

HTML Message



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



MLPA News | September 14, 2017

In This Issue...

We hope you made it through the tropical storm safely and have electricity restored soon, if it isn't already. With the fall, activities heat up in Morningside Lenox Park-read on to see what the MLPA is doing for the neighborhood:

1. [Atlanta City Council District 6 Forum Tuesday, September 19 @ 7PM](#)
2. [Stand Up Morningside Security/Membership Campaign](#)
3. [Security Forum Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 7 PM](#)
4. [Neighborhood Yard Sale Registration Open](#)
5. [News from MLPA Traffic Committee](#)
6. [MLPA Concerts in the Park Rock Sidney Marcus Park](#)
7. [Fulton County Property Tax News](#)
8. [Garden Club Forms in Morningside Lenox Park](#)
9. [MLPA Parks Committee Update](#)
10. [Zoning Variances Heard](#)
11. [Music Midtown Road Closures](#)
12. [News from Alex Wan's Office](#)
13. [Calendar of Events](#)
14. [Send Us Your Ideas](#)

New City Council and Mayor to be Elected in November-Meet the District 6 Candidates, Next Tuesday, 9/19 @ 7PM, Rock Spring Presbyterian Church, 1824 Piedmont Rd NE



Tracey Austin



Jennifer Ide



Kirk Rich

Candidates for Atlanta City Council District 6

In November, voters will almost completely replace Atlanta's political leadership as the Mayor, City Council President, and up to a majority of the City Council seats will be elected. In an effort to make sure our neighbors have a chance to meet the candidates that hope to represent us for the next four years, the MLPA is teaming up with our neighbors in Piedmont Heights and Virginia Highland to present a forum with Tracey Austin, Jennifer Ide, and Kirk Rich, the candidates for the seat currently held by Alex Wan. Wan is vacating his seat to run for City Council President.




Make sure you clear your calendar to attend this important forum, as it may be your only chance to hear from the 6th District Candidates. The signs of the impending election are showing up in front lawns throughout the neighborhood. This is your chance to hear where they stand. Our neighborhood has enjoyed a great relationship with Representative Wan and we hope the tradition continues with the next office holder. The discussion will be moderated by Tom Baxter, veteran AJC Political Editor and contributor to the Saporta Report.

We have collected a list of questions from neighbors covering issues that will be important for Atlanta's future. The race is heating up-please come learn what you can about their positions on matters that will affect us and their priorities for our city. We hope to see a lot of our neighbors on Tuesday night, 9/19 at 7 PM.


NOTE: Many other groups are holding forums featuring mayoral candidates-see the Events listing for at least one announcement. Early voting starts Monday, October 16 and the election is Tuesday, November 7.

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



Stand Up Morningside Security/Membership Campaign

MLPA Membership, Security and Neighborhood Watch have teamed up to kick off a membership drive, "Stand Up Morningside." The goals of the program are ambitious, but only 20% of our neighbors are currently members and we believe we can recruit more by educating them on the value of joining. The main thrust is to recruit new or renewing members to **support the Morningside Security Patrol so that we can increase shifts and coverage.** The end goal is to make Morningside Lenox Park a less attractive target for criminals, keeping our families and homes safer.

Did you know that MLPA Security Plus membership costs just \$0.61/day? This is a small price to pay for the value of membership-especially as compared to the price of a cup of latte, or a family meal out. If you are not a Security Plus member, the campaign is hoping you will join our efforts to come closer together as a neighborhood and protect your home and family. If you are already a Security Plus member, the campaign is hoping you will help us spread the word.

With an objective to add 350 members (a 50% increase), the Stand Up Morningside campaign hopes to:

1. **Expand security patrols** - adding 250 new members will allow us to staff patrols and fully cover the nighttime hours for an entire year-which we hope will deter the car break-ins and other minor crimes that have been happening overnight.
2. **Establish camera network** - our campaign will work to build a system of camera coverage across the neighborhood. A similar effort in Virginia Highland seems to have been an effective deterrent to criminal activity. We have secured a commitment that the City will install 3 license plate recognition and pan tilt zoom cameras in our neighborhood. These cameras are monitored by the Atlanta Police Department. With another 100 new members, we can use matching monies from Councilman Wan and/or neighbors and local businesses to install additional cameras.
3. **Strengthen neighborhood connections** - by adding participants to the Neighborhood Watch Program, sending prevention tips and security updates, and holding events where neighbors can get to know each other, we can establish a network of diligent neighbors who know and look out for each other.

