



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



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President's Note

Happy Saturday and I hope this newsletter finds you well and safe. If you are anything like me you go through every emotion every hour – so it was a real mood lifter to see the neighborhood participate in Light Up Morningside last Saturday. Thank you again to Leigh Atwood for the idea! See our Facebook page for pictures but the MLPA is grateful to all who participated. Hopefully we won't need another event in the near future...

We're continuing to meet online as a board and wanted to highlight a few messages as we all work together to get through this time:

1. Safety First. It is great to see so many people stretching their legs and riding, but we are hearing many reports of people out with their dogs without a leash as well as a perception of more speeding with clear streets. This is very threatening to many people (including kids) who also want to be outdoors. PLEASE think of others as you drive around or walk with your dogs.
2. Keep It Clean! Many of us are also reporting seeing masks and gloves littered around the neighborhood. We celebrate the use of disposable gear, but it is not intended to be disposed of on the ground.
3. Eat Well! Many of our neighborhood restaurants are working hard to provide food to go to until we can get back to them in person. Our neighborhood thrives with the loyalty that many of these outlets have shown us over time – please consider ordering locally when you need to dial for dinner. We'll try to showcase options and updated hours of local restaurants on our Facebook page (if you don't follow us currently, please do).

As they say in PR, don't let a good crisis go to waste. If you have any ideas for things we can be doing as a neighborhood please email me at president@mlpa.org or send us a message through our Facebook page. One of our board members (thanks Grant Gandy) had a great idea – as long as you're out walking around, bring a piece of chalk and write a big "311" wherever you see the need for urgent sidewalk repair to prompt any passerby to call 311 about it. If we all call enough, repair may happen faster!

Stay well everyone – and stay connected!

Ben



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Light Up Morningside

Thank You, Essential Workers!

During this historic pandemic, we are all indebted to the essential workers – the doctors and nurses who care for covid-19 patients, hospital workers, policemen, firemen, the postal workers who deliver the mail, Marta bus drivers, the Amazon and UPS workers who deliver the packages, sanitation workers who collect our garbage and recyclables, grocery store workers who stock the shelves and run the cash registers, Instacart shoppers, and workers in banks and drugstores. These individuals risk their own lives and health and that of their families every day to perform jobs now designated as essential. Many are hourly workers who do not have employee protections such as sick leave or health insurance.

On Saturday evening April 11, the Morningside Lenox Park Association (MLPA) sponsored Light Up Morningside for the neighborhood to thank and honor these essential workers. Many neighbors lined their yards and driveways with luminaries. Others placed white ribbons on mailboxes and trees by the street to show support. Neighbors walked about the streets to see the lights and enjoy one another's company (but at a safe distance, of course). Morningside extends a heartfelt thank you to all essential workers, for your dedication and service – such a small and really insignificant gesture compared to the risks that you take every day.





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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](#).



MLPA Helps Atlanta First Responders During Covid-19 Outbreak

The MLPA has donated \$600 to Feed the Frontline, a program of the Atlanta Police Foundation (APF). Feed the Frontline is a community-wide effort to feed front-line workers, including police, paramedics, and hospital employees. The program also helps restaurant and food service workers who prepare the meals and are employed by those whose regular operations have been suspended. On Friday, April 24, our donation will be used to provide meals to officers in both Zone 2 and Zone 6, both of which serve our neighborhood. The Foundation plans to make mention of our neighborhood's generosity on their social media platforms.

These dollars were in the Morningside APF account, that was originally set up for the purchase of license plate reader cameras. Although, the camera plans for the neighborhood call for the purchase of one more camera, this purchase has been put on hold by the APF because of circumstances related to the locations of other nearby cameras.

The Foundation is securing emergency resources and services that allow Atlanta Police officers to remain on the job and to be safely protected from Covid-19. The APF worked with the Atlanta Police Department (APD) to:

- Set up a coronavirus testing center for exclusive use by APD, Atlanta Fire/Rescue and other essential City employees
- Arrange for weekly sanitizing of APD facilities (APD HQ, APD precincts, 911 Center, other offices)
- Acquire 15,000 masks, 10,000 gloves, and supplies of sanitizing gels and wipes for use by officers
- Set up modified hours at the Westside At-Promise Center and provided lunches and take-home meals for neighborhood youth and families
- Furnish provisions for first responders.



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Pitbull Honey

We all know the potential global crisis if we suffer further population collapse of honeybees and our other pollinator friends. Morningside resident Lanier Mull is helping protect this precious resource while learning enjoying the fruits of their labor with over 50 lbs of honey.

Lanier's first colony departed their home last year, so in March he received his new shipment from [Mountain Sweet Honey](#), a popular supplier of bees and beekeeping supplies in North Carolina. He received one box of 10,000 bees and a separate tiny box holding the new queen who will chew her way free in a few days.

