



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



MLPA News March 2020

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President's Note

I hope this month's newsletter finds you well amid the impact we are all starting to feel in daily life from the spread of COVID-19. With Atlanta Public Schools closing on Monday for at least two weeks as the latest sign of life coming to an abrupt halt for a while, I am hopeful neighbors will be helping each other as needed, whether lending a hand to those who need it or observing best practices around avoiding large group gatherings. *Please note that we will postpone our MLPA concert on March 27 until we can determine the best date when we are allowed to social un-distance!*

Otherwise the world hasn't completely stopped and I have a few updates to keep things going:

- **MLPA 2020 Objectives** The MLPA board held an executive session last week to ensure we are evolving our objectives to adapt our focus and demonstrate results. Last year we focused on raising our funding (mostly accomplished), reducing car break-ins (guess how that turned out—waa waaaa), ensuring we had a Master Plan steering committee that advanced initial priorities (check!) and ensuring all recreational parks have active friends groups and action plans (check again!).

This year we are evolving our objectives towards (1) getting 1000 household members (we currently have ~800), (2) reducing car break-ins (but working with other neighborhoods to address the systemic problems in ATL), (3) upholding zoning and traffic standards in our master plan, and (4) accomplishing 2 to 3 project priorities for each park. As we formalize the specifics we will keep you posted but as always I would like to thank fellow board members for taking even more time to help develop this shared list of goals.

- **Morningside Affair** Thanks to the hard work of several volunteers, the first annual “Morningside Affair” is shaping up for launch on Saturday, November 7. The evening will feature small group dinners hosted by neighbors followed by the group coming together in a private home for a silent auction over dessert and drinks. We hope small group dinners will be a great way to meet new neighbors in an intimate setting while still bringing old friends together for the final stage of the evening. If you think you might be interested in hosting a dinner for 8-10 people that evening, please reach out to committee chair [Jan Hogan](#). Otherwise we look forward to coming together to raise money for the neighborhood – this year’s event will be dedicated to our parks.
- **APS School Survey** Hopefully by now you know that Morningside Elementary School will be closing for the next two school years to undergo a significant renovation. What happens during that renovation is still up for influence as APS looks for feedback on how to use all facilities in the Grady Cluster for optimal usage. If you haven’t yet taken this [survey](#) from the Council of Intown and Neighborhood Schools, please do – and thanks to Jenny Lambert, our MES representative on that council (and neighbor) for recently attending our monthly board meeting to share the great work they are doing to advance our school system through the support of the right data and expertise.

Stay well everyone – let’s all do our part to help our community get through these coming months with respect and patience. We’re all in this boat (fortunately not cruise) together. Please reach out to us if you need assistance in some area where we can be helpful.

Ben



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Concerts in the Park POSTPONED

We've looked forward to celebrating the end of winter by kicking off another year of neighborhood concerts in Sidney Marcus Park. Out of an abundance of caution and following professional guidance on social distancing, we have decided to postpone the March 27 concert. Our big thanks still go out to Carter Rude & Friends Band, [Nakeemi](#) the face painter, and [Southern Crust Catering](#) for the promise of a wonderful evening we hope to revisit in the next few months. Thanks as always to the 2020 Concerts in the Park Presenting Sponsor Sonny Jones with [Dorsey Alton Realtors](#) and to our MLPA members, ensuring these events are free and open to all.

More concerts are in store in 2020 on May 1, September 11, and October 16. For May 1, we have scheduled [Tyler Neal Band](#) and [Atlanta House of Henna](#). [Varuni Napoli](#) will have a pizza oven onsite for made-to-order pies. Sonny Jones with [Dorsey Alton Realtors](#) is the presenting sponsor for the entire series. Please monitor the newsletter and [website](#) for updates on all our events as we monitor the crisis.



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.



