



MLPA News February, 2019

Morningside and North Georgia were blessed with warm, sunny weather as a reward for surviving a cold, wet January and Super Bowl. As we look forward to Spring, please take a moment to consider all this neighborhood means to you then [join us](#) or [renew](#) and volunteer to make our neighborhood even stronger in 2019.

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MLPA President, Ben Nemo, Looks to 2019

Here we are in the home stretch to pollen season! We are fresh off our second board meeting of the year and I wanted to highlight some advances as well as some community needs.

- 1) **Security, security, security.** As previously outlined we are focused on trying to help address the increase in car break-ins. Our security committee continues to push on the License Plate Reader and video surveillance front but has also come up with some other initiatives to explore, from enhanced lighting to improved patrol visibility to working with private property owners to deter the encampments in nearby preserves. Phyllis Wingo and Tosh Wolfe, our respective chairs of Neighborhood Watch and Security, are working to meet with our Zone Commander soon for enhanced partnership with APD on this front.
- 2) **Getting the Master Plan off the ground.** Our Vice President Sharla Borghorst has already assembled a committee of four MLPA board members and four residents to help us define the initiatives we should prioritize and then seek the neighborhood support to execute them. Much more to come!
- 3) **Friends groups for Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood Parks.** Just as the Master Plan depends on an active committee, so do our recreational parks. You may have already seen the transformation at Noble Park thanks to an active friends of the park group – and improvements to Sidney Marcus are imminent thanks to a similar support structure. We could sure use the same interest to help us create action plans for Sunken

Garden and Lenox-Wildwood. If you may be slightly interested in learning how we can replicate the success of Noble, please contact me at president@mlpa.org and I will put you in touch with our parks chair.

If you have followed our tally on neighborhood contributions to fund additional License Plate Reader cameras, we are up another ~\$4K to a total of \$16,000 in personal contributions. We are so incredibly grateful for this support!

Maybe LPR cameras aren't your thing? Perhaps you are more of a Concert in the Park aficionado. (PS thanks again to [Sonny Jones](#), [Dorsey Alston Realtors](#), who is returning as our presenting sponsor.) Our first concert of the season will be Friday, March 15 – just please consider that the MLPA ran these concerts at a \$9,000 deficit last year. If you are not yet an MLPA member but enjoy this series, bring those checkbooks!

Ben



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Security in Morningside and Street Lightning - We need your help!

The MLPA Security Committee is committed to improving the safety and security of our neighborhood. On Sunday February 10, 2019, the committee met to consider opportunities to enhance security and deter crime. As you all know, car break-ins are the most frequently occurring crime in the neighborhood. Moreover, the average number of reported car break-ins per month has increased on average from 8-11 per month in earlier years to 16-17 per month during 2017 and 2018. *MLPA wants to reverse this trend and reduce these levels!*

Reported Car Break-ins, Morningside/Lenox Park, 2009-2018

Year	Total # Reported Car Break-ins	Average # Reported Car Break-ins per Month
2009	122	10.2
2010	132	11.0
2011	121	10.1
2012	158	13.2
2013	150	12.5
2014	102	8.5
2015	121	10.1
2016	126	10.5

2017	192	16.0
2018	204	17.0

During our meeting, the Security Committee discussed a significant number of opportunities, including:

- The application of video surveillance by both private residents, the patrol, and APD
- Adequacy of lighting on residential streets and in parking for nearby businesses
- Increased visibility of the MLPA Security Patrol and security patrol best practices
- More frequent meetings and greater engagement with the Zone command and officers on the Morningside beats
- Deterring nuisance behaviors from urban campers in the Morningside Nature Preserve and nearby private properties (e.g., mail and porch package theft, sleeping on porches, using patio outlets to charge cell phones, etc.)
- Installation of signage, noting that “This neighborhood is under video surveillance 24/7”
- Enhanced messaging and more comprehensive suggestions beyond the Clean Car initiatives, which aim to eliminate opportunity for thieves (e.g., parking cars in driveway as opposed to on the street, getting folks to report break-ins and other crimes, etc.)

