



# MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



## MLPA News May 2020

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### President's Note

Ten weeks ago, I hoped my daughter would just be out of school for two weeks. Now she is starting her tenth and final week of home school with the end of the academic year upon us. Needless to say - we all continue to learn to adapt during this time. With summer upon us I wanted to highlight ways you can continue to adapt to help the neighborhood:

1. Keep your dogs on leashes. One of the most common complaints we receive from neighbors is the volume of people that visit our parks and preserves but do not leash their dogs. We mentioned this last month but I had the chance this past Sunday to observe how bad the situation can be in Morningside Nature Preserve – I quite frankly lost count of how many people I had to ask to leash their dogs according to city park rules. Thank you to those who understand the rules and to those of you who think the rules do not apply to you I ask you to not make it personal and reconsider how families with young children or seniors may feel when they just can't trust any

dog to behave even if yours does. If you see people violating this rule you should also feel empowered to ask them to leash their dog.

2. Please don't litter. This is a repeat from last month but evidently it is needed. As I frequent parks and take more neighborhood walks I find the trash on the street and on trails is as bad as I have ever seen it. It is a hard time to clean up after others when you can't trust touching those objects – so please keep the neighborhood in mind before you toss that water bottle or mask on the ground. Photo shaming is coming next if this doesn't get better!

3. Help our neighborhood businesses. The economic situation is certainly tough. Just yesterday I saw two new vacancies in the Virginia Highland shopping district with the closures of Vernacular and Cacao. As you can read below, many of us so appreciate the way our local businesses have supported US during the past and during this time – if you have the means, please think to help support them right now during this time.

One upside from us all being home more often is that neighborhood crime has declined substantially – we will certainly be working with the security patrol to do our best to keep it down as things transition back to “normal”. Unfortunately, one downside has been the impact of expected continued social distancing on our planned neighborhood fundraiser for November – for now we're going to postpone in hopes that we can hold the event in 2021.

As always please reach out to me at [president@mlpa.org](mailto:president@mlpa.org) if you have ideas for ways we can help during this time. Stay well!

Ben



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## **Congratulations, 2020 Graduates!**

MLPA would like to take a moment from our lockdown to recognize the achievement of our recent High School and College Graduates (and Middle School, Elementary, Kindergarten, and any other milestones we may have missed). This has been a school year like no other, and the accomplishments of our graduates deserve all of our congratulations.

Some of our street captains have organized tributes, from signs posted in yards, to graduation parades, to mailings. Even if you were not included in one of these celebrations, know that as we shelter in place we are thinking of you. So please, if you have a graduate, give them a big hug from all of us. If you are a graduate, do the same and pat yourself on the back! We are so proud of you and hope that the next chapter is more normal than this school year has been. As you go forth, we look forward to all that you will contribute to our world, state, city, and neighborhood. The future belongs to you and we are counting on your knowledge, strength, and courage.



**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

### Milkweed for Monarchs Alights in Herbert Taylor

The severe decline of Monarch butterfly populations across North America is well known. Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on the leaves of milkweed, the only host plant for this iconic butterfly species. As such, milkweed is critical for the survival of monarchs. Without it, they cannot complete their life cycle and their populations decline.

[Milkweed to Monarchs](#) is a broad Atlanta-wide outreach for a monarch butterfly revival. These organizations are restoring the critical habitat for monarch survival by growing and spreading several Georgia native species of milkweeds across a wide swath of North Georgia. Building on the 2019 successes, 450 seedlings of two varieties of milkweed were prepared this year. With the Covid 19 crisis, a disbursed army of volunteers was still able to achieve the vision of bringing 450 seedlings to area homes and parks. A single day of planting became three Saturdays of plant distributions at Zonolite Park, with volunteers maintaining social distance. Friends of Herbert Taylor picked up twenty seedlings (to the sounds of a flyover by Navy and Air Force demonstration squadrons!) and planted them along the right bank of Peachtree Creek, just downstream and across from the 'dog beach'. We look forward to the milkweeds self-propagating and pioneering a monarch-friendly environment along the creek for years to come. [Contact us](#) to learn how you can help maintain the milkweeds and young chestnut trees in the park.





