



December 15, 2016

### In This Issue...

The holidays are upon us. Stay safe and have a warm and happy holidays from the MLPA - see below for our news:

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### MLPA Education Committee Report

The MLPA Education committee has been in communication with neighbors, Board of Education representatives and city council officials to address and remedy issues relating to facility concerns and student overcrowding in our neighborhood schools.

The superintendent's [December 1st letter](#) regarding the \$110M E-SPLOST allocation and recent school assignments are a result of this advocacy. The letter explains newly annexed areas are being assigned to Springdale Park Elementary.

You may email Amanda Strawser at [education@mlpa.org](mailto:education@mlpa.org) for more information, comments, concerns, suggestions or to get involved.

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### Monroe Drive Update



The MLPA Traffic Committee continues to focus on the Monroe Complete Streets planning, a project to revamp Monroe/Boulevard to improve safety and efficiency.

**We are studying 13 concepts to potentially implement 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 **Thursday, January 26**, time and location TBD. 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.

MLPA will notify all members in multiple messages once the time and place are announced. Watch for emails from [communications@mlpa.org](mailto:communications@mlpa.org) for updates.

Please contact [traffic@mlpa.org](mailto:traffic@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



## CHARM Holiday Recycling Schedule

*Holiday Cleanup Event*

**CHaRM**  
a livethrive atlanta initiative  
RECYCLE MATERIALS

Recycle your holiday waste with us! Old electronics, x-mas tree lights, styrofoam, packaging, boxes, etc. Visit [www.livethrive.org](http://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**

This is the time of year when we accumulate extra electronics, batteries, etc. as new presents replace older models. Do not further burden our local landfills with these highly toxic items. There is a wonderful service in the city of Atlanta called [CHARM \(Center for Hard to Recycle Materials\)](#). They accept a wide variety of items that cannot be placed in our blue herbies, from glass and drink cartons to electronics, paints, insecticides, toilets, mattresses, styrofoam and lightbulbs.

In addition, they are collecting used musical instruments that are then repaired and put back into service in our local schools and kids' programs.

The center at [1110 Hill Street](#) 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](#).



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Noble Park resident since 1987  
Intown Realtor since 1974



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## Rezoning Rock Springs Presbyterian



On **November 28 at 7 PM** at Hillside Facility, the NPU-F Zoning committee met with Hedgewood Properties to hear about plans for the tract that they are acquiring from this historic church. Neighbors from Morningside Lenox Park, Piedmont Heights and Virginia Highland came to learn more about the pending deal and its implications for this prominent corner.

The church recently announced plans to sell off up to two tracts to fund their continued operation. Like many houses of worship in our community, with an aging congregation and declining support, the church has had to seek alternate finances to maintain the church and remain solvent. You can read more

about it, but the upshot is that Hedgewood is buying the property with plans to maintain the church while building 22 townhomes on the sites surrounding it.

Rock Springs Presbyterian and its grounds are currently zoned R-4-this may seem odd for a church, but apparently all in our neighborhood have similar zoning. Therefore, Hedgewood will need to rezone the property in order to comply with their building plans. The MLPA Zoning Committee, MLPA Board & NPU-F will be working on this issue.

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

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## Morningside Security Patrol Spotlight

Since its founding in 1990 by a group of neighbors, the MLPA Security Patrol (MSP) has served as a supplement to the Atlanta Police Department. Manned by off duty APD officers (in uniform and with full policing powers), the security patrol relies upon member-support. Every MLPA member that chooses a Security Plus membership helps fund these officers' presence on our streets.

With the holidays approaching, the work of the security patrol is more important than ever. Yet many neighbors think they do not need to add Security Plus to their membership because they already pay for an alarm system. But if you think about it, alarms notify police of a problem after it has occurred. The Morningside Security Patrol watches our homes, providing extra police presence that can help deter criminals. Doesn't it make sense to support the patrol with your membership?

