MLPA News | May 11, 2017

In This Issue...
May finishes off a busy spring and sets the tone for a fabulous summer in Atlanta's best intown neighborhood:

1. Celebration of Summer is Here
2. MLPA Annual Meeting Recap
3. Online Tickets for Celebration of Summer-Save Time in Line
4. Herbert Taylor & Daniel Johnson Named to Old Growth Forest Network
5. Firehouse 29 Honored
6. News on Renew Atlanta's Plans for Monroe/Boulevard
7. April's MLPA Concert in the Park Draws Crowd to Sidney Marcus Park
8. Dine/Shop on Cheshire Bridge, Wednesday, May 17, 5:30 - 8:30
9. Neighborhood Watch News
10. Summer Kids's Program with Fulton County DA's Office
11. Lights Out to Save Birds
12. Jazz Series in Sidney Marcus and Other Social Gatherings in MLPA
13. Oak Hill ASO Concert on Thursday, June 15
14. Zoning Variances Heard
15. News from Alex Wan's Office
16. Calendar of Events
17. Send Us Your Ideas

44th Annual MLPA Celebration of Summer Is Finally Here!

On Saturday, May 20, 2017, 5:30-7:30 PM, MLPA Celebration of Summer transforms Sidney Marcus Park and the surrounding streets into a fun-filled festival for the entire family. From pony rides to bouncy houses, slides to face painting, and food to music by Carter Rude & Friends, this year's party has something for everyone.

To ease the ticket lines, go to mlpa.org/celebration-of-summer and buy your tickets ahead of time. Tickets purchased by Monday, May 15 at midnight can be picked up on Thursday, May 18, 7:00-8:30 PM at our sponsor, Varuni Napoli, on Monroe. Stop in to pick up your tickets, enjoy a meal, and thank them for supporting our neighborhood events.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Celebration—we need YOU in order to make this another successful event for the neighborhood. Volunteers ensure the event goes smoothly and everyone stays safe. Parents are urged to sign up to volunteer to ensure that the neighborhood is able to continue offering this event in the future. Please go to SignUp Genius and create a sign-in if you don't already have one.

Sponsors for the Celebration of Summer keep the event free for our neighbors. Thanks to our presenting sponsor, Sonny Jones, Dorsey Alston Realtors, and our Premium Sponsors, Ansley Eye Care, JW Ayers Plumbing, Chase Horner, Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's, DBA Barbecue, Kevin McGlynn, Dorsey Alston Realtors, Carmen Pope, Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's, Kirk Rich, Kirk for Atlanta, Susan Schlittler, Homestead Realtors, Amanda Strawser, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Georgia, Ken Covers, Engel & Völkers Atlanta Intown, Varuni Napoli, and Sally Westmoreland, Coldwell Banker.
Remember to thank our sponsors and volunteers for putting on another great Celebration of Summer!

EDITOR’S NOTE: As of this writing, we are less than two weeks away from the event and there are not enough volunteers signed up, especially for later shifts. If we do not have enough volunteers to ensure the safety of the participants, we will be forced to close some bouncy houses and/or slides early. If you have not yet signed up for a one hour shift, please go to SignUp Genius to do so.

MLPA Annual Meeting Draws Crowd

Thanks to all the neighbors who came to Morningside Presbyterian Church’s Fellowship Hall, Monday, April 24 for the MLPA Annual Meeting. The Morningside Elementary School Choir began the evening with a performance showcasing the talent of our neighborhood’s youth. MLPA Chair, Sally Bayless, thanked Mr. Bellato for the choir’s performance and then opened the meeting for business by recognizing city and state officials as well as the members of the MLPA board.

Major Barry Shaw, Zone 2 APD Commander, spoke of efforts to control traffic resulting from the collapse of the I-85 overpass while still devoting resources to catch criminals. He outlined the advances the department is making using technology, especially the use of cameras with license plate readers, and answered questions from the group.

Alex Wan, City Council District 6 and Mary Norwood, City Council at Large representatives, spoke of initiatives underway at city hall. They are also very involved in trying to prevent the traffic changes resulting from the bridge collapse from harming our neighborhoods. Wan reported that the Renew Atlanta plans for Monroe are being put on hold while the effects of all the bond projects on traffic are considered—see the article below for details. He also said that the city is working with the Water Department to roll back the convenience charge they add to online payments, since this is actually a convenience for the city. He reminded us that while both he and Norwood are retiring from their current posts as they run for new offices, they will serve and welcome our input until the new Mayor and Council take office in January 2018.

