



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



MLPA News August, 2019

School has begun and as we settle into a new year of programming, 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

Happy August – we are not only fresh from the first day of school but our August board meeting – and as always I like to share updates on what and how we are doing.

1) **Morningside Village.** If you are reading Nextdoor then you know that lately there have been brazen thieves breaking into cars in full sight of residents frequenting the businesses of our core business district. The MLPA is dedicated to reducing such break-ins throughout the neighborhood and while we can direct our own security patrol down Highland Avenue, the patrol cannot monitor the private lots. The statistics support the fact this area is increasingly vulnerable – year to date there have been 16 reported incidences, compared to only 5 for all of 2018. We are naturally disturbed by this activity and the potential it could erode the sense of safety we all take for granted in this highly trafficked public space. We have been in touch with both Council Member Ide and Zone 6 Commander Vazquez, but as stated in previous communications if you are frustrated please use your voice – not only with city officials but with the businesses in that district that could work more closely together to provide additional security, install more cameras, etc. And as always don't forget 911 if you see something remotely suspicious.

2) **Master Plan.** The MLPA created a steering committee comprised of both board members and neighbors to help prioritize / advance the work identified in last year's approved master plan for the neighborhood. We heard from the committee in our August meeting and they have completed their assessment of projects that they feel are high in common benefit but low in complexity centered on safety around three themes: safer walking, safer biking, and safer speed limits. Stay tuned for additional details in upcoming communications as we look to get your feedback on proposed priorities and form teams around them.

3) **Shout Out!** Behind the board is an army of volunteers giving their time and energy to the neighborhood. A huge thanks to Sue McHale for her help cleaning up our membership database and coordinating member signage as well as Frederic Bien, Sonny Jones, Jeff Kidwell, Aurelie de Malibrant, Vern McCarty and Pegah Zamani for joining other MLPA board members on the Master Plan Steering Committee to advance that initiative.

As fall arrives we go into recruiting mode for people to join the board next year to help us with our objectives across security, parks, master plan and funding. If you have followed our work this year and are interested in learning more about what a board position entails, please reach out to me. As you can see the board does not operate alone – we just try to influence and accelerate with a little elbow grease, and as you have read, we have the help of many volunteers. In our upcoming September meeting we plan to discuss how to better support parks initiatives described in last month's newsletter and review our budget versus our 2019 projections.

As always please email me at president@mlpa.org if you ever have feedback or questions.

Ben

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Ponce Library Renovation

The Fulton County Library System has proposed changes to the branch located at 980 Ponce de Leon Avenue in Atlanta. While internal improvements to address changing uses of modern libraries are very desirable and have our support, external changes would result in the destruction of substantial healthy tree canopy and unsafe conditions for patrons of the library. The stated goals of these external changes include adding more parking and installing a drive-thru book drop. Click on the link to a petition developed by concerned neighborhood residents to

learn more and sign the petition which will be delivered to our Fulton County Board of Commissioners. <http://chnq.it/SN292CFXZx>

This library is used by all of our communities. If after reading the petition, you share this concern, please pass on this information through your network channels to quickly build support to slow this project down.



Morningside Restaurant Month for Sidney Marcus Park

September is Morningside Restaurant Month for Sidney Marcus Park. We are teaming up with our neighborhood restaurants to help raise funds for the park. In September you will have five opportunities to donate to Sidney Marcus Park by eating and drinking at our participating neighborhood restaurants!

Our partners - Doc Chey's, DBA Barbecue, Whiskey Bird - will donate 15% of your eating and drinking bill to the park. And that includes take-out orders (not delivery app orders) on the five days as well! Either way, dine-in or take-out, you need to mention Friends of Sidney Marcus Park to automatically donate 15% of your bill to the park.

And what terrific options and opportunities you have!

Tuesday, September 10th Dinner @ [Doc Chey's](#)

Tuesday, September 17th Dinner @ [DBA Barbeque](#)

Wednesday-Friday, September 25th-27th Lunch @ [Whiskey Bird](#)

Can't Make it? Please consider a [donation](#) to the Park.