One neighbor on North Morningside recently sent the following commendation to us: ***"Can you please pass our gratitude along to Officer Stapler who stopped and helped out when someone side swiped our new (delivered yesterday!) car that was parked in front of the house. It's at times like this that we appreciate being MSP members."***

The MSP recently signed on Officer Ricketts to their ranks. He is familiar with our neighborhood and some of the recent incidents, serving the Atlanta Police Department as a beat officer on 213 which covers Morningside. With the MSP, he is responsible for patrolling on Saturday and Sundays from 11:30 PM-3:30 AM. The timing of this newly-added shift was determined by the timing of a number of recent incidents, with the goal of deterring or apprehending the perpetrators.

[Please consider adding Security to you membership.](#) The MSP drives our streets keeping everyone, even those who are not members, safe. The more members we have, the more patrols we can fund!

Please contact [security@mlpa.org](mailto:security@mlpa.org) with any comments, concerns, suggestions or to get involved.

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## Neighborhood Watch Meets

About 12 MLPA Neighborhood Watch street captains met on **Thursday November 10, 2016** at the Morningside Presbyterian Church. The guest speaker was Ms. Danielle Simpson, the Director of the Fulton County Citizens' Court Watch Program.

Ms. Simpson described the CourtWatch program in Fulton County. CourtWatch gives citizens the opportunity to actively participate in the judicial process by attending the trial and/or sentencing hearing and describing the

impact of particular crimes on the affected community. [Click Here](#) for info.

Many street captains have been present in the courtroom when a case involved our neighborhood or a nearby neighborhood like Virginia Highland. Citizens can speak directly to the court or write a letter about how the defendant's criminal activities affected the safety and sense of safety in the neighborhood. The presence of the community in the courtroom can influence whether the defendant takes a plea and the length of the sentence.

The city of Atlanta has assigned a prosecutor to each Atlanta Police Department (APD) Zone. The prosecutor for zone 2 is Brenden Dougherty - [Brenden.Dougherty@FultonCountyGA.gov](mailto:Brenden.Dougherty@FultonCountyGA.gov), (404) 612-4946.

Ms. Simpson explained information about upcoming cases may come on short notice. Frequently, she hears from the zone prosecutor about the court date occurring in the next few days, sometimes the next morning. With help from Danielle, we will draft sample letters for ready adaptation on such short notice. The letters will not and should not contain addresses or the last name of the persons contributing the letter.

### **Morningside Security Patrol:**

After the presentation, the group discussed various aspects of the MLPA Security Patrol - specifically, pay, night shifts, visibility of the patrol car (or lack thereof), vacation checks, etc. Recently, the MLPA board voted to increase the pay for the patrol officers. Reasons for increasing the hourly rates were:

1. **To be competitive with what is paid by other neighborhoods for private patrols**
2. **Recent actions by the APD to pay overtime to police officers**
3. **Recent difficulties that the MLPA patrol has had with filling all 4-hour shifts each week**

The group felt there needed to be more visibility and accountability of the patrol. This could be accomplished in several ways - noting in the bi-weekly security reports how many 4-hour shifts and vacation checks were performed over the previous two weeks, letting the neighborhood know what else the patrol is doing, such as 4-hour night shifts, twice monthly visits to the Morningside Nature Preserve, visits to houses undergoing renovation to check in with contractors and remind them not to leave tools lying around, etc. An article about the patrol should be included in the MLPA newsletter several times a year.

### **House Numbers:**

The importance of having visible house numbers was also discussed. Visible-from-the street house numbers are critical for emergency responders (policemen, firemen, and emergency persons) to be able to find your house. In some neighborhoods, the percent of houses without visible house numbers is estimated to be more than 50 percent. The group discussed ways to accomplish this. Ideas included promotion in newsletters and on the website, reminders from the street captains, hiring a contractor to paint numbers on the curb, and using reflective numbers on mailboxes. Virginia Highlands worked with a sign company which made custom signs; orders were placed in batches of 10 with payment in advance. The group will research the custom sign idea and other approaches.