Pat Gardner, Georgia State Representative District 57, had a handout and spoke of the accomplishments of the recently ended session of the Georgia Legislature. She thanked those who had contacted her office and emphasized the importance of citizen involvement in the process.

Bayless invited Charlie Nalbone to report on the Nominating Committee’s work. Nalbone recognized the rest of the committee, Jerry Gardner, Chip York, and Marti Breen, before presenting the slate. It was approved by voice vote:

President, Sally Bayless, president@mlpa.org
Vice President, Charlie Nalbone, vicepresident@mlpa.org
Secretary, Drew Gandy, secretary@mlpa.org
Treasurer, Lynn Ayers, treasurer@mlpa.org
Communications Chair, Marti Breen, communications@mlpa.org
Zoning Chair, John Ayers, zoning@mlpa.org
Security Chair, Kevin McGlynn, security@mlpa.org
Education Chair, Amanda Strawser, education@mlpa.org
Events Chair, Jeff Rolsten, events@mlpa.org
Traffic Chair, Sharon Ferguson, traffic@mlpa.org
Membership Chair, Sonny Jones, membership@mlpa.org
Neighborhood Watch Chair, Phyllis Wingo, neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org
At Large, Chase Horner, 2atlarge@mlpa.org
At Large, Alex Munoz, 3atlarge@mlpa.org

An addition to the slate is Kim Cobb, who will serve as Co-chair of the Traffic Committee. Besides the election, the membership also voted on changes to the by-laws as presented by Nalbone. These were also approved. As a result, the recently elected board will only serve until the end of 2017. A new board will be elected later this year to take office in January 2018. Check mlpa.org for announcements of upcoming meetings.
Tickets for Celebration of Summer Available Online

Go to mlpa.org/celebration-of-summer to purchase tickets ahead of time and beat the lines. To help you decide, here's a listing of the tickets required for the various rides, food, and activities. Tickets are just $1 each (10 ticket minimum for presales). There is a special on the "ALL YOU CAN PLAY" bracelets-for online orders only they are discounted to $22. The day-of price is $25, so buy early and save. The wristband includes unlimited inflatables, and pony rides but does not include face painting or food.

Tickets purchased online by midnight, May 15 will be ready for pick up ahead of time at Varuni Napoli on Monroe, Thursday, May 18, 7:00-8:30 PM. Otherwise, your tickets will be held at the WILL CALL table at the Cumberland Road entrance to the park on May 20th starting at 5:30 PM.

Activity:
- Clown balloon: 2 tickets
- Inflatables: 2 tickets
- Pony Ride: 3 tickets
- Face Painting: 4 tickets (not included in "All You can Play")

Food (tickets or cash):
- Hamburger, Chips & Drink: 5 tickets or $5.00
- Hot Dog, Chips & Drink: 5 tickets or $5.00
- Hot Dog: 3 tickets or $3.00
- Hamburger: 3 tickets or $3.00
- Popcorn: 1 ticket or $1.00
- Chips: 2 tickets or $2.00
- Sodas, Vitamin Water, Water: 2 tickets or $2.00
- King of Pops: Cash Only

Two MLPA Greenspaces Inducted Into the Old Growth Forest Network

When the Creek Indians inhabited our area, Atlanta was covered in virgin forest. The influx of residents over the last century has decimated much of that legacy, but there are still a few stands of old trees. Two of these remarkable areas are right here in our neighborhood, and their value has been recognized by their induction into the Old Growth Forest Network (OGFN).

The OGFN was founded to recognize and promote the preservation of these valuable landscapes throughout the United States. Pockets with either virgin growth or old secondary growth, like Daniel Johnson Nature Preserve and Herbert Taylor Park, make major contributions to our environment. Besides offering beauty and tranquility, this 34 acre site's majestic loblolly pines, beeches, tulip and maple trees control storm water run-off, clean our air of pollutants and serve as a habitat for a variety of other plants and animals.

MLPA is proud to have these two very special areas in our neighborhood. The Parks Committee works with the city and the Rock Creek Watershed Alliance (RCWA) to ensure that these greenspaces are the gifts of our
MLPA Joins Neighbors to Honor the Personnel at Atlanta Fire & Rescue, #29

First responders from Firehouse 29 worked tirelessly to control the fire that erupted under I-85 near Piedmont Road.