The successful operation and fun have led Lanier and his husband to jar and label their own brand, Pitbull Honey, to give to friends and family.

Don't forget to visit [Honey Next Door](#) any Saturday morning at [Morningside Farmer's Market](#) for your own taste of honey from Morningside hives and other local neighborhoods.

Bee good to each other. Check out [these links](#) and [beginner's classes](#) to learn more about this sweet hobby and see what all the buzz is about*.



*(ed. apologizes for obligatory puns)

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Meet the Board - Secretary Grant Gandy

Grant is an Atlanta native and has lived in Morningside with his wife Laurie for seven years. He is in his third year of service on the MLPA board as Secretary. Since moving to Morningside, the Gandys have welcomed three boys, Alex, Mack and George. They all enjoy the neighborhood parks and sidewalks for bikes, tricycles and strollers. Grant works in finance for an Atlanta software company.



Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and we plan to celebrate with our friends at [Hillside](#), a Morningside facility offering healing and hope for children and their families. Last year Hillside launched the #ReframeMentalHealth campaign. We need your help by sharing what mental health means to you and your family. Please respond with the following answers and use #ReframeMentalHealth in your May posts.

How to participate

Answer ONE of the following prompts in 250 words or less.

- How do you define mental health?
- How has the pandemic affected your mental health?
- How are you taking care of your mental health?
- What do you wish others knew about mental health?
- Share a story that highlights why we need to talk about mental health.

Attach an image that goes along with your text. It can be of just you or something that reflects your written response. Clearly indicate how you want to be identified. We can refer to you as a "Morningside Neighbor", "MLPA Member", by your professional title, or just by your name. Email your image and text to gmarvin@hside.org. Hillside will post your image and your response on their Facebook and Instagram in May (@[HillsideATL](#)). An example is shown below.

"Mental health is just as important as physical health. I think most people feel comfortable talking about their physical health and the maintenance that goes into it. It isn't uncommon to mention a new workout plan or going to the doctor for your annual physical. Mental health should get the same consideration! We should feel comfortable saying that we have a counselor or therapist. We should not be ashamed to feel anxious or sad. It's hard to break down a stigma when no one talks about it." Gabriella, Hillside Employee



Election Day - June 9

No matter how you vote, please do! On June 9 Georgia will hold the postponed Democratic presidential primary in Georgia. Depending on your residence, you have other decisions to make as well. There will be a [special election](#) for Dekalb County Sherriff. City of Atlanta residents will see a referendum on renewal of the 1% [Municipal Options Sales Tax](#) (MOST) to support watershed management improvements.

Security

How To Manage Mail Theft

One April night, mail thieves opened every mailbox on Yorkshire. If you think your mail has been stolen, notify the U.S. Postal Inspector at 877-876-2455 or at the USPS Office of the Inspector General website at uspsoig.gov/investigations. It's also best to file a claim as quickly as possible. In some cases, the postal service can trace a stolen gift card. In addition, file a theft report with the Atlanta Police Department, which routinely works with area postal inspectors.

The USPS has a service that anybody (in large metro areas) can sign up for: Informed Delivery Daily Digest. You get a picture (scan) of every letter (but not junk mail) that is due into your mailbox on that day's delivery. It's extremely accurate -- so, when something doesn't show up in your mailbox that evening, you can immediately look into where it went. If a package is via USPS, the tracking number is shown as "coming soon" or "delivery today".

Here is where you can sign up.

<https://informeddelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action>

Two easy ways to prevent loss are to retrieve your mail from your mailbox each day before dark or install a locking mailbox. Be on the lookout. If you see a car checking mailboxes, call 911. If you go out of town, stop your mail or ask a neighbor to get it while you are away.

Social News - Send Us Your Photos!

Atlantans continue to hunker down in covisolation with family, games, puzzles, and physically distanced driveway get-togethers. Please [send us](#) your favorite photos of creative solutions to socializing during Covid-19 so we can share with your neighbors.

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 zoning committee reviewed the following variance for April.

V-20-053 1507 N Morningside; Committee Approved 7-0-0; Board Approved 13-0-0

The next zoning meeting is scheduled to be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 5. This meeting is expected to be canceled or held online. The cases to be covered will be posted at www.mlpa.org/zoning/.

Events

Saturdays, 8:00 - 11:30 AM

[Morningside Farmers' Market](#), Morningside Village

April 24 – 27

[City Nature Challenge](#)

Friday, May 1

Concert in the Park POSTPONED

Tuesday, May 5 7:00 PM

Zoning Committee Meeting. See mlpa.org/zoning for the variances to be reviewed.

Saturday, May 9 9:00 AM - Noon

[Volunteer Workday](#) in Herbert Taylor Park

Monday, May 11 7:00 PM

MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church (or online)

Monday, May 18 7:00 PM

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

Tuesday, June 9

Election Day

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

Morningside Affair

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
