



We hope everyone had a safe and peaceful holiday. Now that the fireworks are over, read to find out what is happening in our neighborhood...

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## **MLPA President's Message**

*Note: A new Board of Directors was elected at the December meeting (see December e-News) and begins work this month.*

Dear Neighbor,

The history of our community is one of neighborhood volunteers working together to preserve, protect, and improve Morningside Lenox Park.

From the small group of neighbors who banded together back in 1965 to defeat the proposal to build a freeway through the heart of our community, to the many neighbors who serve on and support our neighborhood watch program, to those who are working to improve and renovate a number of our neighborhood parks, to the visionaries who looked at the undeveloped land surrounding the South Fork of Peachtree Creek and saw a nature preserve, we have all been the beneficiaries of neighbors who care deeply about this community.

This year, for the first time in our neighborhood's history, we are engaged in the development of a Master Plan, a document that will help guide us into the future. Thanks to all of you who joined us on Tuesday night to provide your input and ideas. If you were not able to join us, please take advantage of the [online tools](#) to let us know your ideas about the future of your neighborhood.

If you're not a member yet, please consider joining, if you are a member, please consider volunteering – whether it's helping on our communications committee, the zoning committee, the security patrol committee, the parks or events committee, or the neighborhood watch, there are lots of great opportunities to give back to the community, meet your neighbors, and have fun while you do it.

Please [Click Here](#) to Join the MLPA and let us know what you would like to see happen in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

*Charlie Nalbone*



### 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



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### Introducing the MLPA Board

Over the next few months, we'll take this space to introduce members of the MLPA board who serve our neighborhood. We can always use more help—please email [volunteer@mlpa.org](mailto:volunteer@mlpa.org) to find out how you can help. Welcome, Ben Nemo, one of the new members on MLPA's board:

#### Ben Nemo, Security Co-Chair

Family: Wife Tatiana and daughter Andrea (5) (*shown with Ben*)

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Years living in Morningside: 8

Favorite neighborhood activities: Hitting the parks with my daughter, dinner and movie at Morningside Kitchen + Midtown Art, tennis on the Lenox Road courts – and of course Halloween

Why I joined the board: The reason we love Atlanta is that we love Morningside and the uniqueness of our community. I initially attended MLPA meetings when concerned about increases in crime and learned the MLPA is so much more than a vacation patrol service. There are so many people volunteering time to keep improving the things that make our community strong, including driving security initiatives, enforcing zoning standards, improving parks, and ensuring our best interests with decisions impacting schools. I'm eager to help improve security with plans for more patrols, cameras, and communications and welcome additional volunteers to the Security Committee! If you're not a member, please join!!!



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### Morningside Mile Returns for 2018 Sunday, March 25, 2:00 PM

If you're among the faithful who perennially run the Morningside Mile, there's good news. After attaining their fundraising goal to renovate Fire Station 19, Rich Chey (who founded the race) has turned over the reins to the Morningside Lenox Park Association (MLPA) and Virginia Highland Civic Association (VHCA).

While Chey will stay involved, the two neighborhood groups are organizing the race with a new focus. Plans are to use the funds raised to make improvements to the commercial corridor along North Highland spanning both neighborhoods. To highlight the change in focus, the course will follow N. Highland from the YWCA to Morningside Village—but don't worry, it's still only a mile. It's the only competitive one-mile race that has cash prizes and great SWAG so go to [morningsidemile.com](http://morningsidemile.com) to learn more and sign up. [Top](#)



Runners will be followed by walkers, strollers, and a bicycle procession that ends up at a huge block party in the Morningside Village parking lot. Get creative and plan your decoration for your bike or stroller. There will be prizes for the best designs.

Everyone is invited to the block party featuring a live band, dancing, beer, drinks, and activities for all ages. Food will be available from local restaurants. So make plans now to attend the best party of the Spring with the best neighbors in Atlanta, Sunday, March 25, after the race until 7:00 PM!

The race and party are sponsored by [Doc Chey's](#), [Sweetwater Brewing](#), and [Phidippides](#). Contact [Kay Stephenson](#) for information on becoming a sponsor.



