



MLPA News June, 2019

As you set out to enjoy the summer holidays, 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

Another month goes by...another top 3 to kick off our newsletter:

1) Note to self: hold MLPA meetings near a bar. We were beyond delighted to host more than 50 neighbors at our special security meeting last Monday. Huge thanks to Major Shaw (Zone 2) and Major Vazquez (Zone 6) for addressing questions and concerns and to the fine folks at Nowak's for hosting us. We were encouraged by many of the initiatives that you'll read more about below – not to mention the attendance level, so stay tuned for more meetings in neighborhood locales.

2) Speak (squeak?) up. Car break-ins have subsided since our April spike, but one message from the APD was notable: our neighborhood is too nice when it comes to calling 911 compared to others in Atlanta. Major Vazquez told us clearly that 911 calls are the best way for APD to know about suspicious activity so don't be afraid that you aren't certain if you see something you think needs attention. When it comes to City Hall the squeaky wheels get the police!

3) We want you! We will soon work on our board line-up for 2020. If you are interested in pitching in on our efforts around reducing car break-ins, improving family parks and advancing the Master Plan, we'll host an open house meeting in August or September so you can get to know a little more about us and how we approach our work to be as impactful as possible given we all have busy lives.

As always please email me at president@mlpa.org if you ever have feedback or questions. Hope you are enjoying summer!



Concerts in the Park Take the Summer Off



CONCERTS IN THE PARK SIDNEY MARCUS PARK

After several outstanding, well-attended Spring events, the Concerts in the Park will take a summer vacation, just like this editorial staff. Thanks to all who came out to the Celebration of Spring concert in May to enjoy live music from Carter Rude & Friends featuring John Moye and Lawson Feltman and from [Francisco Vidal](#). Thanks also to the King of Pops, [Lil Bites Food Truck](#), [Nakeemi](#) the face painter, and [Atlanta Dog Rescue Cafe](#). We look forward to welcoming our neighbors back in August for the fall series of concerts. Keep an eye out for ongoing improvements to Sidney Marcus Park as they leverage their capital campaign to make this neighborhood jewel even better.

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.

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 and the [MLPA Facebook page](#) for up-to-date plans.

Friday, August 23rd, 6:00PM

Friday, September 20th, 6:00PM

Friday, October 18th, 6:00PM





Master Plan Implementation Update

Over the course of 2017 and 2018, a Master Plan Steering Committee working in conjunction with a consultant team obtained significant community input. With the feedback garnered, the [Morningside Lenox Park Master Plan](#) was created. The purpose of the Master Plan was to address challenges facing the community and develop a strategic framework to ensure Morningside Lenox Park continues to grow in ways that reflect the neighborhood's values and character. The Master Plan documents opportunities within the community that will enhance quality of life in the neighborhood, and provides a vision for the next 20 years.

The plan was approved by the Atlanta City Council in the fall of 2018. The approval and adoption of the Master Plan, however, is just the beginning of our work. A Master Plan Implementation Steering Committee was set up earlier this year and is comprised of Morningside Lenox Park neighbors (MLPA Board members and others) representing the four quadrants of our neighborhood. The committee provides a wide range of experience:

- * City government and neighborhood civic group involvement
- * Traffic calming and pedestrian safety initiatives
- * Recreational parks and greenspace improvements

Most importantly, though, is a dedication to helping make our neighborhood better than ever.

This committee is currently working to prioritize Master Plan recommendations that are proposed for completion within 36 months. Over 100 projects were recommended in the Master Plan. Most are in the area of "Transportation" (traffic calming mechanisms, pedestrian safety initiatives, bike/ped network, public transportation etc.) but there are also many in "Land Use" (zoning for density, single-family height and design standards), "Open Space" (parks and greenspace), and "Public Safety and Education" (improved street lighting, education on environmentally-friendly landscape practices). So, there is no absence of good projects to consider!

In order to prioritize projects, the committee is considering: 1) consensus points from public forums and open houses, and 2) project impact (high to low) vs effort (time and money). After the first set of projects are selected community involvement will be sought to help execute them. Some may be easy to achieve while others are more challenging and will necessitate the involvement of many agencies or partners. Most will involve securing funding sources.

