



MLPA News January, 2019

We hope everyone had a happy holiday season! In the New Year, a new board begins work, but we can't do it alone. There are a lot of great things happening in Morningside Lenox Park, the best neighborhood in Atlanta. Make a resolution today to [join us](#) and volunteer to make our neighborhood even stronger in 2019.

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MLPA President, Ben Nemo, Looks to 2019

Happy new year! I hope you all enjoyed your holiday – even if much wetter than usual. Here are the Top 3 things on my mind as we start the year ahead.

1) **2019 Priorities.** We had our first executive session last week and agreed on measurable objectives we believe we can influence around four key areas: increasing MLPA funding, advancing the Morningside Master Plan, reducing car break-ins, and ensuring recreational parks have active friends' groups and action plans. We will be updating the specific targets and tactics in our next board meeting and report back on next steps.

2) **Board Meetings.** If you've been to an MLPA board meeting, you know it involves a lot of discussion around zoning and variance requests that doesn't leave time for general issues that help the entire neighborhood. Going forward we are going to first address our progress and next steps on the priorities outlined above in hopes we will drive more community involvement and save any critical zoning discussions for the end that can't be solved outside of the meeting.

3) **Community Involvement.** We're excited to find ways to enroll more volunteers – whether advancing parks or advancing our master plan, progress will depend on new teams of neighbors who want to step up to contribute to areas they care about.

To that last point – I have been amazed at the way the community stepped up to our ask to help fund additional License Plate Reader cameras. In our last newsletter I expressed my gratitude to neighbors and businesses that had already responded. In just one month those tax-deductible contributions have risen from \$7,500 to **OVER \$12,000** and we are now just \$3,000 shy of buying another unit. These funds will go a long way toward a proven benefit and should make you proud that so many neighbors want to get involved in areas they are passionate about. I hope we can all take that spirit forward this year. (Not so gentle reminder: if you would like to help, [please use this form.](#))

Ben



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Sips for Security at The Family Dog, Friday, Feb. 8 at 8:00 PM

Mark your calendars and be sure to come to the Family Dog on February 8, 2019 from 8:00-11:00 pm. The Morningside Lenox Park Association (MLPA) is hosting a fund-raiser to place additional License Plate Reader (LPR*) cameras around the neighborhood. Ten percent of the alcohol sales this evening will go towards the LPR purchases.



At present, the neighborhood has 4 LPRs in service. These cameras are located on three of our neighborhood's major corridors, Lenox Road, Piedmont/Cheshire Bridge, and Monroe/Amsterdam. Three were paid for with monies from Renew Atlanta, and one was paid for with end-of-year monies from Councilman Alex Wan and the MLPA. The placement of the cameras was determined by the Atlanta Police Department.

Last year, our Councilman (Alex Wan) placed \$20,000 earmarked for LPRs in Morningside at the Atlanta Police Foundation. These monies are available to the neighborhood with [matching dollars](#).

The installation of three more LPRs would cover a substantial proportion of the traffic through our neighborhood. Planned additions include:

- E Morningside and Piedmont
- Johnson before the intersection with Zonolite
- Wellbourne and Cheshire Bridge

We need help from **you** and local businesses to make this happen. Please visit the Family Dog on February 8 to support the MLPA LPR Initiative and to make our neighborhood safer.

*LPRs: The Atlanta Police Department has a network of video surveillance and LPR cameras as part of its Operation Shield program, which is supported by the Atlanta Police Foundation. Passive devices, like cameras, are effective in identifying and

prosecuting perpetrators after the fact. Last year, for example, an LPR was instrumental in the arrest of the perpetrators of a car-jacking in Ansley Park. Ansley now has 7 LPRs at key entrances to the neighborhood. The LPRs cost approximately \$15,000 each, which includes three years of maintenance.



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Essential Yard Art for the Well Appointed Home

The dead of winter has descended on the neighborhood, making yard ornamentation more visible. Looking to make your yard stand out? There's no better way than to [join the MLPA](#) as a Security Plus member. Not only will you be supporting the work of the neighborhood, you'll fund the inimitable Morningside Security Patrol--and get a yard sign that clearly shows your house number for visitors and emergency response personnel.