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Security Report

Car Break-ins in Morningside Village

As discussed extensively on NextDoor, there have been multiple car break-ins reported in Morningside Village during the last few weeks. The MLPA is working with the Morningside Security Patrol, the Zone 6 command of the Atlanta Police Department, and local businesses to address this security concern. We visited the Zone 6 precinct this month to discuss the incidents in Morningside Village and were informed that investigations are in progress.

Please be aware of your surroundings when you are visiting the restaurants and bars in the area, even in the early evening when it is still light outside. Clear all items from view in your cars. Do not hesitate to call 911 immediately if you see something suspicious. Do not approach possible suspects on your own.

Last week's Be On the Look Out (BOLO) was for a light-colored car with Maryland license plates. A Camry with Maryland tags was observed driving slowly on neighborhood streets around 10:00 PM. Please call 911 if you see this car.

LOOK OUT & LOCK UP!

PLEASE REMOVE ALL VALUABLES FROM YOUR CAR!



Clean Car Campaign



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK
ASSOCIATION

Updates from Atlanta Police Department (APD)

Morningside is monitored by two police zones. APD Beats 212 in Zone 2 and 613 in Zone 6 handle all crimes in our neighborhood, which according to the city, includes our immediate area plus the town house neighborhoods and businesses on the north side of Cheshire Bridge.

Piedmont and Cheshire Bridge form part of the border for Beats 212 and 613. Crimes along these streets by the officer on patrol who closest to the incident, regardless of zone.

Currently, APD Zone 6 has 2 cars patrolling in Morningside, plus a traffic cop.

The precinct for Zone 6 is located at 2025 Hosea Williams Drive NE in Kirkwood. The precinct telephone number is 404 371 5002.

The precinct for Zone 2 is located at 3120 Maple Drive in Buckhead. The precinct telephone number is 404 848 7231.

Email address for videos and other crime information

If you have new information about a particular crime incident (for example, camera videos, serial numbers of stolen property, photographs of stolen items), you can email these to the police at zone6cid@atlantaga.gov; be sure to include the address the incident, the date of the crime, and the incident number if you have it. Such information may be helpful to the police for solving a crime.

Thanks to the 349 residents of Morningside Lenox Park and Virginia-Highland that responded to the survey to help with visioning for North Highland through the two neighborhoods. As advertised, everyone that took the time to provide input was entered into a drawing for a dining gift card. Congratulations to Lori Peterson, the winner. The survey found there is a profound sense of community in our neighborhoods, with more than 72% being very likely or extremely likely to recommend living or working in Morningside/Virginia-Highland to a friend. Only 6% were very unlikely or not at all likely to make that recommendation. The top reasons noted for choosing to live in the area are that it is a walkable and bikeable; there are lots of dining options; there are great parks and open

spaces; and the area is family friendly and a great place to raise kids. Other reasons cited were the uniqueness, history, and safety of the area.

We were particularly interested in finding how our residents currently interact with the North Highland Corridor and their desires for improvements. Now most folks frequent the area for its dining options, both at dinner and lunch, with dinner having a higher response rate. Fewer tend to shop in its retail establishments and the use of professional services is very low with 74% claiming they never use such services along the corridor. When asked why they didn't use the corridor more often, the main reason mentioned was little variety in dining/retail options (30%). Other reasons that figure in are lack of parking and traffic.

When queried about the types of businesses they'd like to see in the future, restaurants (73%) was closely followed by grocers (68%). It appears that most residents stick pretty close to home for their dining/shopping with almost half claiming to shop in Morningside/Virginia-Highland once a week or more. Other areas frequented were Ansley Mall, the Beltline, and Midtown.

As far as vision goes, residents cited Safety, Schools, and the Business District as the most important issues facing the area. An open-ended question that asked about their vision for the neighborhood 5 years from now also pointed to the importance of transportation, the business district, and housing rose to the top. Transportation concerns include traffic and ways to mitigate its impact on our neighborhoods. There is a common desire to see the area improve in terms of walk- and bike-ability. Respondents wish to see fewer vacant storefronts and more variety in our shopping/dining districts. Housing concerns are focused around affordability and the influx of McMansions.

The North Highland Corridor Alliance again thanks all who took the time to respond. You can rest assured that your comments will help us as we work to improve the vital neighborhood artery.



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The advertisement features a dark grey background. On the left is a blue house icon with a pink Wi-Fi signal symbol inside. On the right is a pink silhouette of a woman with a Wi-Fi signal symbol above her head. The text is centered in white and pink.