Thanks to everyone at the MLPA Concert in Sidney Marcus that signed up-you helped get the campaign off to a great start!

If you'd like to learn more about Stand Up Morningside, contact neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.com. We can always use additional volunteers to help with the effort-If you'd like to participate in the campaign and join MLPA, contact membership@mlpa.org.



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MLPA Security Forum, Tuesday, September 26, 7:00 PM, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 N Morningside

With the holidays approaching and the recent spate of petty crime in the neighborhood, MLPA Security and Neighborhood Watch are inviting our Atlanta Police Department (APD) command and the Morningside Security Patrol to meet with neighbors to further Stand Up Morningside! This forum at Morningside Presbyterian Church will give neighbors a chance to meet and greet others in the community that are concerned with making our homes and families more safe and secure.

At the forum we will cover programs underway to place more cameras throughout the neighborhood to catch intruders. Members of the APD will be on hand to present tips about how we can make our area less attractive for criminals. We will also hear from the officers that make up the Morningside Security Patrol about how they are working to make our streets safer.

Mark your calendars now and make sure you let your neighbors know about this important meeting. We hope to see you Tuesday, Sept. 26 at Morningside Presbyterian!

MLPA Yard Sale, Sunday, Oct. 22 at Anshi S'fard, 1324 N Highland

Fall is the perfect time to purge your closets, cleaning out the outgrown clothes, toys, household items/furniture. While you're at it, why not make a little extra cash at the MLPA Yard Sale. Vendors can sign up for a table at mlpa.org-scroll down to the headline for the MLPA Yard Sale.

Congregation Anshi S'fard has graciously offered to host this event in their front yard, right on the corner of N. Highland and Morningside. **The sale will occur from 1-4 PM with vendors setting up beginning at noon.** The event is free for MLPA residents, but you must [reserve a spot](#) to participate.

Note that vendors will be responsible for pricing their items and collecting payments-please come prepared with plenty of change. The local scout troops will be on hand to sell refreshments, so stop by and look through the treasures your neighbors have to offer.

Mark your calendars now and get to work going through all the extra 'stuff' that's taken over your home. Arts, antiques, and gift items will also be on sale. If you'd like to help out with the effort, contact events@mlpa.org to volunteer.

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MLPA Traffic News

In Alex Wan's latest update on City Council actions, he reviewed the status of Renew Atlanta's plans for the Monroe Corridor. In essence, the proposed changes to Monroe Drive from Piedmont Road to North Avenue have been put on hold pending additional data collection, analysis, and public comment.

The traffic crisis our neighborhood experienced during the I-85 collapse laid bare the potential unintended consequences of the original Renew Atlanta design, and the active debate in neighborhood forums brought to light several additional concerns and ideas that MLPA believed should be considered. Accordingly, MLPA President Sally Bayless and Vice President Charlie Nalbone requested meetings with both Wan and Renew Atlanta to present the neighborhood's suggestions.

Meetings were held with City representatives directly following the completion of repairs to I-85. MLPA reviewed the issues of congestion, excessive speed, and truck traffic on small, vulnerable residential streets in Morningside and Lenox Park as a result of widespread use of "way-finding" apps such as WAZE, which presented drivers with alternatives to the posted detour routes during the period of the collapse and which coincidentally offered a preview of what could be anticipated if the original Renew Atlanta changes to Monroe Drive result in the level of additional drive time that the analysis predicted. In particular, discussion centered upon Renew Atlanta's focus on modifications to individual streets without taking the broader traffic patterns into account.

Neighborhood concerns were expressed regarding average daily traffic load on Monroe in light of lane reductions on Juniper and Piedmont as well as continuing increased density development in Inman Park, Old Fourth Ward, Edgewood, and other neighborhoods spawning pass-through east/west traffic on Monroe. Crucially, the neighborhood's increasing frustration with safety issues was emphasized, with the need for improvements to the

Piedmont/Monroe intersection and pedestrian crossings vying with the importance of protecting the residential streets from the dangers of heavy redirected traffic seeking faster pass-through options to congested arterial streets.