The patrol, headed by Ric Vasquez, tirelessly patrols the neighborhood during peak times to help address crime in our area. Working closely with the MLPA Security and Neighborhood Watch committees, the patrol offers vacation watch for members, as well as benefiting even non-members with their presence.

So if you've been putting off becoming a contributor to the neighborhood's efforts to address security, now is the time to step up and act. Join now and choose Security Plus! Your yard will thank you--and so will all your neighbors.



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



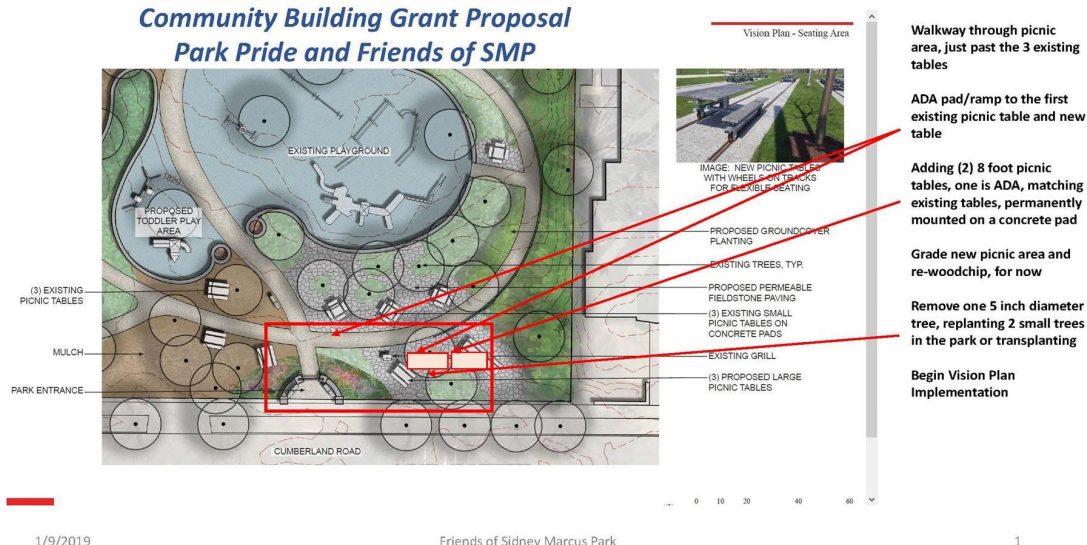
Sidney Marcus Park Secures Grant to Start Renovation

On January 2, 2019, Friends of Sidney Marcus Park received official notification that they had been granted funds from Park Pride to enhance the picnic area on the Cumberland Rd. side of the park and add ADA access to picnic area. This Community Building Grant (funded by The Home Depot Foundation) from Park Pride in the amount of \$7,000 will improve the existing picnic/grill area by adding new tables and providing a

Sidney Marcus Park Vision Plan Picnic Area Detail

Community Building Grant Proposal

Park Pride and Friends of SMP



The plan above shows the portion of the park that will be improved with the grant funding. The two new picnic tables will be permanently mounted (much like the ones there now) but will be longer to accommodate larger parties.

This improvement is the first step in a plan for renovation of the park that has been vetted with neighbors over the past year--see the September MLPA e-news for details. The grant will facilitate this needed improvement in early 2019. Thanks to support and direction from the City of Atlanta Parks and Recreation Department and Park Pride, along with key financial support from the MLPA and the friends of the park, we are able to start making the vision plan for Sidney Marcus Park a reality. "Park Pride has been a key partner for Friends of Sidney Marcus Park in the short year that we have been underway. The valuable assets that we have leveraged from Park Pride have provided much needed guidance, structure and support. Now with financial support from Park Pride, we can build momentum in 2019," said John Pappas, Friends of Sidney Marcus Park.

