



# MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



## MLPA News December 2019

As we look back at a successful 2019 for MLPA, 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

It's that annual feeling that always seems to surprise us – how can it almost be the end of the year??? It's hard to believe 2019 is coming to a close. We can celebrate a lot of positives: our membership and donation revenue are up, our parks have a lot of momentum, and initial projects in the master plan are taking shape. We also installed new license plate reading cameras and put a new Clean Car campaign in place at Morningside Village. We still have a lot to do on the security front however – car break-ins remain the scourge of our neighborhood and we are looking at new ways to direct the security patrol and work with new APD leadership of Zone 6 to address.

As we look to the year ahead, we will revisit our objectives as well as welcome new leadership on the events and education fronts. Virginia Highland's Summerfest and Tour of Homes are big successes every year so we are thinking of unique ways to draw excitement to the neighborhood. There is also a lot going on with schools in our cluster – not to mention a \$20 million renovation of Morningside Elementary School for the 2020-2022 school years, so getting feedback from all residents of the neighborhood will be critical to ensure we have an even better facility to keep the safety and value of our homes improving.

We of course expect the level of home renovations in this neighborhood to continue. Please know that if you come to the MLPA with a variance request we do our best to maintain city ordinances and the standards outlined by our new Master Plan. It's not personal if we don't vote in favor of your variance requests – it's merely our role to uphold the standards the neighborhood has asked us to represent. Thank you for your understanding on that front.

Thank you as always for your membership – have a great holiday season.

Ben



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## Sidewalk Survey

The Master Plan Initiative Committee has undertaken a project to make the neighborhood safer for bikes and pedestrians. As a first step, we opened a survey to determine how extensive the problem of broken sidewalks within the neighborhood might be. Thanks to everyone who participated in the survey. We had over 200 responses! The results of the survey are summarized below.

- Does your sidewalk need repair?

Yes 22% No 54%. N/A 24%

- If yes, how extensive is repair?

Partial (<50%) 62% Extensive (51-75%) 16% Full 22%

- If repair necessary, are there special conditions (tree roots, etc.) that would make repair more expensive?

Yes 43% No 57%

- Would you be willing to pay up to \$2250 to repair?

Yes 38% No 62%

- If MLPA could work with the city to adopt a sidewalk renewal program to reduce hassle and cost would you be willing to pay to repair your sidewalk?

Yes 75% No 25%

Most neighbors said that they are aware of other broken sidewalks nearby with 87% in front of a house and 13% in front of a business.

Many neighbors also stated an interest in having a sidewalk if they or their street did not already have one. Concern was voiced especially for streets where traffic is heavy and children are walking to school. Requests were made for ramps at the end of blocks for bikes, strollers, wheelchairs and all who use the sidewalks.

Some neighbors reported that shrub overgrowth encroached onto sidewalks narrowing the useable path. Finally, curb repair and replacement of missing curbs was mentioned to ease parking and crossing.

The current Atlanta sidewalk policy makes individual property owners responsible for repairing sidewalks. This policy is viewed by most as unfair and nearly impossible to enforce. Some city council members are in support of requiring Atlanta to pay for sidewalk repairs just as potholes are repaired with tax dollars. At this point, however, there is little money allocated to sidewalk repair.

It may be that a class action lawsuit that seeks to compel Atlanta to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act will force change. Requiring Atlanta to comply with ADA requirements for the installation of curb ramps, sidewalk repair and safe pedestrian access in construction zones will benefit everyone. Still settlement of any lawsuit may be years off. So, what now?

First of all, the Master Plan Initiative Committee will continue to work with city officials and use supporting data such as the survey results to seek ways to improve the sidewalk repair process for our neighborhood.

In the meantime, you may report a city sidewalk hazard to [ATL311.com](http://ATL311.com), the online reporting system. (You may also dial 311 to report a hazard.) Once you complete the online form, a service request will be created. The city will then inspect the sidewalk, determine if repair is warranted and, if so, assign a service date for the Department of Public Works to complete the repair at their cost. Amazingly enough, we have had neighbors report success with process!

The second way for sidewalk repair is for the homeowner or business to handle it on their own. In this case the individual or business determines the desired contractor and fills out and submits an online [permit application](#). The city then reviews the permit application and presumably approves. Then the homeowner or business hires the contractor to make repairs and pay the contractor directly.

Thank you again to all who took the time to respond to this survey. We will continue to search for ways to simplify sidewalk repair and also lobby for new sidewalks in our

neighborhood. If you have an interest in helping with this effort, please contact [volunteer@mlpa.org](mailto:volunteer@mlpa.org). We need neighbors to be involved with all of the MLP Master Plan initiatives underway!



