



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



MLPA News November 2019

This has been a great season in our community for Halloween social events, neighborhood gatherings, and chances to enjoy the fall weather. As we look forward to holiday time with friends and family, 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

We had our annual meeting this past Monday, attended by 60+ neighbors and elected officials such as State Representative Becky Evans and City Council Members Jennifer Ide and Matt Westmoreland. Thanks to all those who attended - who already heard what I'm about to write here!

Sunken Garden Social

Thanks to the hard work of Marla Johnson and the friends group of Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood parks, an afternoon social attracted over 50 people to the park to learn about upcoming fixes to drainage and hopes for bigger plans down the road. It was great to see so many kids using this park again – and we are also hoping with the upcoming renovation of Morningside Elementary School that we can come up with a vision for the park that reignites its usage. This fun event was put together with passion and elbow grease and we are grateful to see the momentum.

Budget

We are approximately \$10,000 higher in revenue at this point in 2019 than we were in 2018. This is thanks to growing memberships as well as our vigilance on production companies for nuisance fees from filming. Although we are spending more money on the security patrol, we are also positive in net operating revenue vs. last year's deficit.

2020 MLPA Board

The 2020 slate was elected at our annual meeting. We are particularly excited to add two new roles: an education chair filled by Kristen Pollock to help improve our connection to and communication with neighborhood schools and an events chair filled by Alan Smith. Thank you to Sharla Borghorst, John Ayers, Marti Breen and Marianne Scharbo-Dehaan for their collective years of volunteer service.

We were not able to fill our zoning chair for next year but were lucky to recruit some volunteers at the board meeting who were eager to help – this is a crucial role so if you care about preserving trees, minimizing water runoff and other casualties of neighborhood growth then please reach out to learn more about how you can help (even by dipping a toe in the zoning waters by joining the subcommittee). Thanks to all of our members to their commitment to MLPA – we wish you all a great holiday season and as always please email me at president@mlpa.org if you ever have feedback or questions.

Ben



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MLPA Annual Meeting and Election

This past Monday, November 11, many of our neighbors came to the MLPA Annual meeting at Morningside Presbyterian Church, where they heard updates on the many projects we have undertaken to improve the neighborhood and elected a new board to serve beginning January 1, 2020.

Besides electing new board members, the Annual Meeting gave neighbors a chance to hear from our elected officials including Jennifer Ide, District 6 City Council Representative, Matt Westmoreland, At Large City Council Representative, and Becky Evans, District 83 Georgia Representative. They covered upcoming road improvements, the addition of stop signs to improve safety, and infrastructure improvements along Briarcliff. Major Ric Vasquez, Morningside Security Patrol and APD Zone 6 Commander talked about the patrol's frustration with car break ins and reminded us to make sure our cars are clean—and urged us to ask any visitors to our homes to make sure there is nothing visible in their cars.

Ben Nemo, President, led the board through our regular agenda, covering updates on membership, fundraising, parks, and Master Planning. Master Planning has a number of short-term initiatives that we have worked on with Jennifer Ide's office. The town hall at DBA Barbecue brought out a number of interested neighbors that volunteered to help out with the plan. Membership reported that our numbers are up but members were urged to recruit their neighbors. Donald Campbell reported that MLPA expects to receive \$9,000 from film revenues and asks neighbors to [let us know](#) of any films they notice in the neighborhood (the yellow signs with initials or cryptic names). Parks have lined up Friend of groups for all of our recreational parks. Efforts are now underway to improve all of these resources and MLPA encourages neighbors to engage with the efforts. The meeting wrapped with, Lynn Ayers, Treasurer, reporting that our finances are solid, which has allowed us to devote funds to support our parks and Master Plan.



The new board includes Ben Nemo, President; Donald Campbell, Vice President; Grant Gandy, Secretary; Lynn Ayers, Treasurer; Tosh Wolfe, Security Chair; Micah Coleman, Communications Chair; Alan Smith, Events Chair; Sarah Chatel, Membership Chair; Phyllis Wingo, Neighborhood Watch Chair; Marla Johnson & Charles Bayless, Parks Co-Chairs; Kristen Pollock, Education Chair; Kim Cobb, Traffic Chair; Kevin Tanner, At-Large; and Will Hazleton, At-Large. The nominating committee was not able to find a successor to our outgoing Zoning Chair, John Ayers. Fortunately, Rebekah Falkler volunteered to take over the position.



