



# MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



MLPA News December, 2018

We are well into the throes of the holiday season and hope it's a happy one for all. The MLPA Board is transitioning--please consider supporting your neighborhood with your talent and resources in 2019:

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## MLPA President Elect, Ben Nemo, Looks to 2019

Hello neighbors! I'm looking forward to working with the MLPA board in the year ahead to serve this amazing neighborhood. I want to improve our communication as a board so I commit to a monthly "Top 3" so you know what we are actually trying to accomplish. Given we are going into goal-setting for the year ahead, I wanted to share some things that are on my mind as objectives for the year ahead:

1. **Membership.** This association is as strong as our base. One of the reasons I got involved last year was seeing how many volunteers give their valuable time to represent us all and advance key initiatives. Membership dues pay for security patrols, communications, events and other actions that keep our neighborhood connected. However – our estimate is that only ~25% of households are paying members. We charge less than Druid Hills (\$395) or other neighboring associations but imagine how much more we could do if we doubled our membership! I realize not all households have \$225 handy but I see enough increasing home value Zestimates and frequent Amazon



deliveries on our doorsteps to guess that many do. I am hoping we can also improve neighborhood connections through our street captains and enhance our outreach.

2. Parks. It goes without saying that a great park is a magnet for the community. You can see it in Sidney Marcus Park and Noble Park. Meanwhile a not-so-great park is exactly the opposite – look no further than Sunken Garden to see the tumbleweeds in what could be a beneficial upgrade. After seeing how neighbors mobilized to invest in Noble Park I'm hoping we can do the same for other parks in the neighborhood.
3. Security. The car break-ins are as annoying to me as anyone – in fact it's why I showed up to an MLPA board meeting about a year ago and was suckered into becoming the security co-chair last year! We've made some great progress in the last year between getting 4 License Plate Reader (LPR) cameras already installed and testing solar-powered license plate tracking systems. We're far from where we want to be and I hope we can find some new ideas driven by increased membership and collaboration with the businesses we support in this area and neighboring associations that are dealing with the same problem.

Thoughts or suggestions? Don't take it out on us on Nextdoor - participate. Yes, I know you're busy. So are we. Please feel free to join us at our board meetings the second Monday of each month at Morningside Presbyterian Church. Our next meeting is January 14 at 7pm - come see what we do. (You can also always email me at [president@mlpa.org](mailto:president@mlpa.org).)

Finally, as I learned myself after attending that first MLPA board meeting there is so much great work being done in the neighborhood by volunteers. We should all celebrate the people that are doing great work or selfishly giving back. In this issue I want to give thanks to both Charlie Nalbone and Sally Bayless for their leadership in recent years as well as both the other board members who are passing or receiving batons. I also want to give a HUGE shout out to the 60+ households and local businesses (Ayers Plumbing, Homestead Realty, Casseroles, Morningside Business Association, Engel & Voelkers, and Intown Animal Clinic) that donated more than \$7500 to help fund additional LPR cameras to deter and investigate crimes. If you know any of these Honor Roll members from MLPA communications on this topic please make sure to thank them for this generosity! These things ain't cheap folks – we have a goal for 3 more installations which will take \$25,000 of local contributions to match dollars from the Atlanta Police Foundation (thank you Alex Wan for your gift 😊). If you are looking for additional charitable gifts in 2018, we would love additional tax-deductible donations. I just sent in \$200 myself – will you join me by sending in [this form](#) with your tax-deductible contribution of any amount possible? It's such a small investment in protecting our neighbors (and property values if that is your language!).

Best wishes for a great holiday season – we are excited to work with you in 2019.

Ben 😊

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## Resolve to Get More Involved for 2019

A brand new board of directors is taking office in January--join us for the January meeting at Morningside Presbyterian Church on Monday, January 14 at 7:00 PM to meet the new board and learn more about what we plan to do in 2019. Morningside Lenox Park is a vibrant community because we have always had a dedicated group of volunteers willing to fight to protect our neighborhood.

