



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



MLPA News July 5, 2018

Hope everyone had a marvelous 4th with friends and family, whether far away or right here in Morningside Lenox Park...

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MLPA Board Okays Distributing e-Newsletter to All Contacts

Volunteers are the backbone of a great neighborhood association. In the interest of getting more folks involved, the MLPA Board voted to begin sending the MLPA e-News to everyone on our mailing list. We hope that once our neighbors learn more about what we do and plan to do to build a more robust and sustainable community, they will join in as members and volunteers.

Look at the Calendar of Events for notices of our upcoming meetings of the Zoning Committee and Board. You can also contact any board member (find [bios and emails here](#)) to learn more about our work. Or you can [join](#) as a Security Plus or regular member to support our work.

We hope to see you at some of our upcoming events and meetings. Enjoy!

Solid Waste Changes in Effect Week of July 9th

The city announced that changes will be made in the collection schedule for residents of Morningside Lenox Park, beginning the week of July 9th--be sure to check out what the collection days will be for [your address](#). Simply click on the link and type in your address for an update.

Note that the July 4th holiday also affected solid waste schedules. Those who are usually serviced on Wednesday and Thursday will be delayed one day.



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



Renew Atlanta Unveils Updated Plans for Monroe / Boulevard at Open House

Thanks to all the neighbors who came to Grady High School on Thursday, June 28 to review maps of the latest plans for Monroe / Boulevard. The process began last summer with the latest iterations shown at the Open House--while the planners do appear to have heard some of the neighbor's concerns, most attendees seemed underwhelmed by the latest maps.

This vital corridor through Morningside was slated for improvements after the last round of TSPLOST funding. If you were not able to attend, you can still [review the maps and make comments](#). Note that comment cards must be submitted by **Friday, July 13** so do not delay. Please be sure you make your voice heard, as the only way we can expect improvements is by requesting them.



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MLPA Celebrates National Night Out, Sunday August 5

MLPA Neighborhood Watch and the Atlanta Police Department are joining communities across the city to celebrate National Night Out.* The evening of Sunday, August 5th, neighbors will join together to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity. This year's theme is "Giving Neighborhood Crime and Drugs A Going Away Party." To show our neighborhood spirit, the MLPA Neighborhood Watch is encouraging street captains to host a block party that evening for their neighbors.

Block parties are a great way to get to know who is living nearby. If some captains cannot participate, then we are hoping a neighbor will step forward.

The parties will range from simple events to something more elaborate, but to be successful they need a key ingredient--YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD! So make plans now to get out, enjoy a summer evening and get to know a neighbor you may only have seen in passing. National studies have shown that the number 1 deterrent to crime is a close knit community, so come do your part to make MLPA even better.

***National Night Out** is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places in which to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

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Sidney Marcus Workday--Saturday, July 14, 8:30-11:30 AM

Sidney Marcus Park celebrates the legacy of the MLPA's first board chair and the leaders who stopped the freeway that was to bisect our neighborhood. It is the site of the MLPA Concert Series, a favorite play space for kids and pets, and host to many birthday parties. But it needs our help--like many Atlanta parks, it suffers from overuse.

Here is a chance to bring out the entire family for some time working together to make our park better. The Friends of Sidney Marcus are holding a work day on Saturday, July 14, 8:30-11:30 AM. Come out for a few hours to address an important issue in the park, ivy on the trees.

When: 8:30 to 11:30 AM, Saturday, July 14

Meet at the picnic tables in your long sleeves, long pants, and gloves. Bring water, bug spray, saws, hatchets, diggers, loppers, and choppers. The trees in question are along the perimeter of the park and it is pretty scruffy where we will be working. We have to stop the ivy before it stops the trees. We can also begin to assess the other invasive plants (kudzu) in the wooded areas of the park.

Protect Shady Sidney Marcus Park! Join us for a short burst of vigorous work and let's begin to shape a new park that is, once again, the pride of the neighborhood.