Their dedication was honored by our neighbors in Piedmont Heights and MLPA with a banner presented to recognize their contributions to keeping our neighborhoods safe.

Their professional response to the disaster kept the fire from becoming even more of a threat to our area. We appreciate their service and are happy to recognize their contribution.

Renew Atlanta Plans on Pause

As we heard from Alex Wan at the Annual Meeting, Renew Atlanta is now taking a step back and considering all the projects planned for the city to take a holistic approach to improving safety in the Monroe / Boulevard corridor.

Here is what the Renew Atlanta email, sent April 28 said: "At the conclusion of the last public meeting for the Monroe Drive/Boulevard complete street project, we received over 820 public comments. Those comments showed great diversity of opinion, particularly related to the options presented for potential road diets along the corridor and their impacts to multimodal safety, mobility, and the broader transportation network. Renew Atlanta has enlisted the help of the Department of City Planning's Office of Mobility Planning, who is underway with an update to the City's Comprehensive Transportation Plan, to examine the system level impacts of the network of complete streets funded through the Renew Atlanta Bond and TSPLOST so that we can see the bigger picture and share that information with you.

As we examine the system level impacts of the complete streets projects, Renew Atlanta will proceed with continuing to develop safety and operational improvements along Monroe Drive/Boulevard. These safety and operational improvements will be completed in a manner so as to minimize or eliminate throw away once the larger project advances. We look forward to continued engagement with you regarding this important project and to the analysis and engineering that will result in amazing projects for the City of Atlanta.

The summary of public comment from the February 28th public meeting is available on the Meetings page of our website - www.RenewAtlantaBond.com. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this project, please email us at RenewAtlanta@AtlantaGa.gov.*

The MLPA Traffic Committee is actively working on this and other issues that impact the safety of our neighborhood. If you would like to become involved, contact traffic@mlpa.org.

MLPA Concerts in the Park, April, Another Success

Carter Rude & Friends got folks dancing and the night swinging on Friday, April 21 at the second MLPA Concert in the Park. Once again, the weather cooperated, with warm but comfortable conditions for
dining al fresco.

Buena Gente Cuban Bakery, Hot Diggety Dog, and King of Pops supplemented the food that neighbors brought to the park to share. The band was in rare form and the kids had a fine time dancing the night away.

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.

Their contribution keeps these events free for our neighborhood. Remember to let them know you appreciate their support!

Support Cheshire Bridge Businesses, Wednesday, May 17-Saturday, May 20
By Councilman Alex Wan’s Office

While the I-85 bridge collapse has created significant increases in travel times through our area, it has also caused tremendous drops in business to the retailers in our area. Estimated declines range as high as 60 - 90 percent of average revenues! Many of these businesses are in jeopardy of staying afloat.

Although the interstate is scheduled to be reopened by the end of the month, now is OUR opportunity to support the neighborhood businesses we know and love and to help get them through this immediate crisis and even beyond.

Our neighborhoods are banding together for a Dine and Shop Week from May 17 - May 21, during which we encourage everyone to eat out or make a purchase from your favorite locale(s). We will kick everything off that Wednesday night, May 17, 5:30 - 8:30 PM, and it would be great to see everyone out in the area for what will hopefully feel like a community picnic!

Walk from a nearby street, or just wait until after the rush hour congestion subsides. Just please make a point to get out and show our local businesses some love.

See you out and about next week!

Neighborhood Watch News
By Phyllis Wingo, Neighborhood Watch Chair

Visible House Numbers—In the past few weeks, I have been walking around the neighborhood to deliver flyers and recruit street captains (WE STILL NEED STREET CAPTAINS - go to mlpap.org/neighborhood-watch/ to see if your street still needs a captain). My focus was on houses where we had the residents’ name(s) and house number; I was trying to see if a more personal approach to recruiting street captains might work. In many instances, perhaps 25%-30%, I could not find the house number.

A visible house number is critical for emergency responders - policemen, firemen, and medical persons. If your house number is not visible from the street both during the day and at night, please add it to a mailbox, mailbox post, and/or above the front door. Make sure first responders can find your house when you need them!!!

