

HTML Message



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



MLPA News | July 13, 2017

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We trust everyone had a fabulous July 4th-below is news from the best neighborhood in Atlanta:

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Fulton County Property Tax Assessments To Be Re-issued



The Fulton County Commissioners voted on June 21st to freeze property assessments at the 2016 levels. The vote came in response to citizens' complaints about tax assessments that had increased as much as 50%. The Atlanta City Council and Fulton County Commission had both asked the Board of Assessors to re-examine the increases, but had been told that the digest could not be modified. The commission's attorney found a law from 1881 that allowed the Fulton County Commissioners to vote for the freeze.

"Today's vote was not just a monetary or fiscal matter. It was a moral issue," stated commission Chairman John Eaves, who sponsored the resolution, in the Atlanta Business Chronicle. "Our vote will allow all people - regardless of their zip code - to keep their homes by giving them time to adjust to rising property values over time."

While the action provides relief for this year, some commissioners pointed out that it only delays the inevitable increases due to the improved real estate market. Apparently state legislators are looking to see if they can provide some assistance to constituents concerned with their ability to afford the higher taxes that the rising valuation portends.

In the meantime, residents can expect to receive new assessments by the end of the summer. Any appeals filed on the current assessments will be null, so property owners will have to start the appeal process again once the new assessments are received.



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 Returns in August

Mark your calendars now for Friday, August 4th as we mark the end of the summer/beginning of another school year with the third MLPA Concert in the Park. We are looking forward to the concerts' return, bringing together neighbors for an evening of delicious food, good music, and fabulous friends.

Carter Rude and Band will be in fine tune for the Friday concert. They will be followed by special guest DJ Crunk! You were probably enjoying the musical talents of Carter Rude and Friends and looking forward to DJ

Crunk at Celebration of Summer, when the rains cut the festivities short. They have agreed to return in August to kick off the back-to-school concert.



Joining them will be great food from [Dominic's NY Pizza](#) truck, [SnoBayou](#) gourmet snow cones, and of course, [King of Pops](#). If none of that suits your fancy (or diet), you can bring your own picnic and enjoy dinner, dancing, and delightful company at MLPA's Concerts in the Park. Please remember to bring along a trash bag to take your trash and recyclables home—overflowing trash cans are unsightly and attract unwanted critters to the park!

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

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Morningside Education News

It's still summer, but the start of the new school year is just around the corner. The MLPA Education Chair, Amanda Strawser, reminds parents of new kindergarten students, students who have moved to another residence in Atlanta, and rising sixth and ninth-grade students that they must register for the 2017-2018 school year. Centralized registration will be held at the Atlanta Public Schools Central Office, 130 Trinity Avenue, Second Floor. Registration is available from 8:00 AM-noon and 2-5:00 PM on Monday, July 10 through Thursday, July 13. Please call the Office of Student Assignment and Records at 404-802-2202 for details.

APS Back to School Bash, Saturday, July 29, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM, Georgia World Congress Center Hall C1
This [free event](#) is exclusively for APS students and their families with over 50 exhibitors, fun activities for children, immunizations (while supplies last), free health screenings, educational, after-school, and community resources.

Pre-After School Resources for Parents

The following facilities are located in or adjacent to Morningside and may offer private school, preschool, and after school care:

www.rockspringpreschool.com
www.morningsidepc.org/preschool
www.haygoodwcm.org/child-development-center
www.heritageprep.org
www.jewishkidsgroups.com/jkg-afterschool-community.html
www.myafterschoolprogram.com
www.haygoodwcm.org/after-school-hut
www.canterburyschoolga.com/index.php

Support our Local APS Schools' Foundations

Our neighborhood elementary, middle, and high schools have benefited from the charitable foundations that foster teaching excellence and enhance student achievement through strategic investments in curriculum & instruction programs. Successful schools are a key component to the vitality of our neighborhood. In-kind and monetary contributions from all neighbors are appreciated.

Donations can be made to:

Morningside Elementary School Foundation, 1053 East Rock Springs Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30306
www.morningsideschoolfoundation.org

Inman Middle School Foundation, 774 Virginia Ave., Atlanta, GA 30306
www.inmanfoundation.org

Historic Grady High School is celebrating its 70th year! Did you know that Bronte Woodward ('58) wrote the screenplay for "Grease," based on the musical of the same name? Performing Arts at Grady are important, and needs are urgent.