"The Friends of Sidney Marcus Park are dedicated to creating great parks," explained Tina Arnold, Park Pride's Director of Community Building responsible for the Friends of the Park Program. "I'm proud to work with such committed community leaders, selflessly working to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods for kids, families, seniors, and anyone who visits their park!"

2019 is a resource building year for Sidney Marcus Park --there will be a Capital Campaign, as well as continued volunteer work at the park, alongside Park Maintenance. With over 175 hours of community volunteer hours, we will continue to rally the community to make Sidney Marcus Park the premier park in Morningside Lenox Park. Look for our next volunteer clean-up day in early February. Follow us on Facebook at Friends of Sidney Marcus Park.

Park Pride is the only Atlanta-based nonprofit that engages communities to activate the power of parks. In the past, funding from Park Pride grants have helped the neighborhood improve Smith and Noble Parks. Park Pride, the MLPA, and members of our various Friends of the Park groups recognize that great parks increase the quality of life of residents by supporting healthy people, strong neighborhoods, vibrant business districts, a robust economy, and a healthy environment. Park Pride currently works with nearly 100 local Friends of the Park groups in the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County. In 2019, Park Pride celebrates its 30th Anniversary and continues its greenspace advocacy and education of both civic leaders and the general public about the benefits of parks. Learn more about Park Pride at www.parkpride.org.



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Renew Atlanta Prioritization Meeting, Wednesday, January 30, 6:30 PM at Grady High School

Please plan to attend the Renew Atlanta Prioritization Meeting on Wednesday, January 30 at Grady High School. The meeting starts at 6:30 as outlined in the flyer:

"The Renew Atlanta/TSPLOST programs, launched in 2015 and 2016, were created to help address the \$1B+ infrastructure backlog facing the city. Though the programs have made much progress to date delivering key projects across Atlanta, we face significant budget challenges as we move forward to complete the full initial program scope. Moreover, the cost to deliver the full scope of the initial program considerably exceeds the funding available from the Renew Atlanta Bond and anticipated TSPLOST revenues.

Thus, we are working diligently to prioritize and re-baseline the initial program lists to deliver the greatest impact to Atlanta's above-ground infrastructure and transportation network with the available funds. Through this re-baselining effort, we are dedicated to engaging all stakeholders to help inform the process in a transparent and meaningful way.

We would greatly appreciate your participation during our public engagement sessions." The sessions at Grady are at 6:30 PM, on Wednesday, January 30, and on Thursday, March 7. Contact [Kim Cobb](#), Traffic Chair, for more details.

Herbert Taylor Park Tree Planting

An earlier than expected delivery of 15 trees destined for Herbert Taylor Park meant neighbors only received



2 days advanced notice for a work day in Herbert Taylor Park. Despite that, a dozen folks came out to help and the weather gods smiled upon their efforts. As the photos show, not only did the group plant trees and do some clean-up, they had a great time together. It turns out that working on the neighborhood is a great way to spend a Saturday morning.

In addition to the planting, pruning, and general clean up, the group had an unexpected find as John Mayes (aka "eagle eyes"), showed the group a pottery shard. He found this artifact, proving the area was inhabited by Native Americans long before it became a treasured green space in Morningside Lenox Park.

The group geared up to improve the passive park in the fall, holding several work days that have attracted more than 40 neighbors! They are now scheduling additional workdays monthly. The next is on Saturday, February 2, 2019, 9 am to 12 noon. Going forward they will plan to make this a regular meeting for a while,

on the first Saturday of each month, so go ahead and mark your calendars. (If it rains, we'll go on the 2nd Saturday.)

The organizers are [Will Hazleton](#) and [Frederic Bien](#). Click on their name to send them an email so they can add you to their email list. They plan to send an announcement prior to the next date. Please invite your friends to join us.

City Council Member Jennifer Ide kindly came to support our work. Thanks, Jennifer!