### **Cameras:**

The MLPA board is still working through ideas with the Atlanta Police Foundation regarding the purchase of cameras for our neighborhood. At present, a new contact there is needed since the person originally working with our neighborhood has taken another position.

It was noted house cameras pointed toward the street have been useful recently -e.g., seeing the group of 4-5 persons casing cars in the middle of the night. The group asked about having someone come to talk to the neighborhood about cameras for individual purchase. Finally, having the street captains identify the houses on their block with cameras would be useful for working a case after an incident occurs.

Please contact [neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org](mailto:neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org) with any comments, concerns, suggestions or to get involved.

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## **Who You Gonna Call?**



While Atlanta's 'See Something, Say Something' campaign is primarily focused on alerting officials to emergencies, we thought it might be a good time to publish some numbers you can use to report non-emergency issues.

A good place to start is 311. It is the City of Atlanta's new customer service number. It seems to be staffed by well trained, courteous representatives who can point you in the right direction, even if they cannot help you. You can call them to report issues with water, sewer, garbage, recycling, graffiti, signal outages and road problems. **They operate M-F, 7:00 AM-6:00 PM.** There is also an online system at [www.atl311.com](http://www.atl311.com) that is available 24/7/365.

Some pointers and specific recommendations:

### Downed Utility Poles & Lines:

Stay away from any downed lines and call 911 to report these serious safety concerns. Downed poles may or may not pose a serious threat. If you deem it is not an emergency you should call 311 to report any downed metal poles as these belong to the city. Downed wooden poles are Georgia Power's responsibility. Report them to **888-660-5890**.

### Problems in our parks:

Some of the trees in our parks and nature preserves have suffered in recent storms. To report storm damage or any other park maintenance issues, call the Atlanta Parks Department at **(404) 546-6788**.

### Building Permits & Zoning:

With all the new construction taking place you may find that you need to contact the city if you are unable to resolve issues with contractors or your neighbors. The city's [Accela Citizen Access](#) tool allows you to search for building permits and to lodge complaints / request inspections after you register to use the site. There is also a number you can call with questions / complaints **(404) 330-6150**.

### Problems with Mail Delivery:

Several neighbors have reported either lack of delivery or receipt of incorrect mail. Problems with deliveries can be called in to **1-800-CALLUSPS**. To avoid the menu, simply say Agent and someone will assist you with your problem. The Ralph McGill station is the hub for our mail-their number is **(404) 875-3452**. A number for the supervisor, Ms. McDermott, was posted on Nextdoor, **(404) 892-5880**. This list is by no means, all inclusive.

If you have additions for our list, please forward them to [communications@mlpa.org](mailto:communications@mlpa.org).

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VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND**  
REAL ESTATE  
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RESULTS

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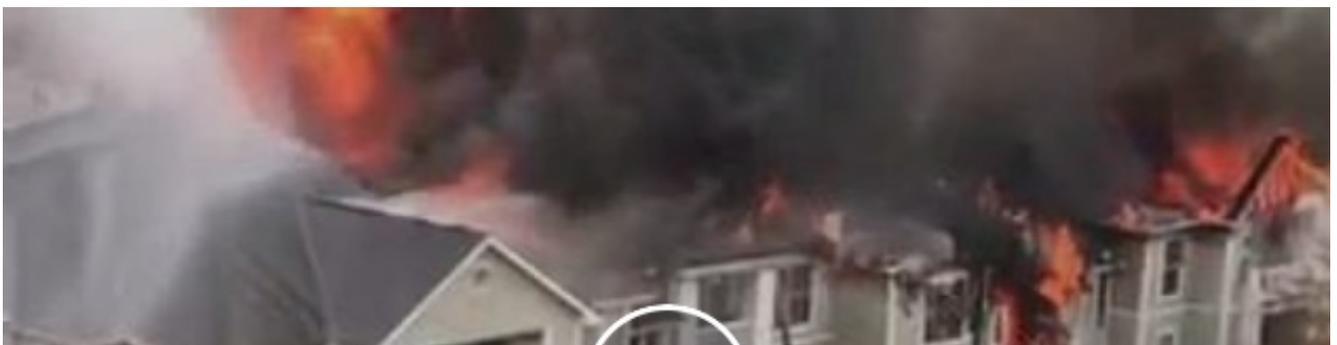
**CHASE HORNER, REALTOR\***