Ask the Crime Analysis Statistician—A neighbor whose car was broken into recently asked if the numbers were up over past years. I looked at data for January-March in 2009, 2016, and 2017. Data from 2009 are the earliest data available in a downloadable format that is comparable to recent years. The results are shown below.
As the statistics show, car break-ins in 2017 are up significantly over those in 2009 and 2016. The real message here, folks, is CLEAN OUT YOUR CARS. Do this when you visit businesses along Monroe, Piedmont, and Cheshire Bridge, and do this at home. Tell friends and family who visit you to remove all belongings from view. We cannot emphasize this enough.

If you have a question about crime in our neighborhood, please send your question to neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org. We will select questions to publish with answers in a future issue of our newsletter.

Another Summer Kids' Opportunity

The Office of the Fulton County District Attorney offers the Junior DA Program, a FREE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM, for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

Participants go on field trips throughout Fulton County and are exposed to numerous law enforcement and community agencies, such as: the Annual Legal and Law Enforcement Symposium, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, the 911 Fulton County Call Center, the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, the Atlanta Police Department Headquarters, the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) Crime Lab, the Fulton County Jail, the Fulton County Government Television Show (FGTV), the Atlanta Police Department Mount Patrol and Horse Stables, and Doguroo, just to name a few places the youth will visit.

The program meets every Tuesday and Thursday in July from 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM. The Application Deadline is June 1, 2017.

Lights Out Atlanta

Each year, an estimated 350 million to 1 billion birds die in the United States after colliding with buildings. The problem is particularly bad during spring and fall migration. Lights Out Atlanta is a voluntary program encouraging commercial properties and homeowners to turn off or reduce lighting during peak bird migration periods, March 15 to May 31 (spring) and Aug 15 to Nov 15 (fall), between the hours of midnight and 6:00 AM.

Sponsored by Atlanta Audubon and the Atlanta Better Buildings Challenge (ABBC), Lights Out Atlanta was launched in March 2017 to reduce bird deaths caused by building collisions. "Atlanta Audubon Society is thrilled to welcome the City of Atlanta, Highwoods Properties and Southface as the first commercial partners in the Lights Out Atlanta program," says Nikki Belmonte, Atlanta Audubon Executive Director.

In addition to the government/commercial buildings, nearly 50 individual homeowners ranging from Peachtree City in the south to Milton in the northern suburbs have signed the Lights Out Atlanta pledge. Studies have shown that bird deaths during peak migration periods can be dramatically reduced when exterior architectural and unnecessary lighting is turned off. Lights Out Atlanta has an additional benefit of reducing energy usage and cost to help properties achieve their sustainability goals.

Neighborhood Jazz Series at Sidney Marcus Park

May began with a great Jazz Concert on Saturday, May 6 in Sidney Marcus Park. Sponsored by our own City Council Representative, Alex Wan, the Neighborhood Contact Center
Jazz Series brought live performances by Brenda Nicole Moorer and Alex Gordon Hi-Fi to Morningside Lenox Park. Fortunately, by the time Saturday afternoon rolled around, the rains had ended and the sun came out for a beautiful afternoon of jazz with friends.

One of the new social groups that formed this year, the Empty Nesters, capitalized on the occasion, heading to the park for a picnic, some music appreciation, and some socializing. What a great afternoon it was-complete with new friends and some great tunes.

If you missed this concert, don't despair as Atlanta becomes a jazz-infused musical landscape for the month of May. From the Late Night Jazz to MARTA Mondays, May has several great chances to take in a concert, culminating with the free 3-day outdoor jazz festival in Piedmont Park. This year the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs has been working hard to bring the best in traditional and contemporary jazz music. Plan now to attend with friends and family.

Other social groups you may want to join are:

- Couples Dinner Group—This group visits various restaurants around the neighborhood, getting to know each other better over a meal. To receive notifications of upcoming plans, contact Jennifer Schweidel, jschweidel@gmail.com.
- MLP Book Club—The group is reading Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance and will meet to discuss it on May 23 at 7:00 PM. For details on the group, contact Amy Woodhouse, amylouisewoodhouse@gmail.com.

Free ASO Concerts in Piedmont Park

Summer brings a variety of free cultural events to Piedmont Park—from the Jazz Festival over Memorial Day Weekend to the return of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s free concerts on Oak Hill (Piedmont Park along 10th Street).

