningside Elementary School Back to School Night.

Thursday, August 24, 5:00-7:30 PM, Morningside Presbyterian Church, Food Trucks & Fun in the parking lot. Come meet neighbors and feed the family, complete with activities for the kids.

Monday, August 28, 7:00 PM, CINS (Council of Intown Neighborhood Schools) meeting at Grady High School Parent Center.

Tuesday, August 29, 12:30 PM, Emory/CDC/Children's Healthcare Annexation at CDP Hearing (land use) and City Council Community Development/ Human Services Committee, Atlanta City Hall - Committee Room 1.

Friday, September 1, 8:15 AM, Principal Coffee, Morningside Elementary School.

Tuesday, September 5, 1:00 PM, Emory/CDC/Children's Healthcare Annexation at the Atlanta City Council Meeting, Atlanta City Hall, Council Chambers.

Tuesday, September 5, 7:00 PM-MLPA Zoning Committee, Morningside Presbyterian Church. <http://www.mlpa.org/zoning/> for variances that will be discussed. All neighbors are welcome.

Thursday, September 7, 6:00 PM, Inman Middle School PTO General Meeting & Back to School Curriculum Night.

Friday September 8, 6:00 PM, Sidney Marcus Park, MLPA Concerts in the Park returns. Bring your blanket/chairs, the kids, a picnic/cooler and a trash bag to clean up afterwards-it will be a great way to kick off the school year. See article above.

Saturday, September 9, 8:30 AM [Legal Run Around 5K](#), watch out for runners in Morningside and Virginia Highland.

Saturday, September 9, 7:30-11:00 PM, Atlanta Beltline Lantern Parade along the eastside beltline.

Monday, September 11, 7:00 PM, MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1401 North Morningside Dr. All neighbors are welcome.

Friday, September 15-Sunday September 17, Piedmont Park, [Music Midtown](#). Note that roads/paths will be closed in and around the park for at least a week before and after the festival and plan your commute (especially to Grady HS) accordingly.

Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 PM, Rock Spring Presbyterian Church, MLPA/PHCA/VHCA Sponsored Atlanta City Council District 6 Candidates' Forum.

Wednesday, September 20, Morningside Elementary School Picture Day.

Sunday, September 24, 2:00-6:00 PM, [Atlanta Streets Alive](#) takes over Peachtree from 17th to Mitchell St. Bike, walk, stroll, eat, and be entertained along the street which will be closed to traffic.

Tuesday, September 26, 8:45 AM, Coffee with the Principal, Grady High School Theater Lobby.
SAVE THE DATES-Friday, October 20, 6:00 PM, MLPA Concert in the Park's Final 2017 Concert at Sidney Marcus Park.

Sunday, October 22, MLPA Yard Sale, Anshe S'Fard.

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
[Senate District 36](#) - Nan Orrock, Georgia State Senator
[House District 57](#) - Pat Gardner, Georgia State Representative
[Atlanta Public Schools](#), [Morningside Elementary School](#), [Inman Middle School](#), [Grady High School](#)
[VHMPA](#) - Virginia Highland Morningside Parent Association
[NextDoor](#) - Neighborhood list serve- not affiliated with MLPA

Morningside Lenox Park Association
www.mlpa.org



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