



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



MLPA News October, 2019

Cool evenings have finally returned 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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President's Note

If you're like me, you're looking at the calendar and wondering how it could almost be Halloween – but it certainly brings out the best in this neighborhood and I love seeing the decorations go up! In the meantime the board has been trying to serve more treats than tricks.

- 1) **Master Plan Meeting.** We hosted over 40 people at our Meet & Greet and Master Plan information session last Monday and almost 20 signed up to volunteer for the next stages of planning around the themes of safer walking, safer biking, and safer speed limits. We will continue to hold special sessions on deep dive topics and appreciate the community coming out to hear more and express feedback and interest.
- 2) **Security Part 1.** We were glad to see residential car break-ins decline in Q3 with 13 reported cases (vs. 25 in Q2 2019). We were also glad to see commercial break-ins decline to 11 in September from our August spike of 21. If you have been at Morningside Village lately you have likely seen patrols helping to address this issue and we hope to see further declines.
- 3) **Security Part 2.** Like many of you we have been concerned about some of the issues arising from homeless camps in Morningside Nature Preserve (notably a fire that occurred several weeks ago). The MLPA is coordinating a new coalition with neighboring associations (Linridge Martin Manor, Pine Hills, LaVista Park and others) in hopes we can raise our collective voice with government agencies to help us maximize safety for both the surrounding neighborhoods as well as the people that build these camps. More to come.

Runner up. Don't forget about **311!** Have you called lately to report a pothole, a crumbling curb, or overgrown landscaping? This service works when we use it, and there is additional strength in numbers!

It's not too late to express interest in joining the board in 2020 – but you only have another week. We will vote on a new slate of members at our next board meeting on Monday, November 11. As always please email me at president@mlpa.org if you ever have feedback or questions.

Ben

MLPA CONCERT IN THE PARK | FRIDAY, OCT 18

FREE HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN FOR THE FIRST 75 FAMILIES.



Courtesy of your neighbor & presenting sponsor



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MLPA Needs You!

Our wonderful neighborhood relies on the time and efforts of our volunteers.

MLPA has formed a nominating committee to produce a slate for the 2020 board. Please contact communications@mlpa.org if you are interested in serving as a member of the MLPA board or a subcommittee. We are in particular need of an Events Chair, a fun opportunity to help bring together our neighbors and further celebrate our area.



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Hillside Neighborhood Low Country Boil

Hillside Hospital invites the neighborhood to their [Low Country Boil](#) event to raise funds as well as mental health awareness Saturday, October 26. Food, beer, and wine will be provided. Even better, as they've already met their fundraising goals, they are offering complimentary tickets to Morningside residents.

An Atlanta institution for over 130 years, Hillside is Georgia's leading mental health treatment center for children, based at the heart of the Morningside Community. They provide a continuum of mental health services for children and adolescents in crisis.

This event is strictly 21 and up. Visitors can use the entrance at 690 Courtenay Dr NE. For complimentary tickets (first-come first-serve), email [Gabriella Marvin](mailto:Gabriella.Marvin).



Morningside Sidewalk Repair Survey

The MLPA Master Plan Implementation Committee has been working hard to identify first projects that can be completed in the next 36 months (as specified in the plan). Emphasis has been on safety – safe walking, safe biking, and reduced speed limits.

October is your last chance to complete our brief [survey](#). We value your feedback to help keep our neighborhood safe and liveable.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MLPAsidewalk>



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.



Parks

Sidney Marcus

We continue to work on our capital campaign as the year comes to an end. At Friday's concert, neighbors were able to again enjoy the initial steps that have been taken this year to reduce erosion, build up the area surrounding the play area, and install new ADA-compliant picnic tables and paving.

Our fall Volunteer Cleanup Day is planned for Saturday, November 16, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Please consider coming out on Saturday, bring your favorite gardening tool and your work gloves. We plan to spread woodchips, clean up the park, trim, remove kudzu, and install additional waddles if we can get them.



Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood

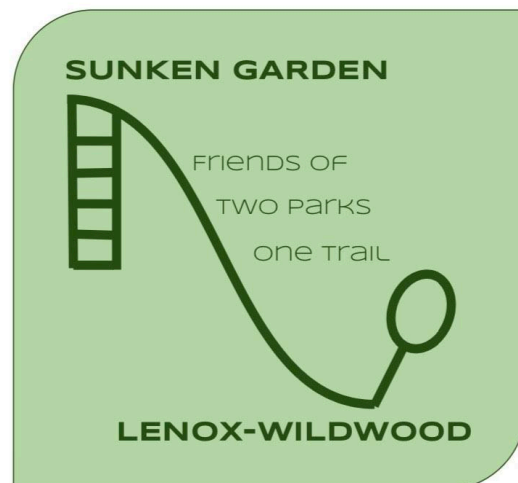
To celebrate the recognition of our newest Friends of Park groups, come join your Morningside neighbors for happy hour and some good old-fashioned, family-friendly fun in Sunken Garden Park! Meet with old and new friends, and enjoy playing classic lawn games on the field including cornhole, bocce ball, frisbees, ring toss, hula hoops and more. Don't forget the playground! This is an informal gathering for neighbors of ALL ages to rediscover one of our neighborhood's greatest gems, hear about the Friends of Sunken Garden group's plans and provide your own feedback on what you would like to see happen to reinvigorate this wonderful, albeit dark and humid, recreational park. Bring your own drinks and snacks to share!

Sunken Garden Social, Saturday November 9th, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Sunken Garden Park, 1000 E Rock Springs Rd NE

We respectfully ask that neighbors leave pets, except for service dogs, at home. Coordinated with the MLPA by Friends of Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood Parks. Questions? Please contact [Marla Johnson](#).

Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson

Volunteer workdays continue in Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson parks. The next is this afternoon (Sunday, October 20) from 2:30 to 4:30, rain delayed from yesterday. Future workdays are planned for 9am to Noon on November 9, December 7, and January 20.



Please bring:

- Rugged footwear and long pants (to protect you)
- Loppers, Shears, Cutters, Pruners, Shovels, Rakes
- Large bags (paper or plastic for yard trimmings)
- Gardening gloves (some will be provided)
- Water (will be provided)

For more information, please contact Frederic Bien and Will Hazleton.

fvbien@gmail.com - whazleton820@gmail.com

C: 404-395-5550 - C: 404-561-1516



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MLPA Board Meet & Greet and Master Plan Update

In lieu of our typical monthly board meeting, this month the MLPA board hosted neighbors for a Meet & Greet to socialize and to learn more about the board and current status of the Master Plan. Over 40 neighbors enjoyed an evening of socializing with outstanding food and drink provided by DBA Barbecue.

Sharla Borghorst and other members of the Master Plan Implementation Committee were able to review the focus of the Master Plan itself and the low cost, high impact initiatives which have been identified for early implementation over the next year. There was healthy feedback from the residents in attendance, and it was stressed that this plan belongs to the community, not the MLPA board. We continue to rely on the participation and communications of all stakeholders to ensure our plans reflect the values and vision of our neighbors. If you haven't already, please review the [Master Plan document](#).

It was a successful evening with over 18 people committing to serve on Master Plan projects and the MLPA board. The MPI Committee will follow up with all the neighbors who provided contact info and an offer to help. Thanks to all who came out and especially our good friends the Coggins family at DBA Barbecue for hosting us and all your continued support to MLPA.





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N Highland Candy Crawl

The North Highland Candy Crawl is Back. Sponsored by civic and business associations in Virginia-Highland and Morningside, this fun event will take place on Tuesday evening October 29th from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. This fun, family-friendly event is meant to show support for our N Highland Avenue businesses and bring our neighbors together.

Participating businesses from the four commercial nodes along N. Highland (Morningside Village, Amsterdam, Virginia-Highland, and Atkins Park) will display their bespoke scarecrows and ensure plenty of candy inside for the kids. In the past, some businesses offered specials and treats for the adults as well. Please visit and thank the following Morningside Village participants. Our neighborhood depends on their support and for helping make Morningside such a thrill to call home.

- [Engel & Völkers](#)
- [Coldwell Bankers](#)
- [Casserole's](#)
- [Fit Learning](#)
- [Pierce Chiropractic](#)
- [Nowaks](#)
- [Doc Chey's](#)
- [Natural Body](#)
- [Highland Diamond](#)
- [Highland Fine Wine](#)

We will organize crossing guard volunteers for families to cross busy intersections safely along N. Highland. Please click [here](#) to volunteer.



