



MLPA News September, 2018

Fall officially starts this month and that means there is a lot to do in and around Morningside Lenox Park! All this requires a lot of volunteers--have you done your part? If not, send an email to volunteer@mlpa.org and get involved...

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MLPA Call for Nominations

Members of the MLPA Board serve for one year terms which begin each January. At the Annual Membership Meeting, Monday, November 12, 2018 at 7:00 PM the slate of candidates for the 2019 MLPA Board will be presented and voted upon.



The nominating committee is currently seeking neighbors interested in working on the board or board committees (including Parks, Communications, Master Planning, Events, Security, Neighborhood Watch, and Zoning). You might ask, "Why should I consider serving?" Consider this:

- Serving on the board or a board committee is a great way to meet neighbors and make new friends.
- Board service is a great way to expand your resume.
- Committees work with neighbors, city officials, contractors, etc.--in short, it's a great way to network.
- The all-volunteer board is staffed entirely by neighborhood residents. In order to continue providing the valuable services we have all have come to expect from the MLPA, new Board members and additional committee members are needed.

The board agenda for 2019 will be impactful and exciting as we build on work done in 2018:

- Prioritizing and beginning work on the Master Plan,
- Improving our parks and green spaces,
- Working with our local schools,
- Overseeing zoning issues & resolving rezoning requests,
- Negotiating with city offices and official on traffic and safety issues,
- Enhancing security,
- Driving membership in the association and security patrol,
- Communicating with our neighbors and promoting local businesses,
- Managing events that build community like our Concerts in the Park

We are counting on you to offer some of your time and talent to continue making Morningside Lenox Park the best neighborhood in Atlanta. Please submit a short bio along with your area of interest to volunteer@mlpa.org by **September 30**.

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Sidney Marcus Preliminary Plans Unveiled

Friends of Sidney Marcus Park has been very busy over the past 3 months in an effort to build a vision plan based on input from the community, the city, and our core group.

We hope you have been enjoying the park this summer and came out to the Concert in the Park on August 24 and talked with Christa, Rachel, and Jan about the plan and gave us your input. If not, this is your opportunity to review, comment, and support our efforts to improve/rescue the park.

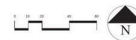
Here are the Vision Plans for Sidney Marcus Park. There are two versions of it. The first has detail descriptions and pointers to the various parts of the plan. Hopefully, you will find it self explanatory. But

please email us if you need further clarification or information.



SIDNEY MARCUS PARK

Atlanta, Georgia



July 17, 2018

The second is the "Vision Plan with Inspiration Photos". Both should be referenced when answering the [questionnaire](#). It should only take about 4 minutes so please let us know what you think. If you'd like to help us realize our vision, you can [donate here](#) by selecting Friends of Sidney Marcus Park.



1. OPEN FIELD RINGED WITH TREES



2. HILLTOP PICNIC SHELTER



3. NEW LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS



4. NATURE TRAILS THROUGHOUT PLANTED AREAS



5. RAIN GARDENS TO PREVENT FLOODING AND EROSION



6. "NATURE DISCOVERY TRAIL" THROUGH RAIN GARDEN



7. FOOD TRUCK PARKING



8. PERMEABLE FLAGSTONE PAVING IN PICNIC TABLE AREA



Friends of Sidney Marcus Park

Atlanta, Georgia

August 09, 2018

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for Best Brunch, Wings & BBQ!
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14 TVs, Full Bar with 20 Taps.**



Solarize Atlanta Extends Sign Up Period

Organizers for Solarize Atlanta have extended the sign-up deadline for Atlanta home owners interested in participating in this solar bulk purchasing program to October 31, 2018.

Solarize Atlanta is a joint project of Central Atlanta Progress, Environment Georgia, Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, Livable Buckhead, the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club, Solar CrowdSource and their competitively selected solar installers, Creative Solar USA



and Hannah Solar. The program uses bulk purchasing and a streamlined process over four months to cut the cost of solar by up to 25% for residents of the City of Atlanta.

"We'd looked at solar before but the Solarize program helped push us over the edge this time around," said Ruth Menter who owns the first Solarize home in the Solarize Atlanta program with her husband Larry Menter. "The cost savings, the free consultation, the easy process, and an expiring tax credit all helped make this decision to clean up our energy consumption a no brainer."

The program offers Atlanta residents who sign up at solarizeatl.com a free solar evaluation and access to vetted materials and discounted prices for installation. It is on pace to become the most successful Solarize program in the state.