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Friends of Ponce de Leon Library Present "Sneak Peek"

A second public meeting regarding the library renovation project is scheduled for Tuesday, January 29 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the library, [980 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE, 30306](#). Residents are invited to the library for a "sneak peek" at design plans. The Design/Build team will be on hand to answer questions and share plans for the renovation of the Ponce de Leon Library. Please attend and let your friends and neighbors know about this second public meeting. You can also share ideas about changes to the inside of the building with Branch Manager Anne Vagts and send specific comments to librarycomments@fultoncountyga.gov.

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



Trees Atlanta Leads Efforts to Improve Morningside Nature Preserve

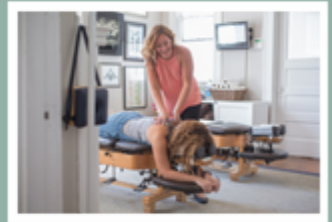
Over the last year, volunteers from within and outside the neighborhood have worked alongside Trees Atlanta to improve the Morningside Nature Preserve. They have spent hundreds of hours planting trees and removing invasive plants that are transported by birds, off-leash dogs, and other wildlife. Progress can be viewed by visiting the interactive map [here](#).

Winter is an ideal time to make a visible difference in the Nature Preserve. On the fourth Saturday of every month, plan on joining your neighbors and Trees Atlanta experts to remove unwanted species and ready the area for new plantings. This is a perfect opportunity for students or scouts that need service hours, so make it a family outing beginning on Saturday, January 26, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. Bring your work gloves, water, sunscreen, and wear protective clothing. We will meet at the Wellbourne entrance to the park at 9:00, but you are welcome to join us when you can--simply come into the park and look for the folks working!

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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 Sharla Borghorst, MLPA Vice-President.

Sharla and her partner Sue McHale have lived in Morningside for over 30 years. Both ended up in Atlanta after careers led them southward from homes in the Midwest.

Sharla has an extensive background in strategic planning and business operations. She has worked for multinational companies, domestically and abroad, in the pharmaceutical and consumer goods areas.

A Master Gardener, Sharla served for two years as President of the Central Fulton Master Gardeners and four years on its board. She was on the board of the Georgia Master Gardener Association and led development of their long-range strategic plan. Sharla has also volunteered with the Atlanta Botanical Garden and has been a volunteer with the Emory University Schwartz Center for several years.



MLPA Social News

Jill Cobb, head of the Morningside Book Club, hosted their first 2019 meeting on January 9th. Several repeat members and a few new faces met for a lively discussion of Tayari Jones' *An American Marriage*. Besides discussing the book, they also picked the next two books for March and May. 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 will meet on Tuesday, January 29 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--they 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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Pickleball Intro Now Scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2-4 PM

The Pickleball introduction was rained out but has been rescheduled. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather and come out to learn more about this new craze on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2-4 PM at Lenox-Wildwood Park!

Join David Callahan, Certified Pickleball Coach, and your neighbors for a fun afternoon to learn about Pickleball on the tennis courts.

It's 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!

Zoning Committee Report

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

V-18-386 1117 McLynn Dr, approved 5-0-0 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, February 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, January 18, 9:15-10:15 AM, Inman Middle School Principal's Coffee.

Saturday, January 19-Monday, January 21, APS Winter Holiday Break. Watch 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.

Friday, January 25, 8:45 AM, Grady High School PTSA Parent/Principal Coffee.

Saturday, January 26, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, Morningside Nature Preserve Work Day, see article above.

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

Tuesday, January 29, 8:00 AM, Morningside Elementary School Principal's Coffee Talk.

Tuesday, January 29, 6:30 PM, Friends of Ponce Library, renovation plans sneak peek, see article above for details.

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

Wednesday, January 30, 6:30 PM, Renew Atlanta Prioritization Meeting, Grady High School, see article for details.

Thursday, January 31, 7:00 PM, Grady High School Talent Show.

Saturday, February 2, 9:00 AM, Herbert Taylor Nature Preserve Work Day, see article above for details.

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

Friday, February 8, 8:00 PM, Sips for Security at The Family Dog, [1402 North Highland Ave](#), see article above.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