The [Morningside Lenox Park Master Plan](#) is available online at the [mlpa.org](#) website for anyone who wishes to read the full plan. Stay tuned for more information to come and keep in mind that community involvement will be sought to make these projects a reality!



Noble Park Receives Award of Excellence

The Atlanta Urban Design Commission (UDC) selected Noble Park as a recipient of one of its 2019 Awards of Excellence at its 42nd Annual Design Awards Ceremony on May 14th, 2019. Through these annual awards, the UDC honors projects, programs, and organizations that have significantly contributed to the enhancement of the city of Atlanta's built environment, the preservation of its physical heritage, and the compatible balance between the old and the new. The recent Noble Park renovation project was recognized by the UDC with an Award of Excellence for community engagement.

In 2017, the Friends of Noble Park embarked on an extensive planning and community engagement effort to revitalize, restore, and enhance Noble Park. The culmination of these efforts resulted in a design which was supported and endorsed by the neighborhood, the Morningside Lenox Park Association, the City of Atlanta's Department of Parks and Recreation, and NPU-F. The design was also supported financially; the Friends of Noble Park raised over \$265,000 in six months, with more than half of all Johnson Estates households contributing to the park. Several volunteer community work days were held to prep work for construction. Work was completed in September 2018 and celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The results have been a park that is cherished and enjoyed year-round. The design enhances and accentuates the character of the park, the neighborhood and community.





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.



Security News

Neighbors Turn Out for Special Security Meeting

Over 50 people joined our recent June 10 board meeting at Nowak's in the back room for a special celebration. The neighborhood gathered to hear about existing and new efforts by the MLPA to reduce car break-ins in Morningside. The Commanders for the Atlanta Police Department Zones 2 (Major Shaw) and 6 (Major Vazquez) were there to answer questions about crime and address the recent change in zones. Major Vazquez indicated that there were now two additional patrols policing the neighborhood, including a specific traffic enforcement patrol that is designed to be more visible within the community to both neighbors and potential offenders. This is also due in part to the recent hiring of five new officers in Zone 6. He reiterated the need for all of us to call 911 if we ever suspect bad activity in the neighborhood. Most of the crimes in our neighborhood happen in the overnight hours so if you should ever have potential information about a particular crime incident (for example, home security camera videos, serial numbers of stolen property, photographs of items stolen), you can email these to zone6cid@atlantaga.gov.



Be sure to include the address, the date of the crime, and the incident number if you have it. Such info may be helpful to the police for solving a crime.

The Board also thanked the neighborhood for its incredible generosity to raise money for License Plate Reader (LPR) cameras. Over 150 families and 13 businesses donated dollars to match the \$20,000 placed at the Atlanta Police Foundation for LPRs by Alex Wan when he was Councilman. (Alex was there to celebrate with us!) The neighborhood now has five cameras integrated into the Atlanta Police Department video integration center, two more that will be installed imminently, and funding for another two. The Board worked with the Atlanta Police Foundation to get the price per camera lowered from \$15,000 to \$10,700.

A new Clean Car Campaign has also been initiated for Morningside Village. The best prevention against car break-ins is moving all articles in the car out of sight. Be sure to look for our new stickers and thank the businesses who were willing to help us with this effort.

The MLPA board was so grateful to see so many people show up to support the neighborhood. This was the first of several meetings where the Board will try to engage more of you by meeting in a more casual setting. Owner Blaiss Nowak generously opened the special events room in his restaurant for the meeting. Please show your appreciation by visiting his terrific restaurant and stay tuned for other similar meetings soon!



Please send your comments or questions to neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org and security@mlpa.org.



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Morningside Wine Walk

Come out and celebrate the final day of spring and the beginning of summer with your neighbors and help support our local small businesses. Morningside Wine Walk returns for a third fun event, hosted by the [Morningside Business Association](#).

- 10+ wine tasting stations with dual tastings at each location
- Each participant will receive a souvenir glass and a map.
- All proceeds will benefit the Morningside Business Association to promote future events.