Morningside Affair November 7

Dinner and Auction to Benefit Parks

On November 7th, our neighborhood will take part in a fun and unique social event to benefit our parks and green spaces. The Morningside Affair will begin with small group dinners hosted by generous neighbors in their homes, and culminate with a dessert party and auction at a single larger venue in the neighborhood.

What better way to meet your neighbors than an evening designed to encourage conversation and connection over a delicious meal? Interested in getting involved? Here are a few ways you can help.

Host a Dinner. We are looking for a few more hosts to open their home to small groups of neighbors. Hosts should be able to accommodate 8-12 guests and provide dinner and wine. Hosts will cover the cost of the dinner and wine, but these expenses are tax deductible through our partnership with Park Pride's 501(c)(3). For more information about hosting, please contact [Jan Hogan](#) or [Laura Fowler](#).

Be a Sponsor. We have sponsorship opportunities available for this event. More information on sponsorship packages will soon be available. To be notified about sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to [Alan Smith](#).

Donate to the Auction. Make a tax-deductible donation of art or other goods and services to the auction. To donate goods and/or services, please contact [Sarah Patton](#).



Parks - Zonolite Fundraiser, Park Grants, Walks, and More!

Record breaking rains the past two months have kept our creeks flowing, the trees and plants overly nourished, the trails muddy for the little and not-so-little kids to enjoy. Chinese privet and English ivy pull easily up from the wet earth. The past month has seen grants awarded to two of our park groups, the first of many workdays to come for Linux-Wildwood Park, a charming albeit chilly social at Sidney Marcus, and the continued use of an ADA compliant from one spot in the Linux-Wildwood parking lot to another spot ten feet away. Let's keep this momentum, enjoying and engaging with our recreational and natural parks. Don't know where to go? Reach out to communications@mlpa.org or parks@mlpa.org anytime to find out what's happening or just for a playground playdate or a hike and tour. See you on the trail!

Friends of Sidney Marcus Park Valentine's Day Social

Twenty+ neighbors braved a freezing rain to gather at Sidney Marcus for a Valentine's Day Social. Friends enjoyed the bountiful food and fellowship and reminding ourselves what a treasure the park is. Stay tuned for news on the group's recently awarded grant from Park Pride. Also, stay in touch as we hope to bring back the Concerts in the Park.





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Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks Receive Grant from Park Pride

Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks (FoHTDJ) have received a Small Change Grant from Park Pride in the amount of \$2,500 to provide new signage and benches.

Park Pride and members of the FoHTDJ community recognize that great parks increase the quality of life of residents by supporting personal wellness, strong neighborhoods, vibrant business districts, a robust economy and a healthy environment. The fruits of this grant will educate neighbors and park visitors by increasing awareness of native plants, Champion Trees, and points of interest, sparking those “Aha!” moments which keep us engaged and wanting to learn more. New benches at the Pasadena Ave entrance and the rock quarry will allow rest and reflection. FoHTDJ member Micah Coleman says “This grant means so much to the parks’ friends and visitors. Working with Park Pride and our other partners, we look forward to increasing engagement with the community through education and accessibility, allowing City of Atlanta residents to enjoy the serene natural beauty along the banks of Peachtree and Rock Creeks. Park Pride was instrumental in helping us achieve this vision.”

Celebrate this grant with us and shape the future of our precious nature preserve by helping to remove invasives and protect natives on a [workday](#) or by learning about our park’s [birds](#) and [ephemeral plants](#) on a guided walk. [Donate](#) via Park Pride by selecting Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park.

Take a Walk in the Woods with Friends of Herbert Taylor Park

In March and April Friends of Herbert Taylor Park will continue our [series of themed walks](#) through the nature preserves, guided by local experts. Each walk will meet and begin at the Pasadena Ave park entrance. Bird watching, Champion Trees, and ephemeral plants. We will also have volunteer workdays 9-12 on Saturday mornings - April 11 and May 9. [Visit](#) or [email](#) us for more information. Learn, engage, and enjoy!