Inman Foundation

When some of us imagine middle school, we picture dark years wedged between bright fun of elementary school and experiential learning of high school. However, a walk through Inman Middle is illuminating and surprising – there is brightness, fun, projects, and experiences. Energized students learn an array of subjects through state-of-the-art technology; every student has a dedicated Chromebook or laptop; and virtual reality technology allows excited students to explore the world. Moreover, teachers have additional certifications and training, enabling them to provide creative, cutting edge teaching strategies. A key partner in providing these tools and training has been the Inman Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that supports two key pillars of Inman's strategic plan: technology and development.

The Foundation's mission is to provide a stable, long-term funding source for the people, program, and technology that offer an exceptional learning environment. The Foundation builds infrastructure capacity to address physical and innovation needs of learning, largely through technology. Secondly, the Foundation funds teacher training, such as gifted certification and Google certification. The Foundation supports the Educational Advisory Foundation (EAF), which provides experienced tutors for in-school intensive instruction to students needing additional support. The EAF is a win-win for everyone as it assists teachers with staying on pace, lowers the student-teacher ratio, and participating students saw gains last year of 79% and 35% in their STAR reading and STAR math scores, respectively.

Inman Principal Dr. Kevin Maxwell and his staff consider themselves fortunate. Dr. Maxwell stated, "Inman Middle School is a special place that is thoughtful, caring, and student focused. Our highly skilled teachers stay current on research and Foundation funding permits them to keep their skills up-to-date and to acquire the latest in instructional quality, which is often not covered by APS." Dr. Sparrow, a 7th grade life science teacher, stated she is "truly thankful for everything the foundation has done," because when she started at Inman she needed classroom supplies and resources that were unavailable. She is also grateful for training she received at Georgia Tech that was made possible to her from a Foundation grant. Many teachers describe the confidence and excitement students feel when they meet with EAF tutors. "My kids absolutely love it," said 6th grade teacher Ms. Lonza. The Foundation truly helps all students, regardless of age, grade, and ability.

The 2018-2019 school year was a record year as the Foundation raised over \$125,000. Our goal for 2019-2020 is \$150,000. We hope all parents will consider a generous donation, but take note - donations do not just come from Inman families! If you are a community resident or business owner, please consider making a tax-deductible donation, and check to see if your business will match. Be assured your donation directly impacts the academic success of young students at our neighborhood school, setting them up for future success. Furthermore, your donation fortifies Inman Middle as an exemplary institution where students desire to attend and highly qualified teachers aspire to work, upholding Inman's solid reputation locally and state-wide. You can learn more at www.inmanfoundation.org, where you can easily make your donation. For those of you who have already donated, thank you!

Submitted by Melanie Bliss, Inman Foundation board member and parent

Final Concert in the Park 2019 -- Pumpkins, Music, and a Movie!

Friday, October 18 witnessed the final Concert in the Park at Sidney Marcus Park. Excellent rock, R&B grooves, and [kid-friendly music](#) was provided by [Larry Griffith](#) and his band. Luca from [Varuni Napoli](#) brought their authentic Napolitano pizza oven to the park on a stylized food truck.

As a special treat our presenting sponsor, [Sonny Jones, Dorsey Alston Realtors](#), distributed 75 free pumpkins. The evening ended with a showing of Disney's Descendants 3.

Thanks to MLPA members and our presenting sponsor, [Sonny Jones, Dorsey Alston Realtors](#), and our movie sponsor, [Varuni Napoli](#), these concerts are free. [Join now!](#)



MES Halloween Carnival and Monster Bash

Since 1980, the Morningside PTA has hosted a Halloween Carnival every Fall, open to all friends in our wonderful community. Families enjoy games, rides, food, a delicious bake sale, the spectacular haunted house and much, much more. This year the Carnival will be hosted at MES from 11am to 4pm on Saturday, October 26. Come out and see what

Check [the MES website](#) for full details and tickets.

MONSTER BASH
A COMMUNITY CARNIVAL FOR ALL AGES

mes
PTA Morningside Elementary School

**Saturday
October 26th
11am-4pm**

Purchase tickets and get all the spooky details at
atlantapublicschools.us/Page/52886

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. The club uses a Facebook group and Book Movement to organize our meetings. Contact [Jill Cobb](#), 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](#).

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 you would like to join the party or offer to host an evening at your home, contact [Sarah Chatel](#).

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.

Security

Car Break-ins in Morningside

Car break-ins in Morningside are more likely to happen at commercial addresses than in front of residences. During September 2019, there were 19 car break-ins reported in Morningside - 8 on interior neighborhood streets and 11 at commercial addresses.

Morningside Nature Preserve -- We Need Your Help!!