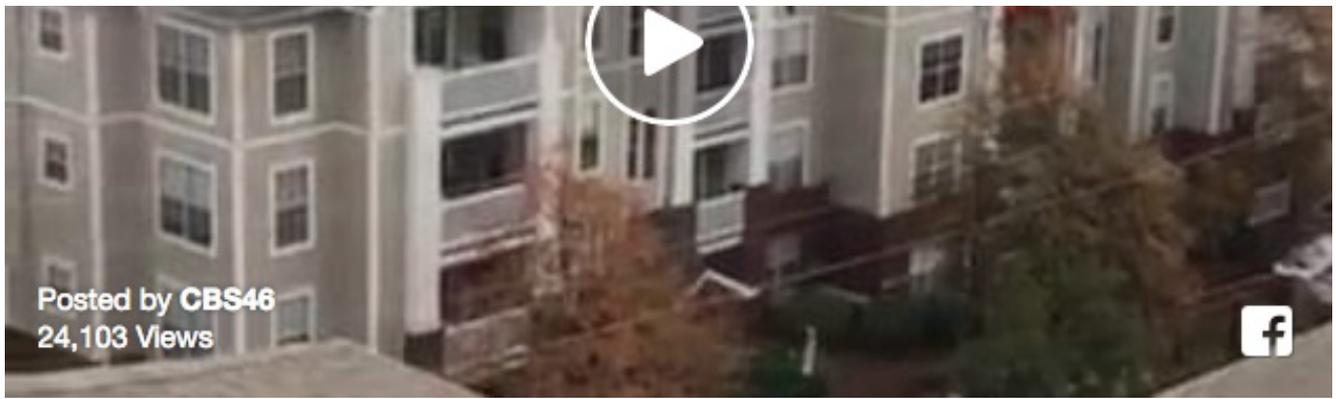


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Homes

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### Help for Disaster Victims





Several neighbors have recently been affected by devastating fires in their home. At least one residence in our immediate neighborhood was affected, and last week, 21 families were displaced following the fire in the apartment complex near the Lindbergh Marta station. Here are details and links for two organizations that facilitate monetary and in-kind gifts for emergency aid throughout our city along with links to specific GoFund Me sites.

### American Red Cross

- Provides shelter, food, mental health support, and immediate needs for families affected by disasters-you can help by donating the disaster relief. The American Red Cross responds on average to 2-3 house fires a day in Metro Atlanta. The American Red Cross is providing shelter and resources for the families affected by the Lindbergh apartment fire. Find the latest updates on the services they are providing to the impacted individuals through their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/atlantaredcross](http://www.facebook.com/atlantaredcross).
- [Donate Here](#)
- Tax deductible donation

### Salvation Army

- Provide resources like clothing and furniture to those affected by tragedies.
- [Donate Here](#)
- Tax deductible donation

### GoFund Me Page for Families Affected by Lindbergh apartment fires

- [Donate Here](#)
- This is not a tax deductible donation



1397 N. Highland Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306  
[www.Morningside-Kitchen.com](http://www.Morningside-Kitchen.com)  
404-347-9747

We love e-mailing special offers and news only to our closest Morningside Neighbors so don't be left out!