Lenox-Wildwood Volunteer Workday April 4

The inaugural volunteer workday hosted by the new Friends of Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood Parks March 7 was an overwhelming (16+ volunteers!) success. We made a great dent in the English ivy and poison ivy covering the trees on the W Sussex hill above the “dog park”. We will maintain this momentum with a second workday the morning of April 4. Thanks to new friends who joined us last week, the Friends Group for coordinating and hosting, and especially to Bryce Harvey as technical lead and living sacrifice to the ivy gods (insert Neosporin ad). We hope to see you all April 4. [Contact us](#) for details or questions.

Creek Rising Benefit for South Fork Conservancy at Zonolite Park

Celebrate trail blazing, bridge building, stream bank restoration and new rain gardens – all part of [South Fork Conservancy's](#) 12 years of preserving and protecting the South Fork of Peachtree Creek! The Conservancy invites you to [join in the fun](#) on Thursday, April 23, 5:30 to 8:00 at Zonolite Park to celebrate great progress along the South Fork at this year's **Creek Rising** benefit. This creekside party will feature great food, a signature cocktail and other refreshments, a play area for children, 200 rubber ducks racing down the creek and much more!



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Meet the Board - Events Chair Alan Smith

Alan, his husband Tim, and son Zander have lived in Atlanta for 15 years, with half of that time in Morningside. Having relocated several times from South Florida to Southern California for Alan's career, they now consider Atlanta "home" and residing in Morningside is a special part of that.

Being part of a successful Internet start-up many years ago has allowed Alan and Tim time to raise their son and manage their own vacation home rental business in South Florida and Cape Cod. When their son Zander is not in school or playing soccer for Inter-Atlanta FC, they enjoy travelling and sharing new experiences. The photo below is from their most recent trip abroad to Australia & New Zealand, taken along their way to the Great Barrier Reef.

As the new MLPA Events Chair, Alan plans to facilitate both old and new ways for our neighborhood to express a sense of community and outreach. As one of the larger in-town neighborhoods, his goal is to work with neighbors to highlight the many opportunities we have to be neighborly. In the many different ways people may like to engage, meet new neighbors or continue to make Morningside a great place to live!

One of those new opportunities is the "Morningside Affair", coming up this fall, in support of our parks. Haven't heard about it? Check out the [events section](#) of the MLPA website or send Alan a note! We're sure he'll be happy to tell you about it!



Education

At our board meeting on March 9th Jenny Lambert from the [Council of Intown Neighborhood Schools](#) spoke about the survey created to seek community input on current and future potential capacity issues in the Grady Cluster schools. The results of the survey will be shared with Atlanta Public Schools to help inform their strategic planning process currently underway. The survey closes on March 15th so please take a moment to complete it before then, and thank you for your input. You can access the survey [here](#).



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Security

Bringing MLPA Security Patrol Operations into the 21st Century

During January and February, Major Rick Vazquez (who leads the MLPA Security Patrol) has been busy installing QR codes around the neighborhood. There are tags on nearly every street with more than 60 locations identified. Tags are variously located on telephone poles, park benches, the backs of speed limit signs, MLPA membership signs, etc. All codes are scanned every 48 hours. During each hour of a shift, the MLPA Security Officer on patrol will be scanning several QR codes. So, you may see one of the officers walking up to an MLPA sign in your yard or telephone pole and scanning something with his phone. Be sure to say hi!!

A QR code (Quick Response code) is the trademark for a two-dimensional barcode first used in the 1990s by the automotive industry in Japan. In Morningside Lenox Park, the QR tag contains location information. Please do not remove the tags. Even better, since the

tags were installed, we have received multiple reports from neighbors seeing the patrol on their street.

The new software used by the patrol will help Major Vazquez manage patrol operations more efficiently. The system has features that help with setting up shifts, doing time sheets, etc. The officers will have easy ways to report street light outages, abandoned cars, and other concerns. We will continue to learn how to best use this system and will investigate installing these codes on every member's yard sign. The latter possibility will document the exact time the officer does the vacation check on a member's house. Remember that more MLPA Security Plus memberships means more patrols!! So, think about supporting the MLPA Security Patrol today with your [membership](#).