It began when the [association formed](#) in 1965 to fight the proposed freeway that would have bisected the neighborhood. Throughout our history, the association has been a voice for residents and government officials, businesses, developers and schools.

Members of the MLPA committees are involved in decision-making surrounding important issues like development, traffic, parks and green space, and safety. They also plan social activities for the neighborhood, creating a deeper sense of community, and protect and preserve our neighborhood.

If it all sounds a bit overwhelming, it is and that's why we need neighbors to step up and offer their time and talent to making this an even more vibrant community. Check out the [Master Plan](#), recently completed and find an area of interest. Then [email](#) us and let us know how you'd like to help!

### Morningside Wine Walk Raises Funds for LPRs

On Thursday, November 15, the rains finally stopped long enough to accommodate neighbors attending the Morningside Wine Walk. More than 150 neighbors had bought tickets for




the event in Morningside Village and along North Highland. The guests enjoyed over 15 different wine samples from all the major producing regions around the world. As a bonus, sample bites of cuisine from the local restaurants were featured.

Not only did neighbors have a great time, seeing old friends and making new ones, the event will contribute over \$500 dollars to the MLPA neighborhood security initiative. And one lucky attendee, Traycee Hanvy, won a gift basket with more than \$750 of goods and gift certificates from local merchants.




Thanks to all the neighbors that attended and to the Morningside Business Association for sponsoring this fabulous event! Follow them on [Facebook](#) to find out about plans for future gatherings.



**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



### Tips for the Holidays from MLPA Security & Neighborhood Watch

Several ideas have been proposed by street captains for managing the delivery of packages to residential porches. This is particularly important during the holidays...

– Ask a nearby neighbor to be on the lookout for a package during the day while you are at work or while you are away on business or vacation.

– Use the free services offered by UPS, Fedex, and USPS; there are differences among the offerings but they all generally include:

- getting notifications about delivery
- providing instructions for the driver to “leave on the back porch” or “leave with a neighbor” who is close by – preferably within walking distance.
- requesting that package be held at a UPS/Fedex/USPS location



You have to sign up/set up an account for these free services. Also, once you sign up, you can pay extra for delivery to another address, on another day, etc. Check out these options and see if one of these services might work for you.

[Fedex](#)

[UPS](#)

[USPS](#)

One thing all these approaches have in common is *getting to know your nearby neighbors*. You may find some that will be at home during the day like retirees, stay-at-home-Moms and Dads, persons who work from home, etc. These folks may be willing to help and it never hurts to know who lives nearby!



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### Shop Local This Holiday Season

One of the top attractions cited in the MLPA Master Plan is the vibrant commercial district within walking distance of our neighborhood. The shops and restaurants along North Highland and nearby in Ansley Mall are an invaluable amenity. This holiday season, show your love to our local merchants by frequenting their establishments.

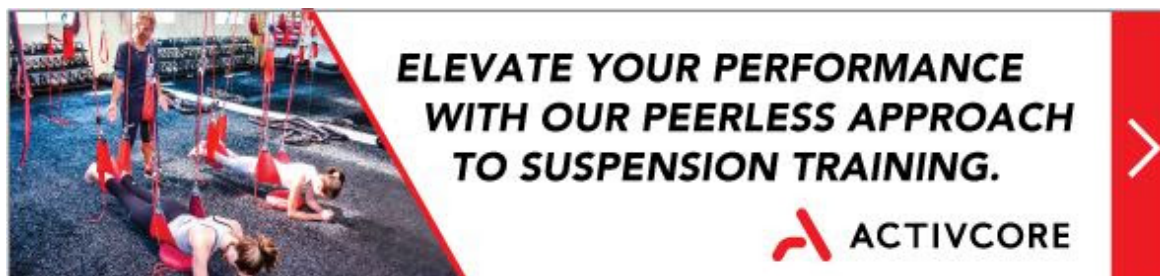


Don't forget the fresh produce, baked goods, pastas & assorted gift items available every Saturday, 8:30-11:30 AM in the parking lot at Morningside Village. Farmers from across Georgia bring their 100% certified organic produce that are the basis of any healthy holiday feast. You will also find local purveyors of gift items, fresh pasta, fair trade coffee, granola, and chocolate. There is even honey from Morningside bees! And as an added bonus, most Saturdays there is a local chef serving up hot breakfast fare.