Let [John Pappas](#) know if you'll be able to join in the effort, even if it is only for an hour or so. We hope to see another large cadre of volunteers -- bring the family to help get Sidney Marcus ready for the return of the MLPA Concerts in August.

MLPA Garden Club Finds Secret Garden

The longer evenings have given the club a chance to explore some fabulous spaces that our neighbors have created, some in unexpected places. In June we toured the home and garden of the Speed's on Rock Springs, a few doors down from Morningside Elementary School (MES) & Haygood UMC. One doesn't

expect to see this very large backyard this close to our neighborhood landmarks. The well planned



garden backs up to a creek that serves a dual purpose. It provides an off road path to MES and the Haygood playground as well as offering a natural playscape for the kids. There's even a rope swing to transport them across the water.

The back yard has a fountain for the birds and lots of flowers to attract pollinators. The homeowners made the best use of a shady spot, tucking a potting shed under the deck!

The club will meet again at the end of July for a tour of a Reeder Circle garden in progress. We will also be making plans to work on our two community projects at Sidney Marcus & the monument at Lanier & Amsterdam. Contact [Marti Breen](#) to join us--everyone is welcome.

**The Best Brunch ...
that will not be a hidden gem much
longer.**

Saturday and Sunday 11am-3pm

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Neighbors Unite to Protect Morningside Nature Preserve

The Morningside Nature Preserve (MNP), which is part of the City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation, is a hidden forest in our neighborhood with more than 30 acres of wildlife habitat, walking and running trails, sandy beach, and a marvelous suspension bridge on the South Fork of Peachtree Creek. Nearby neighbors use it everyday for exercising their dogs, walking, running, etc. For more information about the history of the Preserve, click [here](#).

But this area has experienced some challenges. Urban camping in the MNP has been a chronic problem. During the fall and winter this past year, several encampments were located, and there was an uptick in petty crime and nuisance behaviors along Wellbourne and Wildwood roads. There were ongoing concerns about campers starting fires, complaints about stolen mail, complaints about packages stolen from front porches, folks knocking on doors to ask for money, etc. Copious amounts of trash could be found near the encampments and behind the sandy beach. Neighborhood volunteers came together to form the MLPA Protect the Morningside Preserve Committee to investigate optimal ways to address these problems.

The Committee met twice to plan to make services available to the homeless, get the encampments removed from the park, and clean up trash around the encampments and by the beach. They contacted nearby neighborhoods with similar challenges, like Lindridge Martin Manor, which has dealt with camps under I85. Several neighbors, who routinely walk through the Preserve, mapped the locations of several camps. They wrote letters and emails to two sections of the Atlanta Police Department (APD): Community Oriented Policing and Code Enforcement. Community Oriented Policing oversees programs for managing homeless encampments, through the Homeless Outreach Proactive Enforcement (HOPE) team. With permission from property owners, Code Enforcement can become involved with citations regarding illegal encampments as needed.

In November-December 2017, the HOPE team visited the Preserve to offer services to the homeless residing there. Later, the Department of Corrections cleaned up some sites and removed large amounts of trash.

In May 2018, neighbors on the committee again walked the Preserve from opposite sides: Lenox Road and Wellbourne Drive. One neighbor walked through the Preserve with a Zone 6 officer from the Atlanta Police Department to point out problem areas. Although the neighbor was able to point out several areas in need of cleanup, there was no evidence of long-term camping like there was last year. Several areas still need cleanup, and some issues continue near the railroad tracks on Lenox. The efforts of the committee seem to be having some impact--if you would like to join the effort, contact [Phyllis Wingo](#), Neighborhood Watch Chair.