Officer BScan B9 1600 W Sussex	03/09/2020 17:11:45
Officer BScan B11 900 Plymouth	03/09/2020 17:09:42
Officer BScan B8 1700 Merton	03/09/2020 17:07:58
Officer BScan B10 1000 Wildwood	03/09/2020 17:06:37
Officer BScan B13 Robin Lane dead end	03/09/2020 17:04:05
Officer VScan G2 Zimmer dead end	03/09/2020 17:00:58
Officer BScan B5 1288 Lenox Circle	03/09/2020 17:00:00
Officer BScan B7 1100 Morningside Place	03/09/2020 16:57:14
Officer BScan B6 Lenox Road parking lot for Nature Preserve	03/09/2020 16:54:21

Social News

MLPA Garden Club

MLPA Garden Club met at Micah Coleman's home where Will Hazleton introduced members to Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks. The Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks have undertaken an effort to clear out invasive species so that native plants including several 'ephemerals' can thrive. Several members stated that they had never gone into the parks as they seemed so large and unfriendly. To remedy that, there was a group hike on Wednesday, March 11. As the pictures attest, the terrain of the park is varied. It includes Rock Creek and South Fork Peachtree Creek, several champion trees, waterfalls, and rock formations. The hikers heard woodpeckers and saw many different birds and small animals. Getting out in nature is great medicine for the body and mind. The group plans to hike the parks the first and third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM. Contact [Marti Breen](#) for more details.



MLPA Dining Club

We enjoyed another memorable home visit full of good fun and fellowship at Sarah Chatel's house in February. The next outing is at the [Lazy Llama](#) (previously Hob Nob) at 7PM on March 28. Contact [Sarah](#) for details.



A new **Parents Group** is forming in Morningside, a reboot of the [Virginia Highland Morningside Parent Association](#). Any interested parents are encouraged to watch Nextdoor or contact communications@mlpa.org for details.

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.

Zoning

The next zoning meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 7. The cases to be covered will be posted at www.mlpa.org/zoning/. Any neighbors interested in the outcome should come to these meetings.

The zoning committee had no variances to review for March. The next zoning meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 7. 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.

Events

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 Workday](#)

Saturday, March 21, 8:30 AM

Bird Watching Walk, Herbert Taylor Park

Friday, March 27, 6:00 PM

First 2020 Concert in the Park, Sidney Marcus Park

Saturday, March 28, 10:00 AM

Ephemeral Flowers Walk, Herbert Taylor Park

Tuesday, April 7, 7:00 PM

Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church.
See mlpa.org/zoning for the variances to be reviewed.

Saturday, April 11, 2:00 PM

Champion Trees Walk, Herbert Taylor Park

Monday, April 13, 7:00 PM

MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church

Monday, April 20, 7:00 PM

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

April 24 – 27

City Nature Challenge

Saturday, April 25, 2:00 PM

Restorative Wellness Walk, Herbert Taylor Park

Friday, May 1, 6:00 PM

Concert in the Park, Sidney Marcus Park

Friday, September 11, 6:00 PM

Concert in the Park, Sidney Marcus Park

Friday, October 16, 6:00 PM

Concert in the Park, Sidney Marcus Park

November 7

MLPA Fall Dinner Event and Auction

This is your newsletter. Please send us your ideas for articles, interviews, and photos for inclusion. Send them to communications@mlpa.org.

News from Atlanta City Council District 6 Representative Ide

[View](#) and sign up for the latest newsletter from our Atlanta City Council District 6 Representative, Jennifer Ide, with legislative updates, important information on Renew Atlanta work and the upcoming vote on the 1% [Municipal Options Sales Tax](#) (MOST) to support watershed management improvements.

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

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
