



MLPA News May 14, 2018

It's starting to feel like summer in the greatest neighborhood in Atlanta, Morningside Lenox Park...

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Next 10th & Monroe Community Engagement Meeting, Thursday, May 17, 6 PM at Inman Middle School

As previously reported, Fuqua Development has a contract to acquire a parcel of land at [1016 Monroe Drive](#) adjacent to Piedmont Park and the BeltLine. The development team has proposed to combine this land with 9 single family R-4 parcels along Monroe and Cresthill to build a high-density development. The latest iteration of the plan includes a 17-story tower, food court, restaurants, grocery store, and more than 600 parking spaces. Please make plans to attend the meeting this Thursday, May 17 at 6:00 PM at Inman Middle School. It is imperative that we have a large group that is showing interest in this development.

The first community engagement session on April 10 drew a large crowd to Grady High School to hear, ask questions, and voice opposition to the plan. [Click to review](#) the materials presented by the development team that evening. While neighbors were polite, almost 100% voiced opposition to the plan—the major areas of concern were the proposed



rezoning of 9 single family R-4 houses in the Virginia-Highland National Historic Register District, ignoring established plans, including the City's Comprehensive Development Plan and BeltLine Subarea 6 Plan, exacerbating traffic and safety issues at 10th and Monroe, setting a precedent for rezoning single family parcels along the BeltLine throughout the City of Atlanta, insufficient affordable housing, endangering the students of Grady with increased congestion at 10th and Monroe, and increasing overcrowding at Grady, which has already reached its maximum capacity.



The development falls within Virginia-Highland, and the Virginia-Highland Civic Association has summarized the information relayed in the [April 10th meeting](#). They also held a follow up meeting on April 19th and have posted the [materials presented](#). Along with the VHCA, the MLPA encourages our neighbors to engage in the process and make your voices heard. While it is not clear that the developers are taking much notice, members of the Atlanta City Council, who will ultimately vote on the zoning changes that the developers will be seeking, will also be in attendance.

Steps you should take:

1. Complete Councilmember Jennifer Ide's quick [survey](#)
2. Attend the community engagement meetings on May 17 and June 28
3. Support the [community engagement fund](#)
4. Watch [mlpa.org](#) for updates and action items

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Master Plan is Progressing

The neighborhood master plan process has been a 6-month initiative conducted from Fall 2017 to Spring 2018 that focuses on land uses, zoning, transportation issues, urban design, connectivity, and accessibility. Ultimately, after it is adopted it will become official City policy and a catalyst for community initiatives.

The master plan steering committee and consultants with Canvas Planning Group have been hard at work reviewing the community input received at our public forums and through the online survey. We have also held numerous meetings with key stakeholders, representatives from local community organizations, and city officials.

After a great deal of work to develop and refine the nine "Big Ideas" for Morningside Lenox Park that were presented at our February community meeting, we are excited to present an updated set of recommendations at an open house on Saturday May 19 at Morningside Presbyterian Church. The open house will be held from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; it will be an "drop-by" event. The recommendations address the community's concerns about traffic, development, tear-downs, parks, open space, and other issues. A copy of the revised recommendations will be available at www.mlmasterplan.com after the open house. We hope you can join us!

The steering committee anticipates some additional adjustments to the master plan based on comments from the open house and further meetings with city officials and District 6 City Council Member Jennifer Ide. We anticipate that a final version of the master plan will be submitted to MLPA's board for approval in July before it goes to NPU-F in August. If the plan is approved at the NPU level, we anticipate that City Council will vote on the plan in September. Once approved by Council, the plan becomes a part of the City of Atlanta Comprehensive Development Plan. Please continue to monitor MLPA's website for further updates.



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MLPA Concerts in the Park Celebrates Summer, Friday--May 25 @ 6:00 PM

April's MLPA Concert in the Park was another success with a huge crowd turning out to celebrate Earth Week and enjoy live music from Carter Rude and Friends and a guest star on bagpipes to entertain the



crowd. Southern Crust, creators of locally sourced, artisan pizzas served from a vintage 1953 Chevy truck, and King of Pops with their iconic rainbow cart kept everyone fed. Beautiful weather and a lovely park allowed an enjoyable evening for families and neighbors.