To make a difference, we need your help!! We at MLPA would like to hear from you regarding your perception about the adequacy of lighting on neighborhood streets and nearby businesses.

If you feel an area is underlit, or the lighting in the area is not operational, please send the following information to us:

- Your name and contact information
- Nearest Street Address or Section of Street
- Photographs are always helpful

Please send your suggestions to neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org and security@mlpa.org.



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Herbert Taylor Park Work Day

Neighbors and other volunteers spent February 9 restoring habitat and clearing invasive species in Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Nature Preserve. Our work is part of a state- and region-wide effort identified by the **Georgia Invasive Species Task Force** and the **Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council**.



They've categorized plants that pose threats to natural areas in Georgia. See the lists [here](#) and [here](#).

Special thanks to City Council Member Jennifer Ide, who supports so actively our parks and green spaces! Also thanks to all at the City of Atlanta Dept of Parks, who help clear our park trails.

Counting MLK Day with student volunteers from Emory, Georgia State, Morehouse, Spelman and UGA, this was our 5th work day in the past 5 months with 12 to 20 volunteers each time--a strong neighborhood effort!

The next volunteer work days will be the second Saturday of each month in March and April. For more information or to register to help, please contact [Will Hazleton](#) or [Frederic Bien](#).

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Sidney Marcus Park Cleanup Day

Hello Friends of Sidney Marcus Park,

We are off to a great start in 2019 with a successful planning and community building year in 2018. And to kick things off, we are executing the very first phase of park renovation with our Community Building Grant from Park Pride in the first quarter.

We are also leading off the year with approval of our Vision Plan from the the Department of Parks and Recreation. Now that we have the city behind our effort, along with the MLPA and NPU-F, 2019 will be a combination of plan refinement and initial implementation, but most importantly, fundraising.

In February, you will see the launch of our Capital Campaign for Sidney Marcus Park. One thing we can promise is that you will have many opportunities to help our park, both financially and through our volunteer efforts to improve and maintain the park. Like our efforts in 2018, we will also be applying for a larger grant from Park Pride in the fourth quarter, as well as reaching out to businesses, family philanthropic organizations and fundraising activities. This is our primary focus this year, so that we can realize our plans in 2019 and 2020.

Grab your favorite gardening tools - loppers, pruners, rakes, shovels, axes, pruning saws, work gloves - and meet us at the park on Saturday, March 2 at 9 am. We will hit it hard for a couple of hours and wind down by mid-day.

We recently met with city Park Maintenance and are happy to report strong support from them again this year. They are working to find us pine straw and our featured item this year ... waddles! These are "bats" of straw and other organic material that we nail down like a mat to stop the dirt from eroding and running down some of our worst areas. In particular, from the picnic tables to the playscape. They are a temporary solution but very effective at holding back the dirt in our problem areas.

We also plan to continue to clean up the ivy and vines growing on trees and climbing all over the place. And of course, general clean up and herding rocks back into their places.