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.

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Fall Social Events

Despite the brief fall we were able to enjoy this year, October and November have brought out Morningside denizens to celebrate Halloween, enjoy each other's company, explore our neighborhood institutions, and rekindle and old love for a forgotten park.

Monster Bash Halloween Carnival

This year's Monster Bash was truly a community event. It drew a large crowd from across the neighborhood, not just MES families. MES sold over 700 wristbands, which we believe equates to around 2,000 people when you factor in parents (who did not have wristbands) and attendees who purchased individual tickets instead of wristbands. We took a gamble on the weather, as the forecast called for some scattered showers. The rain held off, and we were all able to enjoy the day. We were glad to be able to continue this tradition of a Halloween Carnival for all ages that has been part of our neighborhood since 1980. Next year, MES will be at the Inman building and that will have an impact on how we plan for the carnival. We will keep the community updated as our plans take shape for next year's festivities. Thank you to everyone who came out and celebrated with us.

North Highland Candy Crawl

The second annual N Highland Candy Crawl was a success thanks to great fall weather, fun-loving families, princesses, and monsters, and the participation of small businesses along N Highland in Morningside and Virginia Highland. Keep an eye out for a repeat next year.





Station 19 Fire Engine Leads Halloween Parade

Hundreds of costumed families gathered at Northview and Wayne to socialize and enjoy the fire engine from Station 19. At 5:45 the firemen led the entire crowd on a parade down Wayne Ave to kick off the evening's trick or treating. Thanks to Station 19 for again being a part of this special neighborhood tradition.



Hillside Low Country Boil and Open House

Nestled between Courtenay and Monroe, Hillside and their wonderful mission of helping young ones are unknown to many Morningside residents. In October they held a neighborhood low country boil as a fundraiser and a chance to show off their beautiful campus, gardens, and facilities to area friends.



Sunken Garden Social

To kick off the new Friends of Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood Parks group, to increase the momentum behind the Sunken Garden improvement efforts, and for neighbors to enjoy a sunny afternoon in a park they may have forgotten about over the years or never had a chance to discover, a social was held in Sunken Garden with over fifty visitors enjoying live music and lawn games.



East Morningside Drive Block Party

Two dozen neighbors (plus dogs) showed up at Wilson Park for donuts and coffee. It was really great to meet new people and share news about MLP activities and clubs. Folks are already talking about MLP and looking forward to the next party! Reach out to your Street Captain if you'd like to host a similar event in your section.



On Saturday, November 16, Trees Atlanta will host up to 100 volunteers to help plant trees around Morningside, primarily around Sussex, Berkshire, and Lenox. See the map below. The NeighborWoods Program at Trees Atlanta offers free delivery and planting of trees in the right-of-way and front yards for Atlanta residents. Keep an out Saturday for volunteers working and for notices about opt-in or out options. Morningside residents are also eligible for backyard trees. Learn more or submit a request at treesatlanta.org/yardtree or email neighborwoods@treesatlanta.org.



Note that a black triangle means no tree planted due to homeowners' request.

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Updating Atlanta's Tree Protection Ordinance

If you've lived in Atlanta for any amount of time, you have probably noticed that the loss of trees has accelerated to the point where our distinction as the "City in the Trees" is in jeopardy. Recognizing the threat this poses, the City of Atlanta's Department of Planning began an [Urban Ecology Project](#) in May 2018 to inventory natural resources. An outcome of the project was to be a re-write of the outdated Tree Protection

Ordinance (TPO).

On November 6, the city held a public meeting to gather input on the ordinance re-write. Tree protection advocates attended along with four of the Atlanta City Council (Carla Smith, Natalyn Archibong, Joyce Sheperd, and Matt Westmoreland). The presentation centered on the new formula to be used to value trees with no provisions on enforcement ready for public discussion. The progress made on the re-write of the ordinance fell so far short of expectations, that the second public meeting was abruptly cancelled. Representative Matt Westmoreland apologized to the attendees and promised that the council would push for progress on this critical legislation. The presenters promised to post the results of this meeting on the website (link above) but as of this publication, it has not appeared.