"Solarize Atlanta is galvanizing our rooftop solar market and giving residents a straightforward path towards a resilient energy future," said Amol Naik, City of Atlanta Chief Resilience Officer. "Programs like Solarize Atlanta are critical to reaching our clean energy goals."

Since Solarize Atlanta launched on April 1, 736 residents of Atlanta have signed up for the free evaluations offered in the program: 49 homes have committed to putting solar projects on their roofs for a total of over 270 kW so far. Once in operation, this solar will eliminate 524,315 lbs of CO2 from the atmosphere.



Thanks for Signing Up for Membership

Last month's MLPA Concert in the Park in Sidney Marcus Park was a great success; thanks to all those who attended. Morningside residents were treated to an evening of entertainment by Carter Rude and Friends Band, followed by a movie on the big screen.

Special thanks to our members and presenting sponsor [Sonny Jones](#), Dorsey Alston Realtors. Thanks also to our movie sponsor, [Boynton & Myrick](#) Real Estate, and a new sponsor for the evening, [Midtown Family Wellness](#). Their support keeps these events free for our community.


For anyone who missed the opportunity to sign up for the MLPA or renew their membership, you may do so at <http://www.mlpa.org/mlpa-memberships/>; Remember, membership fees help make events like this possible.

We look forward to seeing you at the next event on Friday, September 21 at 6:00 PM.

Neighbor Weighs in on Gulch Development Proposal


The Atlanta City Council is currently considering expanding the Westside Tax Allocation District (TAD) to provide an incentive to CIM to develop the 'Gulch'. Recently, Julian Bene, one of our neighbors and a former member of the Invest Atlanta board, had an opinion column published in the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

You can [read it here](#). As of this writing, the proposal is still under consideration.



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



MLPA History--MLPA Concerts in the Park Edition--Next Concert, Friday, Sept. 21 @ 6:00 PM

Thanks to everyone who came out for the August Back to School Concert & Movie and to our presenting sponsor, [Sonny Jones](#), Dorsey Alston Realtors, and sponsors, [Boynton & Myrick](#) Real Estate and [Midtown Family Wellness](#). See the Scene Around MLP for photos from the event.

Mark your calendar now for our next performance, Friday, September 21 at 6:00 PM--besides our regular Carter Rude & Friends Band, special guests Leah Calvert, Jeff Mosier, & Friends will treat us to some bluegrass. Smokin' Moes BBQ and King of Pops will be on hand along with Nakeemi, to paint faces. With so many folks at the last concert, we thought a bit history as to how these evolved might be of interest..

MLPA Concerts in the Park History by Carter Rude:

Back in January 2009 my wife, Gina, and I moved to Morningside. Our son Robert was eight months old at the time. At first we missed our old Loring Heights neighborhood where everyone knew each other. Moving to Morningside in January, when there really wasn't really much going on in the community made us wonder... how do we make friends in our new neighborhood?

It turned out that going to Sidney Marcus Park was a great way to meet other parents and form friendships. Morningside was big and a bit overwhelming at first, but the park made it feel small and intimate and a great outlet for our growing family.

A fellow musician friend of mine named Jay Memory had started a family friendly concert series in the playground area of Chastain Park. One evening in April 2009 Gina and I loaded up the car with some essential items, Robert in his baby seat, and made the trek over to Chastain. It was great and very chill. Kids

running around and playing on the playground. Parents sitting on blankets and socializing. Jay had two sponsors for his series, the local HOA and a local business which set up activities for the kids. The best vibe came from Jay's music which was pleasantly piping throughout the park and playground area. It was a great way to spend a Wednesday night.



A few months later Jay called me to ask me if I would fill in for him as solo musician at one of his concerts by the Chastain Park playground while he attended the U2 concert. I gladly took him up on his offer. I enjoyed the vibe playing music in front of families as I had recently become a family man. Shortly thereafter a distinct idea crossed my mind... I'd like to do this in my own neighborhood. I actually called Jay to see if he minded me copying his idea. He said something like, "Go for it my friend!"

I thought the best way to start was to present the idea to the MLPA board. I was nervous, but received full support from the board and was grateful for the trust they had in me and for giving me a chance. MLPA agreed to financially support the series. I think we did about 2-3 concerts per year in 2010-2011. No food trucks. No activities. No movie night. And no port a potty! Just me (and in the second year, my very talented friend Lawson Feltman) playing an acoustic duo under the trees by the playground. We tried several parks to include Noble Park, Sunken Garden, and Sidney Marcus Park. We tried Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday night. Ultimately we determined that Friday nights worked best as busy families like to unwind at the end of the work week. And we determined that Sidney Marcus Park was the most spacious and best located park.