Background Information

The APD contends with several constraints to manage urban camping. The challenges are different for properties owned by the city versus properties that are privately owned. For privately-owned properties, the APD cannot issue trespassing warnings and cite code violations without identifying the property owners. The MNP and surrounding area presents some challenges as both types of ownership are in play. CSX owns the property along the railroad tracks where some encampments have been built along Cheshire Bridge under bridges. For properties owned by the city, all citizens have a right to be in the parks during park hours. The hours of operation for the Morningside Nature Preserve are 6:30 am-11:00 pm. In general, addressing urban camping issues need to be a combined effort among Code Enforcement, Community Policing, Parks and Recreation, the Department of Corrections (to clean up the encampments), and outreach programs (to provide resources to the persons living in the encampments). As you can imagine, getting all these entities on the same page takes some doing. Thanks to our neighbors who are stepping up to the challenge!



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10th & Monroe Developers to Reschedule Community Engagement Meetings

As you know, the team seeking to build a mixed use development near the corner of 10th & Monroe abruptly cancelled the last community meeting. They indicated at the time that they intend to reschedule and continue the process.

Under the terms of the agreement with Invest Atlanta, the developers must have 2 more community meetings, but they only have to notify the public 2 business days before they schedule them. While the MLPA is making every effort to keep neighbors apprised of any updates, you can also check the [website](#) where they will post the meetings' schedule. Any meetings scheduled will be noted on [mlpa.org](#) as well.

Zoning Committee Report

Three zoning cases were heard in July:

- [MLPA 2018 / V-18-197 | 1659 Noble Dr.](#)
- [MLPA 2018 / V-18-204 | 1450 Lanier Place](#)
- [MLPA 2018 / V-18-207 | 2059 Manchester St.](#)

All three cases were approved as there was no neighborhood opposition and the committee's questions were addressed satisfactorily. These cases will be heard by the full MLPA Board on Monday night, July 7th at 7:00 PM.

The next zoning meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 7 at 7:00 PM. 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.

News from Atlanta City Council District 6 Representative, Jennifer Ide

[Click](#) for the latest newsletter from our Atlanta City Council District 6 Representative, Jennifer Ide. Due to vacation schedules, our e-newsletter preceded the latest newsletter from their office so check the website.



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.

Saturday, July 7-Sunday, July 8, Piedmont Park, [National Black Arts Festival](#).

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

Monday, July 16, 7:00 PM, NPU-F Meeting, Hillside Center, [1301 Monroe Dr. NE](#). All neighbors are invited and those 18+ have a vote.

Friday, July 13, deadline for making [comments](#) on the latest Renew Atlanta maps for Monroe / Boulevard improvements. See article above.

Wednesday, July 18, 7:00 PM, Morningside Book Club discusses *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware, Contact [Jill Cobb](#) to join and for details.

Saturday, July 21, 8:30 AM, Piedmont Park, [Sisters by Choice 5K Pink Ribbon Walk](#).

Saturday, July 21, 4:00-11:00 PM, Piedmont Park Pool, [Joining Hearts Main Event](#).

Sunday, July 22, 9:30 AM, [Runaway Bride 5K](#) at Piedmont Park Promenade.

Saturday, July 28, 10:00 AM-6:30 PM, Piedmont Park Meadows, [Atlanta Ice Cream Festival](#).

Tuesday, July 31, 7:00 PM, MLPA Garden Club. We continue touring local shade gardens and planning our fall plantings. Contact mbreen@c3marketing.com for details.

Sunday, August 5th, MLPA Neighborhood Watch Celebrates National Night Out--see article above. Check with your street captain(s) or neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org for more.

Tuesday, August 7, 7:00 PM, MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1401 North Morningside Dr. All neighbors are welcome.

Monday, August 13, 7:00 PM, MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church, 1401 North Morningside Dr. All neighbors are welcome.

Scene Around Morningside Lenox Park

You probably have noticed the new MLPA Security Plus Membership signs cropping up around the neighborhood. All Security Plus members will receive a new sign after they renew their membership--although it takes a couple of months sometimes. Most agree it's worth the wait to have your house number so clearly shown for guests and emergency vehicles.





This is your newsletter. Please send us your ideas for articles, interviews, and photos for inclusion. Send them to communications@mlpa.org.

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