The Grady High School Foundation, 931 Monroe Dr. NE, Suite 102, PMB 438, Atlanta, Georgia 30308
www.gradyhsfoundation.org

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Sidney Marcus Hosts July 4th Parade & Picnic

Families festooned in red, white, and blue gathered in Sidney Marcus to celebrate the holiday with food, fun, music, and a parade. The Virginia Highland Morningside Parent Association (VHMPA) sponsored the festivities. Judging from the photos below, a grand time was had by all!





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Social Happenings in Morningside Lenox Park

Gatherings like Celebration of Summer and MLPA Concerts in the Park offer chances for neighbors to gather and get to know each other better. In addition, a few groups have formed to offer opportunities to commune over meals or discuss current literature:

Couples' Dinner Club - This group meets monthly at a nearby restaurant to share drinks and dinner, exploring the neighborhood and getting to know each other better. Contact [Mark Reaves](#) if you'd like to be added to the email listing. Last month's meeting was at Wisteria in Inman Park on Friday, June 16th.

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.

Morningside Book Club - In July the group will talk about Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*. The group uses Book Movement and a dedicated Facebook page to organize-contact [Jill Cobb](#) to be added.

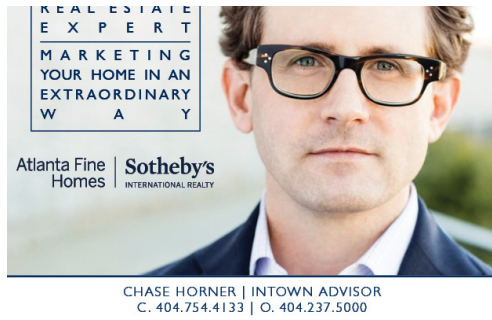
Morningside Garden Club Forming - MLPA was once home to an active group of gardeners who met to share insights, cuttings, hear from speakers, and keep up community gardens. There is a group exploring reviving the community-if you are interested contact [Marti Breen](#).

[Georgia Energy Solutions](#)

MLPA Security Focuses on Morningside Nature Preserve



The Morningside Nature Preserve is a wonderful green space located within our neighborhood <https://www.yelp.com/biz/morningside-nature-preserve-atlanta>. It features a 1.7 mile loop trail, a



segment of South Peachtree Creek, a suspension bridge over the creek, a beach where the dogs like to run and play, and raised walkways where the path may too frequently be muddy. Trees Atlanta sponsored walks leaving from the parking area on Lenox Road throughout the spring this year. On most evenings in the spring and summer, especially on the weekend, hikers, dog-walkers, and others just wanting a casual stroll enjoy this park.

Over the years, the neighborhood has expressed concerns about the homeless persons who camp here. Generally, these folks do not pose any immediate threat or danger to the community. The MLPA Security Committee tries to pay close

attention, however, to the possible involvement of such persons in crimes committed nearby (car break-ins, sleeping on porches, intrusion into garages, theft of an auto, etc.).

Recently, Kevin McGlynn and Phyllis Wingo met with the command staff in Zone 2 of the Atlanta Police Department (APD) to discuss issues related to managing this chronic concern. They learned that:

1. A homeless outreach team operates within the APD. This HOPE Team (Homeless Outreach Proactive Enforcement Team) uses community-oriented approaches to work on urban camping situations throughout the city.
2. When an area is trashed related to the presence of the urban campers, the APD can involve code enforcement and require the owners to clean up the property.
3. The preserve is believed to be owned by the South Fork Conservancy and the state Department of Transportation.

The MLPA Security Patrol routinely walks through the Preserve. Occasionally, they seek the assistance of additional APD officers to identify active camps. The APD has asked for volunteers in the neighborhood to show the officers the locations of the camps. If you are willing to work with the MLPA and the APD on this matter, please send an email to security@mlpa.org or neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org.