Neighbors interested in becoming involved can email the project team at urbanecology@peqatl.com to be added to the contact list. You may also contact Elizabeth Johnson, UEF Project Manager, with questions or comment at eajohnson@atlantaga.gov or by calling 404-546-1990. You can also follow the critique and learn more about the issues with the current ordinance and proposed re-write at treesatlanta.org, [cityinthe forest.org](http://cityintheforest.org), and treenextdoor.org.



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Urban Camps in Morningside Nature Preserve

The Morningside Lenox Park Association (MLPA) has formed a coalition with several other Atlanta area neighborhood civic associations that share concerns about how the encampments of homeless persons impact communities, as well as concerns for the well-being and safety of the people who build them. The mission of the Atlanta Neighborhoods Security Coalition is:

“To hold our local, county, and state government agencies accountable for developing positive solutions to unlawful urban campers. We will work to maximize both the safety of the neighborhoods impacted by the camps and the well-being of the homeless Atlanta residents who live inside the camps.”

The group came together after Atlanta firefighters responded to two fires in one week in September at the camps near I85 and Lenox Road – on Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) property. The firefighters struggled to get through the mountains of refuse and stifling heat to fight the flames. Of course, nearby residents and all responders clearly remember the fire that caused the collapse of I85 in this same area in 2017.

Other recent incidents involving camp residents include two shootings, persons with mental health issues who were behaving in unusual ways (one tried to jump onto the hood of a neighborhood resident’s car as he was driving to Publix; another carried a live raccoon down the street), reports of persons leaving unsightly messes on sidewalks, roadways, and sometimes in the confines of neighbor residents’ backyards, and the ongoing thefts of packages and mail from neighborhood houses nearby to the camps.

The Coalition has written a letter with maps of nearby camps to state and local officials and representatives to request assistance and identify workable solutions. The letter was sent to Mayor Bottoms, APD Chief Shields, APD Zone Commanders Vazquez and Shaw, Atlanta Council Members Ide and Westmoreland, State Representative Pat Gardner, State Senator Elena Parent, representatives at the GDOT, etc.

One ongoing challenge has been a requirement that a GDOT representative be present for the Atlanta police to remove trespassers from GDOT property, like from under the bridges at I85 and Lenox. Existing state laws do not permit the camps in locations where they chronically recur. The Coalition letter requests that: 1) the GDOT give the Atlanta police written authorization to remove trespassers from GDOT property without a GDOT representative being there; 2) the Atlanta Solicitor’s Office provide assurances that police officers can act on their own initiative in these instances; and 3) “no trespassing” signs be installed in all areas where urban camping is not allowed.

Morningside Champion Trees

Trees evoke all types of images and memories in our minds. They are among the largest life forms on earth, and they are so strong that we, as kids, dreamed of climbing to their top. Some authors have granted trees the "iconic stature of living monarchs." Trees have become increasingly popular, because as we continue to emit carbon dioxide from our car pollution, trees silently work day in day out to produce oxygen and restore the quality of our air. In this odd unbalanced way, (for they work for free), trees are our indispensable partners in civilization.

Not all trees are equal. Perhaps some are more beautiful. And some benefit us more than others. There is a convenient way of keeping track of trees based on their sizes. One adds up the measurements of trunk circumference, height, and average spread of the crown. In this way, one gets a total point value for each tree. Then trees of the same species and same region can be compared each year; (for trees change year after year).

A **Champion Tree** is a tree that is the largest in its species in its region that year. This method has been promoted by American Forests, an active conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring healthy forest ecosystems, and established in 1875. Begun in 1940, the [National Register of Champion Trees](#) is a national database with records for over 750 Champion Trees across the country.

Certain trees in Atlanta have been declared Champions in our city. They are a sampling of the hundreds of beautiful tree species found across the country. This effort started with Eli Dickerson, formerly working at Trees Atlanta with its Atlanta Arbor Day partners, and now Ecologist at Fernbank Museum. The goal is to locate, document, and then protect the finest specimens so they can be appreciated and enjoyed, and also serve as reminders of the importance of all trees for a healthy environment. Champion Trees can be located on public or private property.

Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Nature Preserve are fortunate to have 12 Atlanta Champion Trees, which is a very large number for a combined park size of 35 acres. Additionally, 3 Atlanta Champion Trees live on the edge of these parks on Beech Valley Rd and Pasadena Ave, for a total of 15 Champion Trees in this area. (For comparison, Piedmont Park has 8 Champion Trees, with a few more on its edges. So far, only one Champion Tree has been found in Morningside Nature Preserve.)