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### Morningside Lenox Park to Get License Plate Recognition Cameras

Following the April 2013 bombing of the Boston Marathon, officials used video surveillance from municipal and business cameras to analyze the scene and identify the two suspects. Then footage from Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority cameras tracked the bombers through the subways and, ultimately, pinpointed their locations. Closer to home, the Atlanta Police Department (APD) used license plate recognition (LPR) cameras in December to identify 2 suspects involved in a car-jacking in Ansley Park.

The public/private [Atlanta Police Foundation](#) (APF) was established in 2003 to provide support to the Mayor, the Chief of Police, and APD. It works to secure and leverage private resources to fund technology projects, like Operation Shield, that are designed to enhance the City of Atlanta's ability to fight and prevent crime. With the Loudermilk Video Integration Center (VIC) as its hub, APD staffs the VIC 24/7 monitoring cameras throughout the city. More than 10,000 public and private business cameras (like Coca Cola and the Aquarium) are integrated into the VIC. Stolen car tags, for example, can be programmed into the system. Then when a car with stolen tags passes by a camera linked to the VIC, the location immediately pops up on the screens, and nearby officers on patrol can be dispatched to investigate.

The MLPA has been working with the APF, the APD, and nearby neighborhoods to secure cameras that will be strategically placed throughout Morningside. We are pleased to announce that the installation of the first 3 police-monitored cameras for Morningside is imminent, and the MLPA has just approved the purchase of another, using funds provided by the city. The APF installs and maintains LPRs and pan-zoom cameras, and the APD monitors video feeds. For security reasons, the APD has requested that we not share the exact locations of these cameras.

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### MLPA Brightens Holidays for First Responders

Once again, MLPA joined our neighboring civic associations to recognize the contribution of our police officers and fire fighters over the holidays. Here's some photos of them enjoying the barbecue dinner before heading out to protect us over the holidays.



Thanks to our members for helping make this contribution to them possible.

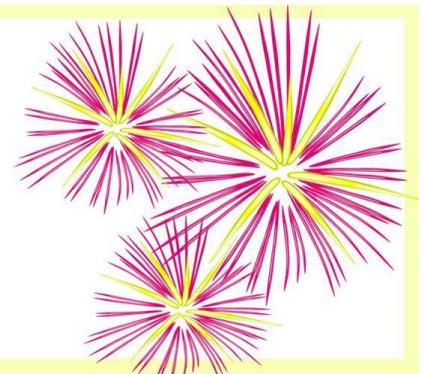
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## New Year. New Tech

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### Invest Atlanta (IA) Agrees to Sell Parcel to Fuqua Acquisitions

The Saporta Report reported that Invest Atlanta, at its December meeting, approved a plan to sell a 1.46-acre parcel of land that fronts the beltline to a group of investors that plans a mixed-use development near the corner of 10th and Monroe. The sale is contingent on a list of [conditions](#) which must be met in order for the sale to go through.

As is their practice, the IA board voted to approve the sale prior to accepting comments from neighbors who had attended to voice opposition to the sale. The planned development includes the parcel along Monroe from Crestridge to the Park Tavern—the developers have been assembling properties but needed the land fronting the beltline to complete the triangle. According to the plan outlined in the

conditions document, a grocery store, restaurants, an 11-story hotel and apartment complex with a total of 745 parking spaces is planned for the parcel. The project is in Virginia Highland and in NPU-F.

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### Mayor Moves to Expand Botanical Garden

On his last day in office (December 29), Mayor Kasim Reed announced a \$100 Million public-private partnership to acquire the property to expand Piedmont Park and the Atlanta Botanical Garden along Piedmont and Monroe.



According to the article in the [Saporta Report](#) and [AJC](#), Reed announced that the city has signed letters of intent to buy properties from a couple of owners, extending green space all the way to the corner of Piedmont and Monroe. Philanthropies have committed \$80 million to the acquisition while the city will contribute \$20 million. Part of the city's portion comes from a \$2 million gift from an anonymous donor while the rest will come from watershed funds, park impact fees, and TSPLOST funds. A city spokeswoman reports that the city plans to take over the leases from current leaseholders and use the funds for development. The new Atlanta City Council will need to approve the plan.