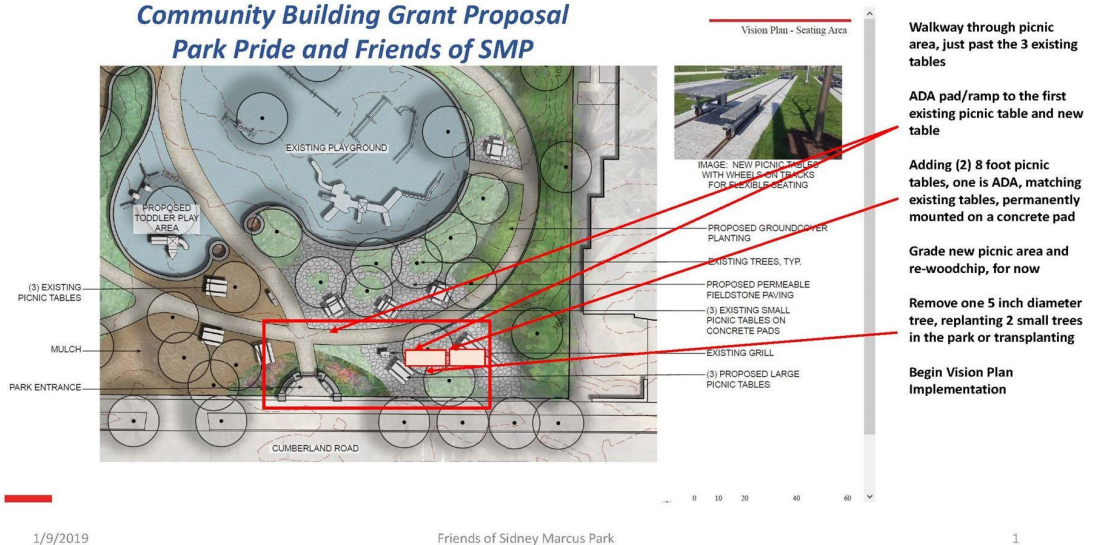
We are foregoing wood chips for now because we are implementing our Community Building Grant and adding new picnic tables to the upper area. That won't be completed until late April or early May. At that time, we will get wood chips from the city and have a mini-volunteer day.

Thanks everyone and see you soon!

John Pappas, Friends of Sidney Marcus Park

P.S This is also a great opportunity to talk with us and help us continue to evolve our ideas and plans for our park.

Sidney Marcus Park Vision Plan Picnic Area Detail Community Building Grant Proposal Park Pride and Friends of SMP



1/9/2019

Friends of Sidney Marcus Park

1

The plan above shows the portion of the park that will be improved with recent grant funding.

Speedy Trash Collection

Hi neighbors, I've watched the workers, men and women, riding the trucks and grabbing our dumpsters and hooking them on the truck, then rushing them back to the curb. I noticed that when the handle is facing in, toward the sidewalk, the worker has to spin it around and then pull it to the truck. I started leaving the curbie with the handle out toward the road and saw that the worker just grabbed it and pulled it with one motion. I was waiting when they came the next week and he came to grab mine, I asked, "Does it help to have the

handle out?". He said, "It sure does, thanks!" My point is that we can make it easier and faster for a garbage collector. By putting our handles out to the road, it makes the job faster and more efficient. Another benefit, the workers would get it, that we as a neighborhood thought about helping them do their work. It seems like a little thing, but it would be a very nice little thing. It's the kind of thing we could use more of in this country right now.

Fitz Randolph, Morningside neighbor



Half-Priced Wine at Varuni Napoli

Stop by Tuesday and Wednesday for half-priced bottles of Montepulciano and Pinot Grigio with a purchase of any artisan pizza.



Friends of Ponce Library Used Book Sale

Mark your calendars now for the used book sale sponsored by the Friends of Ponce Library to be held Saturday, March 2, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm and Sunday, March 3, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the Library, [980 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE](#). Come support the library while taking the opportunity to pick up some great titles at bargain prices. Choose from a variety of hardback and paperback books in all genres including fiction, non-fiction, biographies, history, science fiction, home and gardening, children's, and young adult. While you're at the sale, why not join the Friends of Ponce Library or renew your membership for a \$10 yearly fee. All membership and sale funds are used to purchase books and supplies for the branch as well as support children's and community programs hosted at the Library.



Thank you for supporting the Library System and our Ponce Library!



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Inman Middle School Moves Forward on the Path to 1:1!

Atlanta Public Schools recently received the amazing news that all 6th and 7th grade students will benefit from the T-Mobile Empower Ed program. **What does this mean for Inman?** Lenovo laptops will be issued to all 6th and 7th grade students in January. In addition, certain students will qualify for wireless "hotspots" to ensure the availability of WiFi service at home.