Thursday, June 20th 5:30 - 7:30pm



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Upper Peachtree Creek Stormwater Roadshow

The Department of Watershed Management is conducting a [stormwater education and outreach program](#) throughout the City, with seven interactive open house events, each focused on a single watershed in order to educate the public and collect stormwater information specific to each watershed. The Department wants to hear directly from the residents, businesses, and organizations in each watershed about stormwater issues, including new or recurring stormwater issues and solutions for the future. Thursday, June 20, the DWM will host a program focused on Upper Peachtree Creek, which includes the South Fork running right through Morningside.

Come and let your voice be heard! The DWM stormwater team and community partners will be on hand to discuss their programs, and listen to your community's goal, priorities, and feedback. They want to hear from YOU about the impact of stormwater in your community.

Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Todd Gleaton, Public Information Officer at 404-884-5190 or email, tgleaton@atlantaga.gov.

Thursday, June 20, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Morningside Presbyterian Church 1411 N Morningside

Morningside Garden Club Plant Sale and Field Trip

May was a busy month for the MLPA Garden Club! Besides a very successful inaugural Plant Sale, we had two great opportunities to learn more about growing perennials in our community.

We had a field trip to a master gardener's yard in Pine Hills. The garden employed a mixture of perennials, vegetables, and annuals with an emphasis on plants that are natives of Georgia and encourage pollinators. For the regular May meeting, Danny Morris, intern with the Central Fulton Master Gardeners, was the presenter expounding the benefits of landscaping with perennials, highlighting those that grow well in Morningside. He also reminded us that while the Georgia Gold Medal Plant program ended in 2017, their [lists](#) are a great resource for area gardeners.



Over the summer the MLPA Garden Club plans to take more field trips. Contact [Marti Breen](#) to be added to our email notifications. Thanks to all the neighbors that made the sale a huge success and helped plant some 'leftovers' around Sidney Marcus. The funds raised will go toward our adopted gardens program, helping beautify some of our communal green spaces.

MLPA Social News

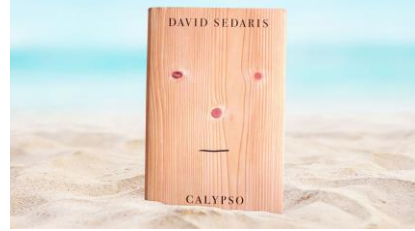
Morningside Supper Club

Once a month a group of neighbors gets together for an adults dinner at a member's home or a local restaurant. The group is a great way to meet more of your neighbors and make new friends, right here in our neighborhood. Last month the group met at Tony & Kris Barbagallo's home, where they enjoyed a gorgeous Spring evening. Learn more about the group and future plans by contacting [Sarah Chatel](#).



Morningside Book Club

Every other month the book club gathers to discuss fiction and non-fiction selections voted on by club members. The next meeting is Thursday, August 1 at 7:00 PM when the book covered will be *Calypso* by David Sedaris. Both men and women are welcome. Contact [Jill Cobb](#) to learn more.



Zoning Committee Report

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

V-19-122 1159 Cumberland Rd. NE Approved 3-0-0

The next zoning meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, July 2. 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.

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

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.

Thursday, June 20, 5:30 - 7:30 PM, [Morningside Wine Walk](#)

Thursday, June 20, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, [Upper Peachtree Creek Stormwater Roadshow](#), Morningside Presbyterian Church 1411 North Morningside

Tuesday, July 2, 7:00 PM, MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church 1411 North Morningside. See mlpa.org/zoning/ for the variances to be reviewed.

Tuesday, June 25, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, [Atlanta Beltline Meeting](#), Rock Spring Presbyterian Church, 1824 Piedmont Ave. Come hear the latest updates on the Northeast Trail, which will run between Monroe Drive and the Lindbergh MARTA station.

Thursday, July 4, Independence Day

Tuesday, July 2, 7:00 PM, MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church 1411 North Morningside. See mlpa.org/zoning/ for the variances to be reviewed.

Monday, July 15, 7:00 PM, MLPA Board Meeting

Monday, July 15, 7:00 PM, [NPU-F Meeting](#), Hillside Center, 1301 Monroe Dr. NE. All neighbors are invited and those 18+ have a vote.

Friday, August 23, 6:00 PM, Concerts in the Park, Sidney Marcus Park

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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