MLPA successfully petitioned for further data collection on the effect of the lane reductions on Tenth Street and Ponce de Leon Avenue so those results can better inform decisions on Monroe. In addition, MLPA requested and received support for data collection and analysis of traffic patterns on specified neighborhood streets and City consideration of means by which to reduce Monroe's average daily traffic (ADT) during peak hours.

MLPA asked that these studies not postpone the installation of pedestrian safety improvements at intersections along Monroe that have been consistent areas of concern for residents. As Alex wrote in his update, these are in process of being installed.

MLPA will make the results of this additional research available as it is completed, and will continue to represent the viewpoint of our neighborhood as plans progress. Thanks to all who took the time to add their voices to this process, and special thanks to Sally and Charlie for ensuring that those voices are heard.

If you would like to join the MLPA Traffic Committee, please email traffic@mlpa.org.

MLPA Concerts in the Park-the Place to Be This Fall

Friday, September 8, about 300 families joined their friends and neighbors in Sidney Marcus Park for a perfect evening at the MLPA Concert in the Park. Carter Rude and Friends Band was joined by special guests, Francisco Vidal, John Moye, and Lawton Feldman. Their tunes warmed up the crowd on the cool evening, getting the kids up and dancing.



A lot of families packed coolers, serving everything from elaborate picnics to take out pizza. Others took advantage of Cuban fare or hot dogs from Buena Gente and Doggy Dogg food trucks. Adding to the festivities were King of Pops and Fabulous Faces.

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](#), [Silver Smiles](#), [Jennifer Ide for Atlanta](#), and [Kirk Rich for Atlanta](#). Their contributions keep these events free for our neighborhood. If you are not a member, go to mlpa.org and click Join. Thanks to all those who stopped by the Stand Up Morningside table to lend their support!

Mark your calendars and make plans now to attend the final concert of 2017 on Friday, October 20, at 6 PM. You won't want to miss the fun!

Vote for the District
6 Candidate with

- Experience
- Knowledge
- Focus



Fulton County Tax Bills Delayed-Expect Them in October

According to an article in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, the Fulton County Commission, which earlier this year voted to freeze property tax assessments, has also voted on a slightly reduced tax rate for the county's general fund of 10.38 mills. This clears the way for the Tax Commissioner to issue bills that homeowners can expect beginning in October, with taxes dues by some time in December.

While you may see a slight reduction in the taxes going to the general fund (projected to be about \$5 for a \$250,000 assessed home), the rates are yet to be added for the City and APS.

MLPA Garden Club Forms

In the 80's, Morningside Lenox Park had an active Garden Club that helped take care of our traffic triangles and greenspaces. As the Parks Committee and Park Pride took over this maintenance and members moved, the club disbanded.

Last month, a group gathered to revive this interest group in the neighborhood. A group of men and women of various ages form the core of the new group. Our interest and gardening experience is varied, but we will gather monthly to exchange plants, hear from speakers, and take occasional field trips to gardens/sites of interest.

Meeting in the evenings to accommodate working schedules, the next gathering of the group is Thursday, October 5th at 7:00 PM. Julia Payne, MLPA Parks Chair, will tell the group about neighborhood efforts to maintain our parks, greenspaces, and tree canopy. If you would like to join us, contact Marti Breen, mbreen@c3marketing.com.



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MLPA Parks Committee Notes

It's been a few years since we've focused on our parks, one of the great attractions in our neighborhood. Currently, there are two groups that are working to make these community gems an even better asset.

Friends of Sidney Marcus

Sidney Marcus Park is a tremendous focal point for Morningside Lenox Park. It hosts the annual MLPA Celebration of Summer and the MLPA Concerts in the Park from Spring-Fall. Sadly, the extreme seasons we have had over the past several years, especially this one, have combined with the park's heavy use to expose some fundamental drainage and erosion issues that have impacted the park. It is time to channel the energy (and money) in the community to renovate the park and make it attractive and useful for all to enjoy. At the same time, we hope to make changes that will not only improve the infrastructure, but will enhance your experience at the park.