Thanks to donations from our Inman community that includes our Candler Park neighborhood, the **Inman Middle School Foundation** had already succeeded in funding over 400 Chromebooks that are already being used in classrooms every day across grades and subject areas. These devices, when added to the new T-Mobile laptops and existing Inman devices, mean that EVERY Inman student will have access to a dedicated device by February!

The Grady Cluster is aligned to support the College and Career Readiness platform for our students. These technology initiatives result in students gaining skills to best prepare them for their college and/or job

experiences. In the shorter term, increased exposure in the classroom helps increase students' comfort level for the spring Milestones assessments which are conducted on a laptop or Chromebook. Finally, this technology enables teachers across all grade levels to interact with their students in new and engaging ways while delivering **real-time, differentiated instruction** based on individual student needs and abilities.



Ms. Powe working with a student on a laptop

Tenecia Powe, Inman's Instruction Technology Specialist, said "The most powerful aspect of being one to one is the unique learning experiences that will now be offered to our students. They will be able to interact with content in a way that's just not possible with the traditional paper and pencil method. Skyping content experts, virtual field trips, and other digital activities take learning beyond the borders of our brick and mortar school. With effective and efficient integration, we will not only engage and instruct our students today, but we will also prepare them for future success in college and careers."

The success of this initiative will continue to require support in the areas of teacher professional learning, educational software, and technology updates/accessories. Continued financial contributions from our Inman families and community are therefore critical to maintaining the great momentum we've built so far. Please visit www.inmanfoundation.org to learn more on how you can support our Inman Eagles!

Meet the MLPA Board

The MLPA board meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at Morningside Presbyterian Church. We invite all our neighbors to come and meet us and participate in the work of our neighborhood. But we realize that with family, work, and other obligations, coming to the meetings is not realistic for all of us. Therefore, we are highlighting our board members in our "Meet the MLPA Board" column. This month we introduce Dr. Micah Coleman, Communications Co-Chair.

Micah is a Florida native and five-year resident of Morningside. After serving one year as MLPA Events Chair, he is now a Communications Co-Chair for 2019. Micah completed Bachelor and Doctoral degrees in combinatorial mathematics at the University of Florida and has served twenty years in the US Navy and Navy Reserve and ten years at Georgia Tech Research Institute, where he is currently a member of the Cyber research lab. He and his wife have enjoyed exploring Morningside's woods and parks with their two beagles, Jasmine and Daisy, and their son, Yoshi. They've been thrilled to call Morningside home, with its wonderful neighbors, restaurants, and parks. Micah looks forward to helping keep this a special neighborhood through communications, special events, and engaging all our neighbors to learn just what we want and how to

execute. Please stop and say hi if you see them out walking the beagle.



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MLPA Social News

MLPA Garden Club will meet on Tuesday, February 26 at 7:00 PM. The meetings are scheduled so that gardeners with daytime jobs can still enjoy the club. So if you're an avid gardener, or an aspiring gardener, come join us! Contact [Marti Breen](#) for more information and to join. Gardeners of all experience levels, genders, and interests are welcome--meetings are the last Tuesday of the month at 7 PM 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 [Sarah Chatel](#) to be added to the email announcements. In February, we will visit the [Wrecking Bar](#), where Morningside raised Matt Crutchfield serves as Chef de C. The restaurant serves locally sourced, organic, sustainably produced meals along with award winning cocktails and their own beer. Wrecking Bar beers have won or placed at several craft beer competitions, both regionally and nationally.

Make plans to join the group and share a meal with your neighbors on Sunday, Feb. 17 at 5:30 PM. Contact [Sarah Chatel](#) to reserve your spot.