Thanks for support go out to [Sonny Jones](#), [Dorsey Alston Realtors](#), our Presenting Sponsor for 2018 MLPA Concerts in the Park. His generous support along with MLPA memberships make these concerts free to our neighbors

and friends. Please thank our sponsors with your support.

We look forward to seeing all our neighbors at the next concert on May 25. This concert is the final one before we all go on break for the summer, returning August 24. It will be a great chance to celebrate the end of the school year with picnics, a concert, and a movie. Besides the musical stylings of Carter Rude, guest musician [Francisco Vidal](#) will appear. Dinner will be served by [Buena Gente](#) truck and [Doggy Dogg](#) food cart. In addition, there will be a face painter to spruce up attendees! As the sun sets, the park will transform into a giant outdoor theater where [The Greatest Showman](#) will provide an unforgettable film experience, thanks to our movie sponsor, [Boynnton & Myrick](#).

Our sponsors and members make the MLPA Concerts in the Park possible. Please make sure that your [membership](#) is current and encourage all your neighbors to [join MLPA](#) in support of our community.

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MLPA Garden Club Explores Shade Gardens

Most Morningside Lenox Park gardeners have a love-hate (or at least occasional heavy dislike) relationship with our tree cover. While it serves us well, keeping temperatures down in the summer, it can be a challenge for growing beautiful landscapes.

MLPA Garden Club is exploring master garden solutions to this age-old problem. In April we toured the Duncans' gorgeous terraced garden and studio. Linda has put her gardening skills to work, nurturing a variety of shade loving plants in contrasting colors that add interest—she also makes use of some newly acquired sun (a large tree in a neighbor's yard fell victim to a recent storm) to grow vegetables. See [Scene Around Morningside Lenox Park](#) for more photos of the garden.

This week the group will tour [Jim Scott's garden](#) tucked into a quiet cove on Lake Martin. Scott's garden has been featured in many articles in *Architectural Digest*, *Garden & Gun*, *Southern Living*, and others. We will see how he has made use of the shade to create private spaces for his guests to enjoy.

The tours continue throughout the summer as we study designs and plantings that are compatible with our tree cover, while still offering the variety and color gardeners crave. See the events listing for dates of upcoming meetings.



Input Needed for Trees Atlanta Initiative for Morningside Nature Preserve

Trees Atlanta is pursuing a new project initiative for Morningside Nature Preserve, the Greenspace Guardian. This program would be a monthly weekday project within the park led by Trees Atlanta.

Trees Atlanta's Urban Forestry Crew has been in the habit of doing monthly visits to the park. This program would include the community in those maintenance visits, teaching people about the work and engaging them with their local greenspace. Volunteers of all ages are welcome as long as they can contribute to the efforts to support the preserve. If scouts are interested in volunteering or completing a specific project, they can contact kevin@treesatlanta.org as a first step.

A survey to gauge neighborhood interest and availability is [online](#)—please respond by the end of May. It will also be posted on temporary signs within the park to try and capture additional park visitors. Once they have received some input, they hope to host the first Greenspace Guardian project in June. Check back here or in the Calendar of Events for updates.

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Solarize Atlanta Lowers Cost for Homeowners, Businesses, and Non-Profits

Interested in going solar but unsure where to start? You can learn more at an informational workshop on the new Solarize Atlanta initiative on Monday, May 22, 6:30-8:00 PM, at The Library on Ponce, [980 Ponce De Leon](#). The workshop will fill you in on the push to make solar more affordable, and therefore more widely available, in our neighborhood. Solarize Atlanta campaign organizers and solar experts from Creative Solar USA and Hannah Solar will be on hand, showing all the latest solar energy and battery storage technology.

Solarize is a community-based solar photovoltaic bulk-purchasing campaign that makes solar more economical and accessible for the citizens of Atlanta. Solarize campaigns harness the power of the crowd to save some major green while residences and businesses go green. Even if you cannot attend the workshop, you can learn more about the program and how you can apply to participate [here](#).



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Free Performances in Piedmont Park

MLPA Concerts in the Park will take the summer off, but there will still be plenty of free entertainment for Morningside Lenox Park residents. It all starts with the perennial [Atlanta Jazz Festival](#)—it includes a lot of ticketed performances throughout the city, but some of the best sessions are free on Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27 in Piedmont Park. Bring a blanket & picnic to hear some of the best local and national jazz offerings over Memorial Day weekend.