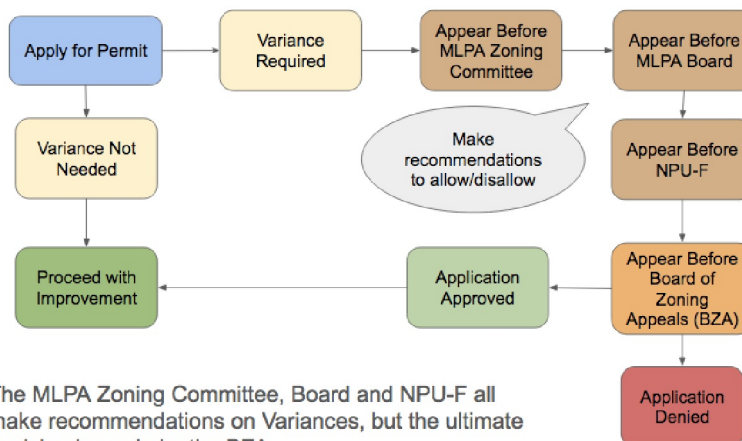
Friends of Sidney Marcus Park is forming and we welcome your participation.

Friends of Noble Park

On the other side of the neighborhood, Noble Park is a beloved playground and gathering space. The play area and grounds are in need of attention and the Friends group has developed plans. They are in the process of fundraising and grant-writing to support their plans.

If you have ideas and energy to share we would love to have you join the friends group or the MLPA Parks Committee to support in our efforts. Please email us at: parks@mlpa.org.

Zoning Committee Report



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

No variance cases were brought before the community before the deadline so the committee did not meet in September.

The next Zoning Committee Meeting will be held at **Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 3**. The cases to be covered will be posted at www.mlpa.org/zoning/. Any neighbors interested in the outcome should come to these meetings. New committee members are always welcome, simply come to three meetings to qualify to vote. 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



Music Midtown is being set up in Piedmont Park now and will go live **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](#).

News from Alex Wan's Office



ALEX WAN
CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 6



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

In the News Highlights:

- MLPA/PHCA/VHCA 6th District Candidates Forum
- Important Voter Information
- Music Midtown Road Closures
- Monroe Dr/Boulevard Complete Streets Update
- Openings on Various City Boards
- Fall 2017 Citywide Scrap Tire Drive

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, 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, 7:00-8:30 PM, [MLPA Security Forum](#), Morningside Presbyterian Church. Bring your neighbors to learn how we can make our neighborhood safer and less attractive to criminals. All neighbors welcome.

Tuesday, September 26, 8:45 AM, Coffee with the Principal, Grady High School Theater Lobby.

Tuesday, October 3, 7:00 PM, [MLPA Zoning Committee, Morningside Presbyterian Church](#), <http://www.mlpa.org/zoning/> for variances that will be discussed. All neighbors are welcome.

Saturday, October 7, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM, Trees Atlanta Sale, Freedom Park Farmers Market, Carter Center Park Lot.

Monday, October 9, 7:00 PM, [MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church](#), 1401 North Morningside Dr. All neighbors are welcome.

Saturday, October 14, 10:00 - 3:00 PM, Keep Atlanta Beautiful Recycling, at NEW LOCATION, Coan Middle School, 1550 Hosea Williams Dr.

Saturday - Sunday, October 14-15, Piedmont Park, Atlanta Pride Festival.

Monday, October 16, Early Voting begins for the Atlanta City races.

Monday, October 16, 7:00 PM, [NPU-F Meeting](#), Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Dr. NE. All neighbors welcome and able to vote.

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](#), 1:00-4:00 PM, Anshi S'Fard.

Thursday, October 26, 7:00 PM, Mayoral Candidate Forum, Inman Middle School, 774 Virginia Ave. presented by the Alliance of Intown Neighborhoods (AIN, <http://www.allianceatlanta.org>). The five leading candidates for the office of Mayor of Atlanta, according to the most recent poll, will face off. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Attendance is free, and all are invited. On site and street parking are available. Bring your questions!

Tuesday, November 7, Election Day.

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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