



# MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK ASSOCIATION



## MLPA News May, 2019

Please take a moment to consider all this area means to you and [join us or renew](#) and volunteer to help maintain our wonderful neighborhood.

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### Note from MLPA President, Ben Nemo

Summer is around the corner – and in my top 3 – one topic in particular is getting hot:

- 1) **You're invited!** As mentioned last month we want to organize sessions with special topics to engage neighbors in those that interest them most (as well as make the meetings more social). Our next monthly meeting will be a **Special Security Meeting on June 10 at Nowak's**. Our security co-chairs Phyllis Wingo and Tosh Wolfe will briefly outline the initiatives the MLPA is developing, but the bulk of the time will be dedicated to APD leaders from both Zone 2 and Zone 6 to discuss the current security problems in our neighborhood and hear your questions and ideas. We will be in the back room starting at 7pm and will have some light snacks for those who attend (and of course a cash bar, which I may need based on the next bullet).
- 2) **Out, damn thieves.** If you follow our security newsletter, you saw we had a severe spike in reported car break-ins in April – at 26, it was in fact our highest level ever. Nothing could aggravate us more. This is clearly disappointing after reports of high-profile arrests in March of repeat offenders in addition to the actions we are taking in our neighborhood. We have asked APD for more insights about these incidences (as well as comparative data in adjacent neighborhoods) to educate the community on when/where they happened and redirect efforts like our security patrol times if necessary. We hope to have that information at our June meeting and needless to say we are also asking APD leadership and our City Councilmember for more patrols and encourage all neighbors to raise their voices. In the



meantime, please keep your eyes open at all times night and day – it seems like the latter is becoming just as much of a problem as overnight break-ins with anecdotes of landscapers being robbed in plain sight.

- 3) **If you fail to plan....** We have a vacancy on our board for someone to design events that will engage more of our community. If you've got that event planning gene and might be interested in learning more about how you can help, please email me at [president@mlpa.org](mailto:president@mlpa.org) or contact any other board member you may know.

The goal from our June security meeting will be to incorporate any feedback from the community in a follow-up working session with our APD zone leaders. Stay tuned for similar upcoming meetings concerning our family parks and the Master Plan. Hope you can join us in June!

Ben

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### Concert in the Park May 24



# CONCERTS IN THE PARK SIDNEY MARCUS PARK

Bring the kids, friends, and neighbors out to celebrate the kick off for summer with a family-friendly concert and picnic. Thanks to our presenting sponsor, Sonny Jones, Dorsey Alston Realtors, the concerts are free and open to all our neighborhood. Besides Carter Rude & Friends featuring John Moye and Lawson Feltman, we'll also hear music from [Francisco Vidal](#). The King of Pops will be there along with [Lil Bites Food Truck](#), promising menu choices for any appetite. As a special treat, [Nakeemi](#) will be on hand to paint faces for the festivities.

Come see the newly renovated picnic area, the first phase of the renovation of Sidney Marcus Park, and help start the summer in style in the best neighborhood in ATL, Morningside Lenox Park.

Concerts in the Park are FREE thanks to our generous series sponsor, [Sonny Jones, Dorsey Alston Realtors](#). [Join MLPA](#) to keep these family-friendly events open to Morningside Lenox Park and surrounding neighborhoods. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, contact [advertising@mlpa.org](mailto:advertising@mlpa.org).

#### Upcoming Dates

All concerts are held at Sidney Marcus Park, 786 Cumberland Rd. NE. In case of inclement weather, check our home page [mlpa.org](http://mlpa.org) and the [MLPA Facebook page](#) for up-to-date plans.

Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00PM

Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00PM

Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00PM

Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00PM



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## **N Highland Corridor Survey**

### **Take a Short Survey For a Chance to Eat Out on Us!**

*What do you love about Virginia Highland and Morningside? What needs work?*

*Take our 2019 Community Survey and make your opinion count.*

MLPA and VAHI board members, working with local business owners, recently formed the N Highland Corridor Alliance to help return the vibrancy to our four N Highland business nodes. As a first step, we need to understand your opinion on the good and the bad of these areas. Please visit and complete the [survey](#) to help gauge what needs to be done to make our neighborhoods even better.

The North Highland Alliance is a consortium of residents and businesses working to revitalize the North Highland Corridor (defined as North Highland Avenue from Ponce de Leon to University Avenue). The Alliance wants your views on the issues that define our neighborhoods' present and future. We'll use the results to help define priorities, identify emerging opportunities, and help revitalize the North Highland Corridor.

Many of you participated in the inaugural North Highland Mile last spring to benefit the North Highland Corridor through Morningside and Virginia-Highland. Now is your chance to answer a 5-6 minute survey to help improve this historic thoroughfare. Go to the [survey](#) to give us your opinions. Then at the end of the survey, there's a chance to give us your email address for a chance to win a gift certificate to eat out.

So don't delay--[click now](#) and give us your input--you might just win a chance to eat out on us! And even if you don't, you can help shape the future of our neighborhoods.