June 14 the [Atlanta Symphony Orchestra](#) returns to Oak Hill in Piedmont Park for a free performance at 7:30. Be sure to get there early for the best seats and watch the weather—as the folks learned at the scheduled performance in Old Fourth Ward Park this month, the ASO will cancel in the case of inclement weather as instruments and rain are not a good combination.

In June, Horizon Theater once again brings [live performances](#) to the Piedmont Park Promenade, Wednesday, June 20 through Sunday, June 24. Freaky Friday, a musical based on the popular comedy, will play in the evenings. Tickets are required, but most are free through the Piedmont Park Conservancy.

Security Committee Looks to Technology to Deter Crime

As reported in the May 10 Security Report, the committee is working on getting cameras to help reduce crime in the neighborhood—here's some highlights:

LPRs (License Plate Readers): We now have 3 LPRs installed in Morningside/ Lenox Park. The LPRs are located on major thoroughfares throughout the neighborhood. For security reasons, the APD has requested that we not share the exact locations of these cameras. These advance technology cameras are used by the police to flag stolen cars and license plates, to track gang movement across the city, etc. For example, when a stolen tag is picked up on an LPR, the beat officer closest to the LPR is notified so that he/she can approach the car to investigate. Last fall, LPRs were instrumental in identifying the persons responsible for a car-jacking in Ansley.

The LPRs are maintained by the city and monitored 24/7 in the [Loudermilk Video Integration Center \(VIC\)](#). More than 10,000 public and private cameras across the city (some of which are LPRs) are linked to the VIC to be monitored in a central location. The majority are owned by businesses like Coca Cola and the Aquarium. Each zone (we are in Zone 6) has its own station in the center. Several neighbors will be working with local businesses to raise money for linking additional LPRs to the VIC for Morningside.

Side street cameras: At the Security Camera Town Hall in late March, we talked about side street cameras. These cameras are motion-activated, solar cameras that are mounted on poles that are about 14-feet high (not on utility poles, which are owned by Georgia Power). The cameras would be rented from and maintained by the company that installs them. They would most likely be located on streets that feed into Monroe, Piedmont, and Cheshire Bridge or other interior streets where neighbors desire to host a camera. The Flock camera company has agreed to develop a solar camera plan for Morningside (they made a presentation at the Town Hall). The plan is expected to include about 30 cameras.



The MLPA security survey found broad support for purchasing side street cameras. Neighbors who participated liked the idea that these cameras may serve as possible deterrents to car break-ins. About half the respondents were MLPA Security Plus members. The respondents did raise some key concerns, however, about cost, street eligibility, and privacy.

New dollars will be needed to support such an initiative, if adopted, because the current MLPA budget cannot afford the \$1500 per camera per year cost. The funding approaches could include adding new memberships, raising annual membership costs, and combinations thereof.

Decisions about which side streets get cameras would likely depend on at least two factors: the percentage of houses on the street with MLPA Security Plus memberships and a minimum percentage of houses that agree to the installation of a camera. Membership requirements for each street are important for addressing the frequent objection that too few neighbors pay into efforts that benefit the entire neighborhood.

Finally, with the presence of cameras 24/7, some neighbors expressed concerns about privacy. To date, several solutions have been suggested. First, neighbors can opt out of the program. More specifically, neighbors can request that the camera not retain any photos of their cars. Second, photos are deleted by the company after one month. Third, the MLPA Security Patrol would review the photos when an incident occurs

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and serve as the liaison with the Atlanta Police Department. Fourth, relevant photos that are captured by the cameras would be available only after the victims have filed a report with the police.

The side street camera initiative is a work in progress, and no decisions have been made. We are still waiting on some results from the test cameras on Yorkshire, Beech Valley, and Cumberland. We expect to come back to MLPA members and other residents soon with plans for funding and how to address street eligibility and privacy concerns. In the meantime, ideas for funding, establishing requirements for each street, and addressing privacy concerns are welcome. Please send your ideas to NeighborhoodWatch@mlpa.org.

Stay tuned...