### Green Guardians Improve Morningside Nature Preserve

The Green Guardians have been working since the spring to clear out the invasive species that have taken root in the preserve, and finally we are starting to replace the aliens with native trees and plants. Check out the progress we've made [here](#). The rains on Saturday, Dec. 1st & 8th led to a postponement of the first planting, but there's still time to get new plants in the ground while they are dormant this winter.

Thanks to Trees Atlanta for their leadership in improving this vital neighborhood treasure. You can help keep the space up--one of the ways that invasive species are spread is on animal fur and people's clothing--make sure that you stay on the paths and keep your pets on leash in the preserve. You can also [learn more](#) about the work that is ongoing and [volunteer](#) to help out.



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## Nextdoor Advice from Atlanta Police Department

You have probably noticed notes lately from the APD on Nextdoor. They send messages to the community on Nextdoor. As a public agency they can only see replies to their posts and the private messages sent



them. Conversations that you and your neighbors are having on your Nextdoor sites are not included in their feed.

If you and your neighbors are having conversations about something you think they need to know about then please [send them a private message](#). For emergencies, call 911 immediately.

## City Council Moves to Regulate Dockless Mobility Devices

On Thursday, December 6, the Atlanta City Council Public Safety and Legal Administration and Transportation Committees held a work session on [Ordinance 18-O-1322 \(Shareable Dockless Mobility Devices\)](#). While these scooters provide a means for neighbors to get around, they have spurred many complaints-- the legislation seeks to address these and draw from the experience of other metro areas. Specifically, the ordinance clarifies definitions of the mobility devices, anticipates applications and annual fees to be paid by the operating companies, and stipulates rules on safety and parking to hopefully remove some of the eyesores around our beautiful city which have led to the complaints.

The legislation will be considered by the full council in January. Our city council representative is [Jennifer Ide](#), and at large representatives are [Matt Westmoreland](#), [Andre Dickens](#), and [Michael Bond](#).



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## Meet the MLPA Board

You can meet the board at any of our meetings the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at Morningside Presbyterian Church. For those of you unable to come to our meetings, there will be profiles of the board members in the e-news. This month we introduce, Grant Gandy, Secretary.

Grant is an Atlanta native and moved to Morningside in 2013 with his wife Laurie. Two preschoolers, Alex and Mack, and a Lewellyn Setter, Jenny, have since joined their family. Grant initially became involved with MLPA by working on zoning issues with his East Pelham and East Rock Springs neighbors and began serving in an official capacity as secretary in 2017. Grant serves on the MLPA board because he believes that Atlanta's



neighborhoods deserve advocates. He is thankful that an earlier generation of neighbors prevented an interstate from being built through Morningside. Grant works in finance for a software company in downtown Atlanta and enjoys running in the neighborhood.

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### MLPA Social News

The bi-monthly gathering of the Morningside Book Club in January will discuss Tayari Jones' *An American Marriage*. If reading interests you as well as meeting more people in our neighborhood, contact [Jill Cobb](#) for more information. All are welcome--while we are mostly female at this point, men and couples are encouraged to join us.

MLPA Garden Club is enjoying presentations on gardening topics during the winter. Contact [Marti Breen](#) for more information and to join. Gardeners of all experience levels, genders, and interests are welcome--we meet in the evenings to accommodate work schedules.

The MLPA Dinner Club is back up and running. Sharing a meal is a time honored way to nurture friendships, old and new. Contact [Mark Reaves](#) to be added to the email announcements.

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**Brunch is Better with BBQ and Bloody Marys.**

Thank you for voting YES for the "Brunch Bill" so you can enjoy our full bar with 20 local taps while you watch your game at 11am  
brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-3pm

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### Looking for a New Activity? Try Pickleball

Pickleball is taking the world by storm and you can experience it here in Morningside Lenox Park on January 12th!