Sign up on our secret page at  
[www.Morningside-Kitchen.com/neighbors](http://www.Morningside-Kitchen.com/neighbors)

Weekend Brunch 10am-3pm reservations accepted  
Dinner Sun-Thu 5-10pm, Fri-Sat 5-11pm

Featuring wood fire grilled fish & meats  
and Peruvian style rotisserie chicken



OpenTable  
**winner**  
Diners' Choice  
2016

### APD Change of Leadership

Recently Chief George N. Turner announced that he would resign his position at the Atlanta Police Department at the end of the year. Mayor Reed has named Deputy Chief Erika Shields as his successor. Chief Turner's work at APD has received national recognition as he instituted improvements resulting in increased morale and reduced crime.

To read more about Chief Turner by Maria Saporta [click here](#).

The [Atlanta Journal Constitution's story](#) announcing the appointment of Shields along with her [bio](#) are also great resources.

### Plans for Timone's Space Heard at MLPA Board Meeting



Chad Crete, formerly the chef at Decatur's Iberian Pig, met with the MLPA board to share his plans to



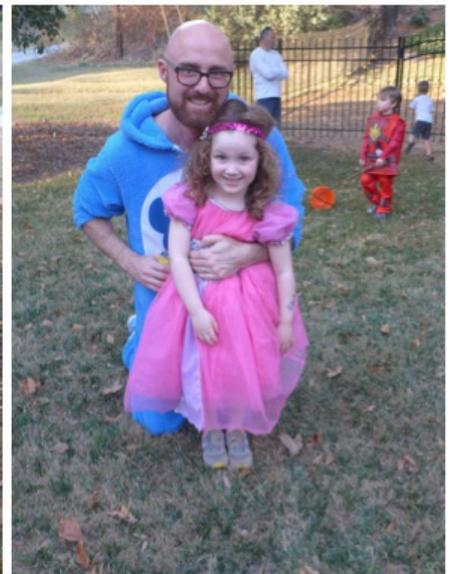
acquire a liquor license and open an Asian-New American concept restaurant, Whiskey Bird in Morningside.

**Opening is slated for late winter if all goes according to plan.**

Crete has teamed up with Anthony Vipond to bring this Asian inspired eatery to our neighborhood. Besides a full cocktail menu featuring wines and sakes, the restaurant will offer yakatori style tapas and entrees inspired by Crete's travels in Asia.

## Scene in the Neighborhood

With fall's cooler weather, neighbors are coming out and gathering in celebration of the best neighborhood in ATL, Morningside Lenox Park:



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

## 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 MI PA's Celebration of Summer. The event which starts the summer off with a bang will take

party of the year, with the 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**. 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.

Please contact [events@mlpa.org](mailto:events@mlpa.org) with any comments, concerns, suggestions or to get involved.

### Road Races Scheduled-Plan Your Route Accordingly



The Atlanta Christmas 5K is a run scheduled for **Saturday, 12/17 at 8:00 AM** taking place on streets throughout Virginia Highland and Morningside.

[View the course here.](#)

Registration for the event may still be open, [check it out here.](#)

**Watch out for runners and travel safely.**

### Sunday Evening Events Series Visits Garden Lights



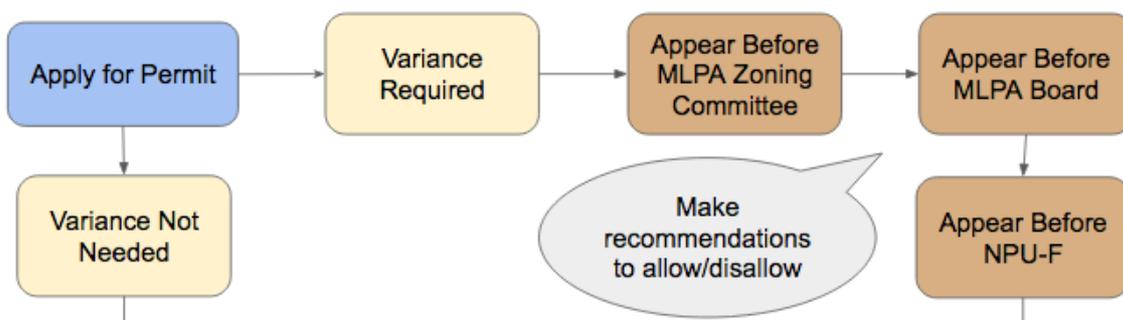
The MLPA Sunday Evening Events Series visit to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens to take in the light display was postponed due to inclement weather. If you are interested in going after the holidays, contact [communications@mlpa.org](mailto:communications@mlpa.org) to let us know.