**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.



### Newly Formed Friends of Sunken Garden and Lenox Wildwood Parks

A new Friends of Park group is forming to address conditions in Sunken Garden and Lenox Wildwood parks, a stretch of recreational parks in the very center of our neighborhood. There are issues of flooding and drainage, ADA access, and general wear and tear. Sunken Garden in particular is heavily used by our neighborhood children.

With this new group, all four of our recreational parks now have a designated Friends of Park group. The Sidney Marcus FoP group has completed their visioning and is beginning their implementation. The Sunken Garden FoP group is just beginning its efforts. The focus will be on multiple areas, including erosion repair and drainage, better lighting, tennis court seating, and expansion of the Sunken Garden play equipment.

In addition, both of our Nature Preserves (Morningside Nature Preserve and Johnson Taylor Nature Preserve) have longstanding FoP groups very active in conservation and on-going preservation.

Thank you to all neighbors so generous with their time to our neighborhood greenspaces. If you would like to support any of our FoP groups, please contact [parks@mlpa.org](mailto:parks@mlpa.org).



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### Tour of Champion Trees in Herbert Taylor Park

To celebrate Park Prescription Day on April 28, the [Friends of Herbert Taylor Park](#) hosted ten neighbors for a guided tour of the park's thirteen Champion Trees.

See map with the trees marked: [Map of 13 Champion Trees](#) (click on the star to see details about each tree). Here is a spreadsheet of the trees with geo-coordinates: [Spreadsheet of 13 Champion Trees](#).

**Atlanta's CHAMPION TREES program:** <https://treesatlanta.org/resources/atlantas-champion-trees/>

Big Thanks to **Eli Dickerson** for starting and running this great tree program for several years now. Do you have a tree that might be a Champion? At the above page, you can nominate your tree for inspection.



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## Garden Club Plant Sale

### MLPA Garden Club First Annual Plant Sale, Saturday, May 18 at 9:00 AM

Want to make sure what you're planting will thrive in our neighborhood? The easiest way is to come to the MLPA Garden Club sale to get some plants that your neighbors have donated from their own gardens. Most of the plants on offer have been growing successfully in Morningside Lenox Park, so the chances they will thrive at your home are pretty good.

There are a wide variety of plants on sale, from Astilbe to Rubeckia, shade loving to sun basking, and everything in between. A few sample pics are below. Come see what's for sale on Saturday, May 18 at Sidney Marcus Park in the picnic area. Proceeds from the plant sale will go back into the MLPA Garden Club's adopted gardens.



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**Security News**

## Celebrate Our Achievements

Join the MLPA Board at Nowaks in the back room on Monday, June 10 at 7:00 PM for a special celebration. Come meet your neighbors over light appetizers (and a cash bar) and learn more about our efforts to improve security in the community.

In April the board voted to change up our meetings to engage neighbors to build a stronger community. Our hopes are that by increasing involvement in neighborhood-wide issues and activities (traffic, parks, communications, security, Master Plan, events, etc.) we can have a wider impact. As a start, we're planning several meetings throughout 2019 in more casual locations to address issues uncovered in the master planning process. The June meeting with a focus on security will be followed by an August 12 gathering about our parks.

On June 10, the agenda will include MLPA efforts to reduce crime in Morningside, celebrating the success of the fundraising for License Plate Reader (LPR) cameras for the neighborhood, and initiating the new Clean Car Campaign for Morningside Village. Special guests include officers from Zone 2 and the new command officers from Zone 6—and of course, there will be plenty of time to talk and get to know each other better.

Event: MLPA Special Security Meeting

Date: June 10, 2018

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Place: Nowak's Restaurant (back room)

1397 N Highland Ave NE

Be sure to come out and meet the Atlanta Police Department officers who work in Morningside. Please RSVP to [neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org](mailto:neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org). Stay tuned for the location for the next MLPA Special Parks Meeting.

Please send your comments or questions to [neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org](mailto:neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org) and [security@mlpa.org](mailto:security@mlpa.org).

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## Take a Hike in Morningside

Our neighborhood benefits from a number of wonderful greenspaces, but when you think about taking a hike, you probably think of heading up to the mountains, or out of town to the Chattahoochee. But did you know that there are several great hikes right here in the neighborhood?

During the 1970's, the Taylor family deeded parcels totalling 28 acres to the city that are now Herbert Taylor Park. As Llona Roach recorded at the dedication, "Atlanta City Council Members Mary Davis and Elaine Valentine along with Betsy C. Baker, Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, officially dedicated twenty-eight acres on Johnson Road near Beech Valley Road as the Herbert Taylor Park. Dedication of the land as the Herbert Taylor Park honors Mr. Taylor during his lifetime for his contributions to the growth and development of Atlanta into an international city. The City Council recently passed legislation naming the park after Mr. Taylor.

According to Mark Taylor, his father's lifetime is uniquely tied to the history of Atlanta's development. Mr. Taylor, a builder, developer and former pharmacist, was born in Atlanta before the turn of the century and is a lifelong resident. Mr. Taylor's development and building activities include the opening of the first all night drugstore in Atlanta, first and long time ownership of the historic Plaza Pharmacy on Ponce de Leon, and development of Mall West End. He also was a director of the firm which built the Hyatt Regency on Peachtree.