## 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.



### Park News

#### Sunken Garden Park

Rediscovering our neighborhood's hidden gems! On November 9th, the first Sunken Garden Park Social was hosted by the Friends of Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood Parks with the MLPA. All were invited for an informal gathering and some good old-fashioned, family-friendly fun in the park. About 50 neighbors came out on a crisp, fall afternoon to meet with old and new friends – and they ranged in age from a 10-day-old newborn to retirement! With the help of Park Pride's Play Library, neighbors enjoyed classic lawn games on the field including cornhole, bocce ball, parachute, frisbees, ring toss, hula hoops and more. The playground was a happening spot, too, and the vibe was set with live music from acoustic duo Wild Iris Rose. Amidst drinks and snacks and smiles and laughs, the Friends of Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood Parks' efforts were met with great enthusiasm and support. We are already looking forward to the next one!





### Lenox-Wildwood Park

What's happening by the tennis courts? Renew Atlanta is funding an ADA-compliant bridge and pathway for better and safer access. These park improvement projects are much needed and very appreciated!





## MAKING NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS? SHE'S WIRED CAN HELP

- Backing up computer
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- Cutting cable cord



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### School News - MES Renovation Survey and Design Review

Please share your thoughts on the Morningside eSplost \$20,000,000 renovation! Perkins and Will is the architecture and design firm selected for the project. They are just beginning the programming and design process and want to get input from all stakeholders - parents, community members, staff and students of Morningside Elementary. They have created [this survey](#) and want your thoughts! The survey will be open until 5pm on December 16th, 2019

(today!). Please think “big” (but within budget, of course) and help Perkins and Will make this project great.

The Design Committee, made up of representatives from APS, GO Team, PTA, MESF, staff and community meets on December 17th from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm in the MES Media Center. This meeting is open to the public. Questions - Brian Baron ([brian.baron@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:brian.baron@atlanta.k12.ga.us)), School Business Manager.

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## 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 again in January. 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** will meet on January 16 at 7:00 PM to hear from Hillside's Barbara Bohannon. Bohannon is the full time Horticultural Therapist, working with Hillside's clients. She uses a variety of gardening and nature activities to educate and promote well-being and healing. She will talk to the club about how we can enhance our mental health and wellness through gardening. 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](mailto: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.

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## Security

### Updates from Atlanta Police Department (APD) - Zone Commander Retirements Announced

Effective December 11, Major Rick Vazquez will retire as Commander of Zone 6. Vazquez has worked in Morningside for more than 20 years. He knows our neighborhood very well and will continue to manage the MLPA Security Patrol. Vazquez has played a pivotal role in planning and executing patrol and traffic plans for several large-scale national events such as the SEC Football Championship game

and Chick-fil-A game. He is also known for his work in homicide. The replacement Zone 6 Commander has not yet been named. In the interim, the MLPA will be working directly with Captain Clay in Zone 6.

Effective November 14, Major Barry Shaw retired as Commander of Zone 2. Shaw has been a great support to Morningside. He was known for pulling officers off traffic duty to patrol "hot spots" and was particularly effective in our neighborhood with regularly clearing urban camp sites in the Morningside Nature Preserve. His replacement is Major Andrew Senzer.

Major Senzer began his career 24 years ago, patrolling the streets of Zone 6 in East Atlanta. It was during his time assigned as the beat officer for the Kirkwood neighborhood that he developed a passion for community policing and took pride in the relationships that he developed with the residents and business owners on his beat. We look forward to working with the Major.

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.

### **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](mailto: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.

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### **Zoning Committee Report**

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

V-19-257 1343 Lanier Pl; Committee Approved 4-1-0; Board Approved 10-2-0

V-19-276 1042 McLynn Ave; Committee Approved 3-2-0; Board Denied 9-2-0



V-19-265 1480 Lanier Pl

The next zoning meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 7. 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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## **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.**

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

**December 17, 4:00 - 6:00 PM, MES Renovation Design Committee, open to the public. MES Media Center**

**December 23 - January 3, APS Winter Break**

**Friday, January 10, 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM, MES Principal's Coffee - Halfway Through K. Kindergarten Center, 999 Briarcliff Rd**

**Friday, January 17, 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Inman Principal's Coffee**

**Tuesday, January 7, 7:00 PM, Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church. See [mlpa.org/zoning/](http://mlpa.org/zoning/) for the variances to be reviewed.**

**Saturday, December 7, 9:00 AM, [Inman Frosty 5K Run](#)**

**Monday, January 13, 7:00 PM, MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church**

**Thursday, January 16, 7:00 PM, MLPA Garden Club, invited speaker Barbara Bohannon, Horticulture Therapist at Hillside**

**Monday, January 20, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, [Volunteer Workday](#) at Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks. Meet at the Pasadena & Beech Valley park entrance.**

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

**Friday, March 27, 6:00 PM, First 2020 Concert 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](mailto:communications@mlpa.org).

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## News from Atlanta City Council District 6 Representative Ide

[Click](#) to view and sign up for the latest newsletter from our Atlanta City Council District 6 Representative, Jennifer Ide.

Neighborhood Meeting Schedule:

**MLPA Zoning Meeting** - 1st Tuesday each month, 7:00 PM, Morningside Presbyterian Church

**MLPA Board Meeting** - 2nd Monday each 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.*

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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

[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

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