After a huge response to the return of the ASO to this venue, they will be back again on Thursday, June 15 at 7:30 PM. Bring your blankets, food, drinks, friends, and family to enjoy an evening of selections ranging from David Bowie to Tchaikovsky, led by Assistant Conductor, Joseph Young.

Tickets are not required for this free event, but plan to arrive early for an unobstructed view.

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.

On Tuesday, May 2, the Zoning Committee heard the following variances with the noted results.

The next steps are to come before the MLPA Board and NPU-F. Any neighbors interested in the outcome should come to these meetings. See www.mlpa.org for times/locations.

1. V-17-101-1230 University Dr-Motion to Approve 5-0-0
2. V-17-113-934 Amsterdam Ave-Motion to Approve 5-0-0
3. V-17-115-1448 North Morningside Dr-Motion to Approve 5-0-0
4. V-17-117-602 Yorkshire Rd—Motion to approve the two variances. Motion to approve the two special exceptions WITH THE CONDITION that the owner provide drawings and elevations at the MLPA board meeting on 5/8/17—Vote was 5-0-0 for both motions.
5. V-17-118-2059 Manchester St—Motion to approve 5-0-0
6. V-17-45-1227 North Highland Ave—Motion to deny 5-0-0

The next Zoning Committee meeting is Tuesday, June 6, at 7:00 PM. All neighbors are welcome to attend.

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 May District 6 Newsletter.

In the News Highlights:
- I City of Atlanta Budget Hearings for Fiscal Year 2018
- I 85 Resource Event
- On the Passing of Fulton County Commissioner, Joan Garner
- New Billing System for Watershed Management
- .....and more

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, May 12 - Saturday, May 13. Pickn' In Grant Park Barbecue Festival, Grant Park, Atlanta.


Saturday, May 13, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Keep Atlanta Beautiful Recycling, Old Fourth Ward, The Walden School, 320 Irwin Avenue.

Saturday, May 13, 2:00 - 5:00 PM, John Howell Park, A Taste of the Highlands benefit for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA). Tickets go on sale March 20 with more info available at www.tasteofthehighlands.com.

Saturday, May 13 - Sunday, May 14, Sweet Auburn Springfest.

Friday, May 19, 9:15 - 10:15 AM. Coffee with the Principal, Inman Middle School Media Center.

Monday, May 15, 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, May 17, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM, continuing through May 21, Kick off for Dine/Shop for Cheshire Bridge businesses. Support our neighbors that have suffered business losses due to increased traffic from the I-85 collapse.

Friday, May 19, 9:15 - 10:15 AM. Coffee with the Principal, Inman Middle School Media Center.

Saturday, May 20 from 8:45 AM - 1:30 PM, Neighborhood Watch Training, Public Safety Headquarters Building at 226 Peachtree Street S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Inspector M. Stevenson at mstevenson@atlantaga.gov or 404-326-4360.

Saturday, May 20th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, MLPA Celebration of Summer, Sidney Marcus Park.

Monday, May 22, 3:00 - 5:00 PM, Midtown MARTA Stations, MARTA Mondays Jazz Concert featuring Indie Revenge.

Monday, May 22, 7:00 PM, Council of Intown Neighborhoods & Schools (CINS) Board Meeting, Grady HS Parents' Center.

Friday, May 26 - Sunday, May 29, Atlanta Jazz Festival, Piedmont Park, free, see http://atlantafestivals.com/ for details and the line-up.

Saturday-Sunday, June 3 & 4, Virginia-Highland Summerfest takes over Virginia from North Highland to Park Drive.

Monday, June 5 - Thursday, June 8, 9:00 - 12 PM & 2:00 - 4:00 each day, Grady Cluster registration at Inman Middle School.
Tuesday, June 6, 7:00 PM, MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church. See http://www.mlpa.org/zoning/ for variances that will be discussed. All neighbors are welcome.

Monday, June 12, 7:00 PM, MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1401 North Morningside Dr. All neighbors are welcome.

Thursday, June 15, 7:30 PM, Oak Hill at Piedmont Park (near 10th St.), Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Free Concert.

Monday, June 19, 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.

Saturday, June 24, 8:00 AM, Lenox Square Mall, Komen Atlanta Race for the Cure 5K Race on Peachtree Street looping back to Lenox Mall.

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 67 - 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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