Having a consistent location and a consistent night of the week helped us gain more traction. More people began to attend. There was demand for port a potty, so kids and parents could play longer! We tried our first food truck which was Willy's, and we sang a parody we called, "Burrito in Paradise." We brought in King of Pops. We transitioned from doing two concerts per year to doing six per year. A key development came when we were able to add sponsors so that MLPA no longer had to front the full bill. This also allowed me to increase the budget to include more musicians in the band, guest musicians, an occasional DJ (DJ Crunk!) and more park activities such as occasional face painters, and movie nights.

Musically it has been fun for me to transition from an acoustic solo, to duo, into a neighborhood band to include Morningside residents Carl Stoltz (bass), Tom Heene (drummer) and John Moyer (keyboard). It's been a privilege having guest musicians along the way like Jeff Mosier, Francisco Divall, Erik Johnson, The Haraway Brothers, and Trey Gibbs. We've had some boosts from youthful morningside residents like Carter Davis (guitar/vocals) and Javier Davis (rocking the whole park with a custom dance routine).

Has the MLPA Concert Series reached its peak? I don't know but I am willing to search for new ways to enhance it and to improve the experience for Morningside residents and to keep the momentum going. People often ask how can they help out? To answer that question I have a few basic suggestions for all who live in Morningside:

1 Join MLPA. If you are already a member then thank you very much. Please continue to renew your membership each year. Your dues support security and fun events like the concert series.

2 Attend the concerts and tell your friends. Friends outside our neighborhood are certainly always welcome, too.

3 Support the vendors. Food trucks and King of Pops actually give back to us to help our budget and expenses. Plus when they are successful they want to come back, which makes future bookings easier.

4 Make sure to pick up your trash, and any other trash you can. There are permanent trash cans by the sidewalk on Cumberland and Sherwood side. We have recently started adding a few other temporary cardboard bins on Cumberland side. We should always aim to leave the park in better condition than it was before the concert.

5. Say thank you to our current and past sponsors. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor for an upcoming concert please tell them to contact MLPA.

Hope to see you at the final two MLPA Concerts on September 21 and October 19!



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MLPA Garden Club Tour Courtenay "Work in Progress"

MLPA Garden Club has been taking advantage of daylight savings time to tour remarkable gardens in Morningside Lenox Park (MLP). When Martin Girven invited us to see his & Rob Pilkington's garden he warned us that it was far from complete. They have only been in MLP for a few years, but have been busy creating a haven for humans and other creatures to enjoy the outdoors. As the photos below show, their efforts put many of the rest of us to shame.



The addition of a pool is surrounded by paving stones and gardens to attract birds and insects. Since the property backs onto a creek, the owners took advantage of the natural slope to inset the pool naturally into the hillside. The result is a relaxing oasis right in the heart of Midtown Atlanta.

At the meeting we also discussed the mosquito traps that several members are trying out. While they seem to be making a dent, the unnaturally damp summer has made mosquito control quite the challenge! We also scheduled a work day for the monument garden at the corner of Lanier and Amsterdam for Oct. 21 and will hold a plant sale in the fall, so check back for dates.

We typically meet the last Tuesday of the month--September will likely be our last garden tour and it promises to be a great one. Contact [Marti Breen](#) to join us--everyone is welcome.



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Zoning Committee Report

Two zoning cases were heard in September and approved by the committee and the MLPA board:

- [V-18-241](#) 1256 Spring Valley Lane Approved 14-0-0 The applicant goes before the NPU-F meeting 9/17/18.
- [V-18-260](#) 1919 Piedmont Rd. Approved 14-0-0

The next zoning meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 2 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 on the website of our Atlanta City Council District 6 Representative, Jennifer Ide. When she attended the MLPA board meeting on September 10, she updated us on the Renew Atlanta projects and answered questions about the proposed development at the Gulch.



The Renew Atlanta bond fund is being rapidly spent so Ide is trying to get answers on the remaining projects that will receive funding. In answer to questioning about her position on the Gulch proposal, she stated that she is leaning towards a 'no' vote, but has yet to read the newest legislation that is going before the council this week. The concern is that ceding a tax abatement to the Gulch property means offices/retail space/apartments that might have otherwise been developed on property that could be taxed will be foregone so that in fact, the city will be giving up future tax revenues, despite the administration's claims to the contrary.

Report from Matt Westmoreland, City Council At Large

As we head into Fall, I thought I'd provide an update on some citywide news from City Council over the last few months.