See this [interactive map](#) of Atlanta's Champion Trees. Click on the stars to see details about each tree. See also this [spreadsheet](#) of the 2019 Atlanta Champion Trees.

We will have a **guided walk** to visit the Champion Trees in Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park in April 2019. (Date and time to be announced, probably the weekend of April 18-19.)

Submitted by Frederic Bien, [Friends of Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Nature Preserve](#)

New Construction at Sidney Marcus Park

The park has been bustling with picnics, birthday parties, play-dates and dogs. It is a beautiful season at the park. If you have been, you see a new information kiosk going up. It is the work of Friends of Sidney Marcus Park, the city parks department and Larry and Jan Hogan. As a member of the executive committee for FOSMP, Jan led the project for the team and Larry built it. The group sees the kiosk as a way to increase its communication about the park, its activities, the surrounding neighborhood and park projects.

The city, along with FOSMP will have to monitor what gets posted, but park activities, things going on in the neighborhood, lost pets, and many other informational items will be a part of a new information beacon. The group wants the kiosk to be as inclusive as possible.





FOSMP is into its third year and is very active this fall. We launched a Capital Campaign in July to raise funds for park renovation. Its campaign momentum is increasing, the park is very active, and fall energy is at the park.

You can share that energy with FOSMP at our fall Volunteer Cleanup Day, Saturday, November 16. Starting at 9 am, the volunteers will be sprucing up the park.

[Facebook](#)

friendsofsmp@gmail.com

School News

Inman Frosty 5K

The 8th annual 2019 Inman Frosty 5K will be on SATURDAY, 12/14, at 9:00 am. This fun race along the Beltline supports the staff and kids at Inman Middle. Register is on [ACTIVE.com](https://www.active.com). Teachers run for FREE and students pay just \$10. Use code "eagles" for the discount. Still looking for local businesses to Sponsor. If you're interested, email [Allyson Cummings](mailto:Allyson.Cummings).



MES Family Science Night Seeking Presenters

Family Science Night is a two-night enrichment event held in February every year with age-appropriate content for grades K-2 and 3-5. Each evening consists of about 18-22 hands-on science presentations given by STEAM professionals and amateur enthusiasts in the community. Each family is able to attend 2-3 sessions of their choosing. MES is now scheduling presenters for this year's Family Science Night, which will be held on February 11 and February 13, 2020. If you are a professional scientist or a passionate hobbyist, please share your knowledge with our students by volunteering to be a presenter. For more information, please visit the [Family Science Night page](#) on the MES website. If you have questions, recommendations or offers to present, please email the [MES Family Science Night Committee](#).



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 Supper Club** will meet for a potluck this Saturday, Nov. 16. The club is open for adults living in the neighborhood that would like to meet other neighbors over a meal. The group alternates between meeting at restaurants and members' homes. Contact [Sarah Chatel](#) for more information.

The **MLPA Garden Club** recently gathered at the Sunken Garden social and will meet this Saturday, Nov. 16, 9-11:30 AM to help out at the Sidney Marcus Park volunteer day. Come join us to learn more about our work or contact [Marti Breen](#).

The **Morningside Book Club** will hold its last meeting of the year in December to discuss *The Women's Hour* by Elaine Weiss. Contact [Jill Cobb](#) to join. The group is co-ed, holding bi-monthly meetings that combine socializing with serious book discussion. New members are always welcome.

If you have an interest not currently shown, consider starting a group of your own. Lastly, you can always meet neighbors by volunteering with 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

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 will be handled by the officer on patrol who is closest to the incident, regardless of zone. Zone 6 covers most of Morningside, and currently has 2 cars patrolling the neighborhood.

The precinct for Zone 6 is located at [2025 Hosea Williams Drive](#) 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 5002.

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.

Zoning Committee Report

There were no variances presented in November.

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, November 16, 6:00 PM, Supper Club

November 25 - 29, APS Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, November 28, Turkey Day!!

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, [Inman Frosty 5K Run](#)

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

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

Friday, December 13, 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM, MES Principal's Coffee

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.

Friday, December 20, Last day of APS fall semester

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

House District 83 - Becky Evans, Georgia State Representative

Atlanta Public Schools, Morningside Elementary School, Inman Middle School, Grady High School

VHMPA -Virginia Highland Morningside Parent Association