Mr. Taylor, known for his philanthropy, and his wife Esther were present for the dedication along with Mr. and Mrs. Mark Taylor and other interested citizens. The tract was donated in two parcels in 1972 and 1978 by Mr. Taylor and his son, Mark Taylor, as a gift to the city for passive recreational purposes. This virtually undisturbed land serves as a nature preserve in the community. The ceremony was held on Wednesday, April 22, 1987."

Today, neighbors can enjoy this legacy, using several trails that traverse the streams, forest, and wild areas of the park. The spring is an especially fine time to view the ephemeral species like trillium and may apples that dot the forest floor. It's a great way to get outdoors and enjoy the neighborhood--take a walk in the park.

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### **Meet the MLPA Board**

This year we are introducing members of the MLPA Board who serve our neighborhood. This month we feature MLPA veteran Marti Breen, one of our two Communications Co-Chairs.

After living in Morningside since 1995, Marti Breen became active with the parks committee, writing the grant to fund the renovation of Smith Park. She joined the MLPA board as Communications Chair in 2016. Breen pulled together a committee to assist in revamping the website, publishing a monthly e-newsletter, selling ads, and securing sponsorships. Most recently, she oversaw MLPA's rebranding and updating of the Security Patrol signs with the new logo and street numbers.

Marti & her husband, Cal, settled in Morningside after several moves early in their marriage. They raised two boys, both graduates of Morningside Elementary School and Eagle Scouts from Troop 455 at Haygood UMC. Besides serving on the board, she leads the MLPA Garden Club, dines with the Morningside Supper Club, belongs to the Morningside Book Club, and volunteers with the North Highland Alliance. When she's not in the neighborhood, she and Cal enjoy travel--this picture is from a recent trek in the Spanish Pyrenees.



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### **MLPA Social News**



## Dinner Club Visits Atmosphere Bistro

# Atmosphère

## FRENCH RESTAURANT

Almost three years ago, a post on Nextdoor started the Morningside Dinner Club. Jennifer Schweidel hoped to find a few other neighbors who wanted to meet at local restaurants to share a meal and get to know each other better. While the group has had some changes of leadership, the Dinner Club is going strong, drawing couples and singles who enjoy trying new restaurants and meeting new people.

Just a couple of weeks ago, fifteen neighbors spent an evening sampling french cuisine at Atmosphere on Piedmont. The group met in the back room to get to know each other better and share a fabulous meal, engaging in conversation ranging from the state of the neighborhood to the state of the world. If you want to meet more of your neighbors in a casual setting, join the Morningside Dinner Club. Contact [Sarah Chatel](#) for details on the next gathering on May 19.

## MLPA Garden Club Goes to the Birds

Actually, the Atlanta Audubon Society's Conservation Program Coordinator, Lillie Kline, joined us in April. She relayed the importance of maintaining a wildlife friendly corridor through the neighborhood to nourish both native birds and those just passing through.

Her presentation covered how to attract birds and other wildlife to our own backyards—and it turns out that it's not that difficult. The main thing is to have various sized native plants (trees, shrubs, plants, & grasses). She also encouraged us to leave some brush piles and even dead trees as these can provide food and shelter for our feathered friends. The reason that native plants are so important is that they provide nutrition to wildlife by fruiting at the correct times to support migration and breeding. Invasive plants and those imported from other climates/countries may not provide the food these creatures have come to expect in our area.

The Atlanta Audubon Society provides a wildlife sanctuary certification program and handy brochures for those interested in learning more about how to attract birds and beneficial insects.

In May, the club plans to tour a perennial garden and meet at a member's home for a presentation or tour. If you'd like to learn more or be added to our email list contact [Marti Breen](#).



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## Zoning Committee Report

At the May Zoning meeting, the committee heard one variance.

V-19-107 1697 North Pelham Rd. Approved 4-1-0

The next zoning meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 4. 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 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](mailto:manager@morningsidemarket.com) to get on the email list and see which vendors are coming.

**Every Fourth Saturday, 9:00 am - 12:00 PM**, [Morningside Nature Preserve Volunteer Day](#)

**Friday, May 17, 9:15-10:15 AM**, Inman Middle School Principal's Coffee

**Saturday, May 18, 9:00-11:30 AM**, MLPA Garden Club Plant Sale, Sidney Marcus Park

**Monday, May 20, 7:00 PM**, [NPU-F Meeting](#), Hillside Center, 1301 Monroe Dr. NE. All neighbors are invited and those 18+ have a vote.

**Friday, May 24**, last day of school for APS

**Friday, May 24, 6:00 PM**, Concerts in the Park, Sidney Marcus Park

**Monday, May 27**, Memorial Day

**Friday, May 31**, VaHi Summerfest kickoff - parade, dinner, and 7pm movie

**Saturday, June 1**, VaHi Summerfest 5k (8:00 AM), Tot Trot (9:30 AM), followed by Kids Fest, Artist Markets, and more

**Sunday, June 2, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM** Summerfest continues!

**Tuesday, June 4, 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.

**Monday, June 10, 7:00 PM**, MLPA Board Special Security Meeting, Nowak's. Open to the public.

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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