On the legislative front, I'm proud of our actions to:

- Adopt an FY19 Budget that included a full millage rollback for taxpayers, plus a 3.1% raise for police officers and firefighters, the increase of the City's minimum wage to \$14 an hour, doubling the City's funding for the arts, and additional dollars for HIV prevention, cyber security upgrades, and for Public Works crews focused on filling potholes and picking up trash and yard debris.
- Close the long-running dispute between the City and Atlanta Public Schools by transferring more than 40 property deeds, with the final few on the way.
- Announce the purchase of land for the Beltline's Southside Trail, which will stretch from Glenwood Park to Adair Park.
- Launch a \$9 million Owner-Occupied Rehab Program focused on seniors, veterans, and disabled residents.
- Authorize funding to build 10 urban gardens in areas of limited fresh food access in the City.
- End Atlanta's cash bail system for non-violent misdemeanor charges.
- Ratify an executive order suspending the acceptance of ICE detainees at the Atlanta City Detention Center.



Please don't hesitate to reach out at 404.408.0980 (cell) or mwestmoreland@atlantaga.gov if I can ever be of help.

Matt Westmoreland

MLPA Events Listing

Tuesday, September 11, 6:30 PM, Grady High School, PTSA Open House/Curriculum Event.

Thursday, September 13, 10:00-11:00 AM, Morningside Elementary School Prospective Parent Tour.

Friday, September 14, 8:00-9:00 AM, Morningside Elementary School Principal's Coffee.

Saturday, September 15-Sunday September 16, [Music Midtown](#).

Monday, September 17, 8:45 AM, Grady High School PTSA/Principal's Coffee.

Monday, September 17, 7:00 PM, [NPU-F Meeting](#), Hillside Center, [1301 Monroe Dr. NE](#). All neighbors are invited and those 18+ have a vote.

Friday, September 21, 9:15-10:15 AM, Inman Middle School Principal's Coffee.

Friday, September 21, 6:00 PM, [MLPA Concerts in the Park](#). Carter Rude & Friends Band will be joined by special guests, bluegrass ensemble headed up by Leah Calvert & Jeff Mosier. Food by Smokin' Mo's BBQ and King of Pops. Facepainting by Nakeemi.

Saturday, September 22, 7:00 PM lineup, 8:00 PM start, [Beltline Lantern Parade](#) along Eastside Trail from Irwin to Piedmont Park.

Tuesday, September 25, 7:00 PM, MLPA Garden Club. Contact [Marti Breen](#) for details.

Thursday, September 27, 7:00 PM, MLPA Book Club discusses "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi. Email [Jill Cobb](#) for details and to join.

Friday, September 28, 8:00-11:00 AM and/or Noon-3:00 PM, Morningside Nature Preserve, Trees Atlanta's Green Guardians will meet at both 8 and Noon at the Wellbourne entrance to the preserve--Join your neighbors in helping return this wild area to native plants by removing invasive species. See article for details.

Saturday, September 29-Sunday September 30, Piedmont Park and Morningside, [Breast Cancer Walk](#).

Sunday, September 30. Deadline for MLPA Board Nominations. Send a short bio along with your interest to volunteer@mlpa.org.

Sunday, September 30, 2:00-6:00 PM. [Atlanta Streets Alive](#) Peachtree. Bike, stroll, walk, or run on the 3.1 mile portion of Peachtree that will be closed to traffic.

Tuesday, October 2, 7:00 PM, [MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting](#), Morningside Presbyterian Church, [1401 North Morningside Dr](#). All neighbors are welcome.

Wednesday, October 3, National Walk to School Day. Drivers should be especially careful on our streets, watching for parents and school kids.

Saturday, October 6, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM, Freedom Park Farmers Market (Carter Center Parking Lot), [Trees Atlanta Annual Plant Sale](#).

Saturday, October 6, 5:30 PM, Piedmont Park, [Light the Night Race](#).

Monday, October 8, 7:00 PM, [MLPA Board Meeting](#), Morningside Presbyterian Church, [1401 North Morningside Dr](#). All neighbors are welcome.

Monday-Friday, October 8-12, APS Fall Break.

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

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, October 24, [MLPA Concerts in the Park](#).

Monday, November 12, 7:00 PM, MLPA Annual Membership Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Scene Around Morningside Lenox Park--MLPA Back to School Concert

Friends and neighbors gathered in Sidney Marcus Park to enjoy a beautiful evening out in the greatest community in Atlanta. See the article above for a bit of history on these wonderful events that bring us together for some fun, dancing, conversations, and relaxation.



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

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