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<p>Call ahead for your smoked wings for the Big Game</p> <p><b>(404)249-5000</b>   <a href="http://www.dbabbq.com">www.dbabbq.com</a></p>	 <p>The logo for DBA Barbecue features the letters 'D.B.A.' in a large, stylized, red font with black outlines. The letters are arranged in a circular pattern. Above the letters, the words 'VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND' are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Below the letters, the word 'BARBECUE' is written in a similar black, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a yellow background.</p>
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## Zoning Committee Report

At the December meeting, the Zoning Committee heard [V-17-323 1323 Northview Ave N.E.](#) It was approved 8-0-0. The committee also heard [V-17-338 1141 Reeder Cir. N.E.](#) It was also approved 7-1-0

Z-16-079 Hedgewood was at the Piedmont Heights meeting and could not make it by the time we were finished so we ask that they come to the MLPA meeting to present.

The next Zoning Committee Meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 2. The cases to be covered will be posted at [www.mlpa.org/zoning/](http://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.

The next Zoning Committee Meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, December 5. The cases to be covered will be posted at [www.mlpa.org/zoning/](http://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.

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## Federal Judge Rules Tokyo Valentino Violates City Code

News was just received in the [Daily Report](#) that a judge has tossed out Toyko Valentino's challenge to the City's adult entertainment ordinance and permanently enjoined operation of the Cheshire Bridge store.

Thanks to former District 6 Councilman, Alex Wan, for his work on this issue.

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## MLPA Garden Club to Meet Thursday, February 9

Our gardens have all suffered from the recent weather, as the shot below shows.



The MLPA Garden Club will help you revive any survivors. Mark your calendars now for our next meeting, Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 PM. One of our members will present a program on controlling unwanted pests (mosquitoes) while preserving desirable species (bees). Contact [Marti Breen](#) to be added to the email list and to RSVP.

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## MLPA Events Listing

**Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, [CHARM Recycling](#)**, 1110 Hill Street, SE. Check the website before visiting for holiday schedule changes.

Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King Birthday, Atlanta Public Schools closed.

Monday, January 15, [MLK Day Drum Run](#), 8:00 AM, Piedmont Park. The 5K Run/Walk features a drum line along the entire 3.1 miles course.

**[Monday, January 15, 7:00 PM, NPU-F Meeting](#)**, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Dr. NE. All neighbors are welcome and will be able to vote.

**Monday, February 5, 7:00 PM, MLPA Master Plan**, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside. The consultants will present the findings from the community meeting held in January. Go to [mlpamasterplan.com](http://mlpamasterplan.com) to make comments prior to the meeting to have your input included.

**[Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 PM, MLPA Zoning Committee](#)**, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1401 North Morningside Dr. Visit <http://www.mlpa.org/zoning/> for variances to be heard.

**Thursday, February 9, 7:00 PM, MLPA Garden Club**. See article above for details.

Sunday, February 10, 1:00 PM, [Mead Road Mardi Gras Parade](#), Decatur. Join the parade with your krewe or just come and watch, followed by party at The Imperial Oakhurst.

**[Monday, February 12, 7:00 PM, MLPA Board Meeting](#)**, Morningside Presbyterian Church, Room 201, 1401 North Morningside Dr. All neighbors are welcome.

## MLPA Gets New Security Patrol Signs

After a few fits, starts, and a change of vendors, the process for ordering and placing new Morningside Security Patrol signs is now in place. You should start seeing signs around the neighborhood over the next few weeks. And see below for the sign erected to acknowledge the Morningside Garden Club's contribution to Sidney Marcus Park!

Any new or renewing Security Plus member will receive a new sign—now that we have the process settled, it should take about a month to receive your sign. Here are a few we've spotted:



This is your newsletter. Please send us your ideas for articles, interviews, and photos for inclusion. Send them to [communications@mlpa.org](mailto:communications@mlpa.org).

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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.*

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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

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