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



Zoning Committee Report

At the May 1 meeting, the Zoning Committee heard the following variances:

[V-18-102](#) 859 Wildwood Rd. Approved 7-0-0

[V-18-111](#) 1147 Zimmer Dr NE Approved 7-0-0

The next Zoning Committee Meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 5 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. The May newsletter covers:

- Noble Park Renovation & Groundbreaking
- 10th & Monroe Community Engagement
- Atlanta BeltLine Survey
- Atlanta Jazz Festival
- Ransomware Update
- MAYNARD
- Get Out The Vote!
- Rainbros



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.

Wednesday, May 16, 7:00 PM, [MARTA Public Hearing](#), Fulton County Government Center, 141 Pryor St., Atlanta. MARTA will [present maps](#) of planned changes to routes starting at 6:00 PM followed by a public hearing at 7:00 PM. See Saturday, May 19, 10:00 AM for additional opportunity to view plans and comment.

Thursday, May 17, 6:00 PM, 10th & Monroe Community Engagement Meeting, Inman Middle School Auditorium—check mlpa.org for updates. This will be the second chance for neighbors to hear the plans for the proposed mixed-use development that will require rezoning. See article above.

Saturday, May 19, 9:00-11:00 AM, [MLPA Master Planning Review](#), Morningside Presbyterian Church, [1411 North Morningside Rd.](#) See article for details--drop in to review and comment.

Saturday, May 19, 8:45 AM-1:45 PM, Neighborhood Watch Training, [226 Peachtree St.](#) , Atlanta 30303. Please reserve by email at kehebert@atlantaga.gov or by phone at 404-546-5320 by May 14,2018. When reserving please include full names of everyone attending and the Community that you reside in. Lunch will be provided.

Saturday, May 19, 10:00 AM, [MARTA Community Meeting](#), MARTA Headquarters Atrium, [2424 Piedmont, Atlanta](#). MARTA will [present maps](#) of planned changes to routes and allow community comments.

Monday, May 21, 7:00 PM, [NPU-F Meeting](#), Hillside Center, [1301 Monroe Dr. NE](#). All neighbors are invited and those 18+ have a vote.

Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 AM-7:00 PM, Georgia Primary, see <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do> for precinct location.

Friday, May 25, 6:00 PM, [MLPA Concerts in the Park](#), Sidney Marcus Park. Celebrate the end of the school year and the start of summer vacation with friends and neighbors at MLPA's favorite gathering spot, Sidney Marcus Park.

Friday, May 25-Sunday, May 27, [Atlanta Jazz Festival](#), various locations in Piedmont Park.

Thursday, May 31, 7:00 PM, MLPA Garden Club. Contact mbreen@c3marketing.com for details.

Friday, June 1-Sunday, June 3, [Atlanta Food & Wine Festival](#), Piedmont Park Promenade.

Saturday, June 2, 7:30 AM, [CHOA Strong 4 Life Superhero Sprint](#).

Tuesday, June 5, 7:00 PM, [MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting](#), Morningside Presbyterian Church, [1411 North Morningside Dr.](#) Check www.mlpa.org/zoning/ for a list of cases to be heard.

Friday, June 8, 8:00 PM, [Atlanta Moon Ride](#), Piedmont Park and surrounding streets.

Saturday, June 9-Sunday, June 10, [Virginia-Highland Summerfest](#). See link for details on times for this annual celebration of food, music, and the arts on Virginia Avenue from N. Highland to Park Dr./Ponce de Leon Pl.

Monday, June 11, 7:00 PM, [MLPA Board Meeting](#), Morningside Presbyterian Church, [1401 North Morningside Dr.](#) All neighbors are welcome.

Thursday, June 14, 7:30 PM, Oak Hill in Piedmont Park, Free [Atlanta Symphony Orchestra](#) Concert.

Saturday, June 16, 2018, 8:00 AM, Fourth Ward Historic Park, [O4W5K](#), 3.1 Mile run to benefit Hope-Hill Foundation.

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

Wednesday, June 20-Sunday, June 24, 7:30 PM, Piedmont Park Promenade, [Horizon Theater's Freaky Friday](#), free performances with tickets.

Thursday, June 28, 6:00 PM, Final [10th & Monroe Community Engagement](#) Meeting, Location TBD.

Scene Around Morningside Lenox Park



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