MLPA Teams Up with VHCA & PHCA for Political Forum

In the end, all politics is local. Recognizing this, MLPA is joining with our adjacent neighborhood groups, Virginia Highland Civic Association (VHCA) and Piedmont Heights Civic Association (PHCA), to present a forum of the candidates for the Atlanta City Council 6th District seat currently occupied by Alex Wan.

While several groups are presenting forums featuring mayoral candidates, this is the only one we are aware of that will give neighbors a chance to hear the 6th District Candidates' stance on issues that concern us. Our neighborhood has enjoyed great communications and assistance from Alex Wan's office-and we hope to form the same sort of relationship with the next office holder. We hope our neighbors will take the opportunity to learn more about the people who are running to replace Wan prior to the November election.

This forum presents the perfect opportunity to hear the candidates' visions for the city and get answers to our questions. It will be held at Rock Spring Presbyterian Church 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.

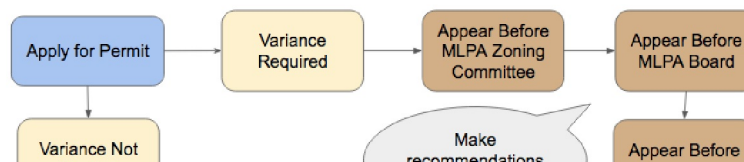
If you have specific issues you'd like to hear the candidates address, please contact events@mlpa.org. We hope to cover everyone's concerns during the forum.

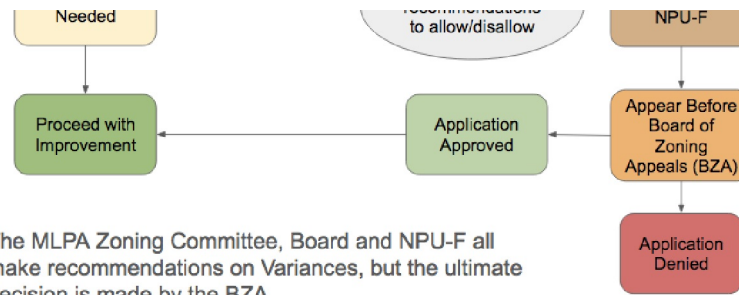
New Morningside Kindergarteners Gathering

Starting Kindergarten is a major step for both parents and kids. There is a group dedicated to making this transition easier for both. The Morningside Elementary School (MES) Rising K group has a private Facebook page that parents may join to meet others and share wisdom. Contact [Dianne Shain](#) to join and learn more about the group.

In addition, they have scheduled a playdate at Noble Park this Saturday, July 15, 10:00-11:30. Bring the kids to play with some of their new peers-it's a great opportunity to meet other parents and start easing into the MES community.

Zoning Committee Report





There were no zoning cases for July so the committee took the month off.

The next Zoning Committee Meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 1**. The cases to be covered will be posted at www.mlpa.org/zoning/. Any neighbors interested in the outcome should come to these meetings.

A member of the committee shared some good news-the Atlanta City Council recently passed a moratorium to prevent the removal of 10 or more trees from residential lots 5 acres or larger. Read more about the measure which is intended to protect the dwindling tree canopy [here](#).

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.

News from Alex Wan's Office



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

In the News Highlights:

- Rescission of the 2017 Fulton County Tax Digest
- Approval of the City's FY2018 Budget
- 'Feet on the Street' Recycling Campaign
- Solid Waste Holiday Schedule

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.

Monday July 10-Thursday, July 13, 8:00 AM-Noon & 2:00-5:00 PM, Atlanta Public Schools registration at their Central Office, 130 Trinity Avenue, Second Floor. See Education article above for details.

Saturday, July 15, 10:00 - 11:30 AM, Noble Park, playdate for MES rising Kindergarteners and their parents. Contact Dianne Shain for details or to join the Facebook group.

Monday, July 17, 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, July 26th, 7:00 PM, Morningside Book Club discussion of Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale. See article above for details.

Saturday, July 29, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Atlanta Public Schools Back to School Bash, Georgia World Congress Center.

Tuesday, August 1, 7:00 PM, MLPA Zoning Committee, Morningside Presbyterian Church. <http://www.mlpa.org/zoning/> for variances that will be discussed. All neighbors are welcome.

Friday August 4, 6:30 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.

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

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.

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

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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