Concerts in the Park Return for 2019

The ever popular Concerts in the Park series returns for 2019. Join this popular neighborhood event on Friday evenings for live music, food, booths, and movies under the stars. Each month our local celebrities Carter Rude & Friends will play your favorite cover songs, joined by a revolving cast of other musical talent. Stay tuned for the movies to be announced in next month's newsletter.



Once again, the concerts are free of charge thanks to [MLPA members](#) and our presenting sponsor, [Sonny Jones, Dorsey Alston Realtors](#). Go ahead and mark your calendars for the series--all concerts will be held on Friday nights at 6:00 PM on March 15, April 12, May 24, August 23, September 20, and October 18. Grab your friends, kids, and come hear some music under the trees at Sidney Marcus Park.

Pickleball Intro at Morningside-Lenox Tennis Courts

The Pickleball intro day was a great success. After a weather postponed start, Pickleball debuted at Lenox Wildwood Tennis Courts on Saturday, January 26th. Led by Certified Pickleball Coach, David Callihan, 30+ MLPA residents of all ages spent a couple of hours learning the game.

Many players had some experience and started playing on the two chalked courts. Newbies and less experienced players had a quick clinic with Coach David on basic technique, the rules, and strategy. Quickly, everyone was in a game.

What is Pickleball, you ask? It's the fastest growing sport in America! Played on a court 1/3 the size of a tennis court with paddles and what looks like a wiffle ball, the game has been around for over 50 years, since Joel Pritchard, Barney McCallum, and Bill Bell invented the game of pickleball one summer afternoon in 1965. Gradually spreading and with an aging population, the sport has become a favorite around the country.

The crowd on the 26th reflected the sport's growth, ranging in age from mid-20s to 70s and balanced between male and female. Truly a great cross section of the neighborhood.

The next chance to play Pickleball with your neighbors will be Saturday, February 23. See you there!



Zoning Committee Report

There were no variances heard for the February zoning meeting.

The next zoning meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 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](#) to view and sign up for the latest newsletter from our Atlanta City Council District 6 Representative, Jennifer Ide.

MLPA Events Listing

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, [CHARM Recycling](#), [1110 Hill Street, SE](#). Check the website before visiting for accepted items and 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 to get on the email list and see which vendors are coming.

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

Saturday, February 16-Sunday, February 24, APS Winter Break. Watch for youngsters in the neighborhood.

Sunday, February 17, 5:30 PM, MLPA Dining Club at the Wrecking Bar

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

Saturday, February 23, 9:00 AM, Morningside Nature Preserve work day.

Saturday, February 23, 9:00 AM, Pickleball at Morningside-Lenox Park Tennis Courts

Tuesday, February 26, 8:45 AM, Grady High School PTSA Parent/Principal Coffee

Tuesday, February 26, 7:00-8:30 PM, CINS 2019 Legislative Update, Grady High School Media Center, [929 Charles Allen Dr. NE](#)

Tuesday, February 26, 7:00 PM, MLPA Garden Club, contact [Marti Breen](#) for details and location.

Friday, March 1, 8:00 AM, Morningside Elementary School Principal's Coffee Talk

Saturday, March 2, 9:00 AM, Sidney Marcus Park Cleanup Day

Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 PM, **MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting**, Morningside Presbyterian Church [1411 North Morningside](#). See mlpa.org/zoning/ for the variances to be reviewed.

Saturday, March 9, 9:00 AM, Herbert Taylor Park Volunteer Workday

Monday, March 11, 7:00 PM, **MLPA Board Meeting**, Morningside Presbyterian Church, [1411 North Morningside](#). All neighbors are welcome.

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

Tuesday, March 26, 8:45 AM, Grady High School PTSA Parent/Principal Coffee

Tuesday, March 26, 7:00 PM, MLPA Garden Club, contact [Marti Breen](#) for details and location.

Saturday, April 6, 9:00 AM, Herbert Taylor Park Volunteer Workday

Friday, April 26, 9:15-10:15 AM, Inman Middle School Principal's Coffee

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