Join David Callahan, Certified Pickleball Coach, and your neighbors for a fun afternoon to learn about Pickleball from 2-4 p.m. at the Lenox Park Tennis Courts.

Pickleball was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, a short ferry ride from Seattle, Washington. It has evolved from original handmade equipment and simple rules into a popular sport throughout the US and Canada. The game is growing internationally as well, with many European and Asian countries adding courts and clubs. Clubs are forming for all ages and genders.

The game is attractive because anyone can play regardless of age or ability. Played on a court roughly a third of the size of a tennis court with a rigid paddle, Pickleball is a quick paced but simple game where the rules do not always favor strength or speed. If you can throw a ball underhand, you can play Pickleball.

More importantly, Pickleball is a highly social game. Players routinely change partners and help each other with warm ups and strategies. There is a strong social and community spirit among the players and everyone is welcomed. You will be surprised to meet and enjoy a lot of new people.

Come see what the buzz is about. Pickleball is here!

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At Lenox-Wildwood Park  
Tennis Courts

1760 Lenox Rd. NE Atlanta, GA 30306

**Saturday, January 12th**

(Make-Up Date January 26th)

**2:00 - 4:00 PM**

**Experience Pickleball for FREE**

Open to all ages & Levels





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## Zoning Committee Report

At the December Zoning meeting, the committee heard a variance:

V-18-361 1663 N Rock Springs Rd NE, denied 4-0-0 The MLPA Board affirmed the committee's vote, moving to deny 10-2-0 (for-against-abstain).

The next zoning meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 PM (usually zoning meets the first Tuesday of the month, but in January that is a holiday so it will convene on Jan. 8). The cases to be covered will be posted at [www.mlpa.org/zoning/](http://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.

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## News from Atlanta City Council District 6 Representative, Jennifer Ide

[Click](#) to view and sign up for the latest newsletter from our Atlanta City Council District 6 Representative, Jennifer Ide.



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## 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.

**Saturdays, 8:00-11:30 AM**, Morningside Farmers' Market, Morningside Village lot next to Nowak's. Now in its 23rd year, the market features totally organic produce grown by local farm families. Email [manager@morningsidemarket.com](mailto:manager@morningsidemarket.com) to get on the email list and see which vendors are coming.

**Wednesday, December 12, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM**, [Atlanta Permaculture Action Day with Appalachia Rising](#), Urban Sprout Farms, [2200 Reynolds Dr, SW, Atlanta, GA 30315](#). It integrates diverse cultures and age groups through environmentally sound land use practices, with an amazing lineup of artists, educators, and musicians.

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

**Saturday, December 22-Sunday, January 6**, APS Winter Holiday Break. Watch for kids in the neighborhood.

**Tuesday, January 8, 7:00 PM**, **MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting**, Morningside Presbyterian Church [1411 North Morningside](#). See [mlpa.org/zoning/](http://mlpa.org/zoning/) for the variances to be reviewed.

**Wednesday, January 9, 7:00 PM**, Morningside Book Club, discussing Tayari Jones, *An American Marriage*.

**Friday, January 11, 8:00 AM**, Morningside Elementary School Principal's Coffee Talk.

**Saturday, January 12, 2:00-4:00 PM**, Pickleball, Lenox-Wildwood Tennis Courts, [1760 Lenox Rd.](#), rain date, Saturday, January 26. See article above for details.

**Monday, January 14, 7:00 PM, MLPA Board Meeting**, Morningside Presbyterian Church, [1411 North Morningside](#). All neighbors are welcome.

**Friday, January 18, 8:45 AM**, Grady High School PTSA Parent/Principal Coffee.

**Friday, January 18, 9:15-10:15 AM**, Inman Middle School Principal's Coffee.

**Monday, January 21**, APS MLK Holiday, watch out for kids in the neighborhood.

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

**Tuesday, January 29, 7:00 PM**, MLPA Garden Club. Contact [Marti Breen](#) for details.

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This is your newsletter. Please send us your ideas for articles, interviews, and photos for inclusion. Send them to [communications@mlpa.org](mailto: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.*

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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