In the past 3 weeks, several fires have been reported under the I-85 bridge at Cheshire Bridge Road. With the very hot and dry weather, nearby neighborhood associations have expressed concerns about the spread of fire into their communities. Because urban camping has been a chronic concern in the Morningside Nature Preserve, the MLPA is forming a coalition with those neighborhoods to address safety concerns.

Morningside has more than 160 houses nearby to the Preserve (this count includes only houses on the same side of the street as the Preserve). Petty crime and nuisance behaviors directly affect private residences along Wellbourne, Wildwood, Woodcliff Terrace, Robin Lane, Lenox Road, and Morningside Place. Occupants of the homeless encampments routinely walk through private property, knock on doors to ask for money, sleep on porches, steal packages and mail, pass out drunk or high in yards, etc.

As you know, the MLPA has been working for about 2 years with APD Code Enforcement to clean up areas in the Preserve and nearby private properties and with APD Community Services Division to offer assistance to the homeless through the [Homeless Outreach Proactive Enforcement \(HOPE\) project](#). HOPE tries to place the homeless in short or long-term housing and to work with mentally ill persons, through partnerships with organizations such as Gateway, United Way, Salvation Army, and Veterans Affairs.

We need your help to locate tent communities in the Preserve. Currently, we are aware of the new presence of 5-10 tents several houses up the hill to the right from the entrance on Wellbourne. From the Lenox Road side, there is at least one new tent to the right as you go down the stairs and make a left on the path that goes toward the bridge. We would like to know about the presence of other encampments. If you should notice a camp, please send a note to indicate the location (and photos if possible) to neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org.

Greenwood "Creeper"

There have been multiple reports via Nextdoor of an individual who is peeping in windows and creeping in dark areas around properties on Greenwood Avenue. The activity seems to be most common in the blocks closer to N. Highland. Reports indicate the suspect dresses all in black including a face mask. APD has been quick to respond when called, but the suspect has not yet been apprehended. In some cases he has been chased away

by residents. The best advice to keep yourself safe is to make sure doors and windows are locked. Always be alert when walking or exiting your vehicle. Avoid entering dark areas if possible. All residents can help by turning on outside lights at dusk and leaving them on until morning. A front porch light, doorbell cameras, motion activated spotlights, etc. can be very helpful to discourage bad behavior. Also, for anyone that might have video of this individual, please forward it to the [Zone 6 Criminal Investigation Division](#).

Zoning Committee Report

At the October meeting, the zoning committee reviewed the following new variance.

V-19-208 819 Wildwood Rd Approved 2-0-0

The committee also reviewed changes to a variance originally denied in September.

V-19-185 1515 North Morningside Dr. NE Approved 2-0-0

The next zoning meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 5. 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](#)

Saturday, October 26, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, [Morningside PTA Monster Bash](#), Halloween Carnival Fundraiser, Morningside Elementary School

Saturday, October 26, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Hillside's [Neighborhood Low Country Boil](#), 690 Courtenay Dr NE. 21+

Tuesday, October 29, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM, Principal's Coffee with Inman Principal for MES 5th grade parents, MES Auditorium

Tuesday, October 29, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM, N Highland Candy Crawl, Morningside Village and Va-Hi

Sunday, October 20, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM, [Volunteer Workday](#) at Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks. Meet at the Pasadena & Beech Valley park entrance.

Tuesday, November 5, 7:00 PM, Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church. See mlpa.org/zoning/ for the variances to be reviewed.

Saturday, November 9, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, [Volunteer Workday](#) at Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks. Meet at the Pasadena & Beech Valley park entrance.

Monday, November 11, Veterans Day

Monday, November 11, 7:00 PM, MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Friday, November 15, 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Inman Principal's Coffee

Sunday, November 17, 6:00 PM, Supper Club, looking for someone to host at home.

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

Tuesday, November 19, 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM, Grady Principal's Coffee

November 25 - 29, APS Thanksgiving Break

December 7-8, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Va-Hi [Tour of Homes](#)

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

Saturday, December 7, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, [Volunteer Workday](#) at Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks. Meet at the Pasadena & Beech Valley park entrance.

Sunday, December 8, 6:00 PM, Supper Club, home of Sarah and Peter Chatel, 1130 E Rock Springs

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

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

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 Tuesday of every month, 7:00 PM, Morningside Presbyterian Church

NPU-F Meetings - 3rd Monday of every month, 7:00 PM, Hillside, 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