MLPA Social News

Morningside Lenox Park has several active groups that welcome new and old members hoping to make connections with like-minded individuals. See below for some of them:

The **Morningside Book Club** is a co-ed group that reads and discusses books every other month. We meet in the evenings so that working folks can join in--our most recent gathering centered on David Sedaris' *Calypso*. The club uses a Facebook group and Book Movement to organize our meetings. Contact Jill Cobb, jillacobb@gmail.com, to learn more.

MLPA Garden Club has been on hiatus over the hot summer. We plan to get back in the swing in September with a meeting on Tuesday, September 24. If you would like to learn more, contact Marti Breen, mbreen@c3marketing.com.

The **Morningside Supper Club** is going strong, most recently dining at Truva where they had two tables of neighbors eager to connect over great food and drink. If that sounds like you, contact Sarah Chatel, sarah@chatelgroup.com.

There is also a small group of singers & players of acoustic instruments that get together to jam in Morningside. If you'd like to learn more, contact volunteer@mlpa.org. Or if you have an interest not currently shown, consider starting a group of your own. Lastly, you can always meet neighbors by volunteering with the Morningside Lenox

Park Association (MLPA). Write volunteer@mlpa.org with your interest in the subject line and we will be happy to help you spread the word and find like-minded neighbors.



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.



Ring Doorbell Special Deal for Morningside

Ring is offering a great deal on their doorbells and other devices if we can gather a group of neighbors to buy in bulk (15+). These devices can significantly impact the security of each household as well as Morningside as a whole. Dates will be determined in September. Please contact communications@mlpa.org if you are interested.

Program

Bulk Order: Minimum 15 devices (only on the selected 8 devices).

10-Day Promotion: Sample Flyer Attached

- Friday (of your choosing) - Sunday. Only can be done once every 6 months.
- Geo-capped up to 3 Zip Codes
- Promo code can only be used once per person.

Products

[Ring Video Doorbell 2: World's Most Popular Doorbell](#)

[Ring Door View Cam: A New Point of View](#)

[Ring Spotlight Cam Introduction | Smart Home Security with Motion Light](#)

[Ring Floodlight Cam: The Evolution of Outdoor Security](#)

[The All-New Ring Stick Up Cam: Smart Security Inside or Out](#)

[Ring Alarm: A Smarter Way to Protect Your Property](#)

Neighbors

[Neighbors App: The New Neighborhood Watch](#)

[How the Neighbors App Helped Local Police Make an Arrest](#)

[How A Dallas Community Used the Neighbors App to Stop a Serial Thief](#)

Protection Plan

<https://shop.ring.com/pages/protect-plans>

Zoning Committee Report

At the August meeting, the zoning committee reviewed the following variances.

V-19-157 1797 Charline Ave NE Approved 3-0-0

V-19-176 1689 Noble Dr. NE Approved 3-0-0

The next zoning meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 3. 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](#)

Friday-Sunday, August 30-September 1, [Decatur Book Festival](#)

Saturday-Monday, August 31-September 2, [Dragon Con](#)

Tuesday, September 3, 7:00 PM, MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church 1411 North Morningside. See mlpa.org/zoning/ for the variances to be reviewed.

Monday, September 9, 7:00 PM, MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, September 10th, Dinner @ [Doc Chey's](#) in support of Sidney Marcus Park

Monday, September 16, 7:00 PM, [NPU-F Meeting](#), Hillside Center, 1301 Monroe Dr. NE. All neighbors are invited and those 18+ have a vote.

Tuesday, September 17th, Dinner @ [DBA Barbeque](#) in support of Sidney Marcus Park

Friday, September 20, 8:00 AM, Morningside Elementary School Principal Coffee

Friday, September 20, 9:15 AM, Inman Middle School Principal Coffee

Friday, September 20, 6:00 PM, Concerts in the Park, Sidney Marcus Park

Saturday, September 21, 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM, [Atlanta Beltline Lantern Parade](#)

Wednesday-Friday, September 25th-27th, Lunch @ [Whiskey Bird](#) in support of Sidney Marcus Park

Sunday, September 29, 6:00 PM, Supper Club, neighbor's home TBD

Friday, October 18, 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