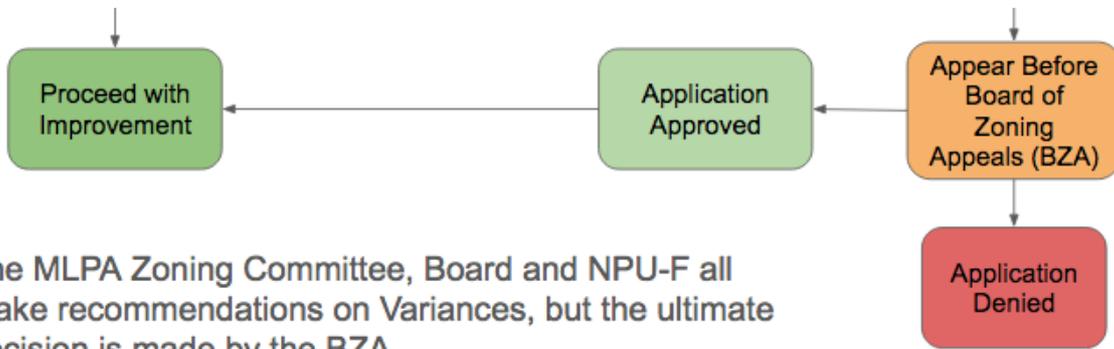
We would like to continue this series in hopes to get neighbors together for outings around the neighborhood. If you would like to meet your neighbors, use the email address above to let us know and send us ideas/preferences. Right now, we have them scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, but can be flexible depending on interests of participants. Check [mlpa.org](http://mlpa.org) for future events.

### Zoning Committee News

MLPA's Zoning Committee met Tuesday, **December 6th at 7:00 PM** at Morningside Presbyterian Church to consider one zoning change and several variances. The zoning change, Z-16-080, covers a parcel of property at 2059 Manchester across Cheshire Bridge Road. The applicant seeks a rezoning to allow for the construction of town homes on the site. The applicant asked we defer until the January meeting and the committee agreed.

The site variances are V-16-305, **1692 North Pelham Rd.**, V-16-308, **863 Berkshire Rd.**, V-16-310, **1008 Courtney Dr.**, and V-16-317, **825 Kings Court**. Each applicant either had or was in the process of obtaining letters from their neighbors agreeing with their plans and no neighbors spoke in opposition. Thus, the committee voted 9-0-0 (approve, deny, abstain) to approve these.





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

### News from Alex Wan's Office



Click here for Alex Wan's [December 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

**Monday, December 19, 7:00 PM**, NPU-F Meeting, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Drive. All neighbors may attend and vote.

**Monday, December 19, 7:00 PM**, CINS (Council of Intown Neighborhood Schools) Meeting, Grady HS Cafeteria.

**Tuesday, January 3, 7:00 PM**, MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside. All are welcome to attend.

**Monday, January 9, 7:00 PM**, MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1411 North Morningside. All are welcome to attend.

**Saturday, January 14, 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon**, Trees Atlanta Reforestation Project at Morningside Nature Preserve, Wellbourne Rd. entrance. Volunteers should wear appropriate clothing, bring a water bottle and work gloves if desired. Trees Atlanta will provide tools--arrive on time for a briefing.

**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. Bring a lunch.

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE Thursday, January 26**, Monroe Drive / Boulevard Complete Streets Meeting is tentatively schedule. Look for emails from MLPA Communications announcing the final date/time/location.

**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](mailto:mart791@bellsouth.net).

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## **This Is YOUR Newsletter**

Please contact [communications@mlpa.org](mailto: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](http://www.mlpa.org)