## Noble Park

Friends of Noble Park have nearly completed our Phase II beautification project. While Phase I, completed in late 2018, centered on the installation of a new playground, Phase II's goal was to revitalize the landscape and to create better continuity between the various areas of the park. Two additional play structures were added to the playground for the youngest children. Trees and shrubs were planted, as well as many perennials. All bench swings and the entrance sign were rehung on new frames and were repositioned for better symmetry. A labyrinth was installed in front of the swing near the official entrance at the corner of Meadowdale Ave and Noble Drive. The lawn was re-sodded at that end, and the main play field was re-seeded. A Green Team of garden volunteers has begun weeding their assigned planting areas which will ensure our new gardens are well cared for going forward. Low fencing surrounds all the newly established beds, a visual reminder which separates the beds from the lawns, playgrounds and walkways.

None of this could have come to fruition without our many wonderful, supportive neighbors. This spring we must especially thank neighbor Susan Zaro, who worked with Patrick Hand of Integrated Land Design on plant selection. Adam Robinson stepped up as lawn and field advisor, donating seed mixtures while we experimented with getting the playing field restored. While the park has been closed during CoVid, seeing the growing gardens and new playing field has been a cheery sight in Johnson Estates this spring.

## Atlanta Park Closures

Tennis courts and play structures remain closed in all City of Atlanta parks. Please continue to check with your local Friends of Park group and the [DPR site](#) for updates. As always, we remind you to practice [social distancing](#), litter patrol, and pet leashing in each of our wonderful Morningside parks.



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## Gratitude for Common Sense During Coronavirus Pandemic

MLPA thanks all our neighbors who are heeding the advice of professionals and experts to avoid unnecessary outings. Please continue to wear face masks in public, maintain six feet distance from others, and wash your hands! While enjoying our parks and sidewalks, allow room for others, don't litter, and maintain awareness. Finally, smile and wave. You never know what a kind greeting can mean to your neighbor.



The advertisement features a green background with white and purple text. On the left, a circular logo with leaves is positioned above the text 'MIDTOWN family WELLNESS'. Below this, a list of services is provided: 'WE SPECIALIZE IN: GENERAL CHIROPRACTIC CARE, PEDIATRIC CHIROPRACTIC CARE, PREGNANCY CHIROPRACTIC CARE, MASSAGE THERAPY'. To the right of a vertical line, contact information is listed: '404-810-9099, 1259 MONROE DRIVE NE, ATLANTA GA 30306, MIDTOWNFAMILYWELLNESS.COM'. At the bottom, a purple banner reads 'MENTION THIS AD & RECEIVE 50% OFF YOUR INITIAL VISIT!'. On the far right, a photograph shows a woman in a pink top and black shorts sitting on a chiropractic table, being attended to by a practitioner.

## Support Your Local Businesses!

### MLPA Board Members Share Their Experiences with Local Businesses During COVID

Your MLPA Board members have been busy patronizing our local businesses and have these reviews to offer.

Charles Bayless: Rhode's Bakery - Closed but carefully taking orders early in the week for pickup later in the week. Always delicious. Address: 1783 Cheshire Bridge Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30324 Phone: (404) 876-3783

Intown Animal Clinic - As attentive to the health of their customers as their concern for the health of our animals. Super accommodating of the situation. Address: 1402 North Highland Avenue Northeast #3, Atlanta, GA 30306 Phone: (404) 881-1805

Alon's Bakery - Can't recommend them enough. Great food, conscientious about obeying the rules and good at keeping things turning over under difficult

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circumstances. Address: 1394 North Highland Avenue Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30306  
Phone: (404) 872-6000

Sarah Chatel: Peter and I took our pups to Paw Palace off Zonolite road for the first time while we were at home based on a review we saw on Next Door. They exceeded expectations. We have 2 Coton du Tulear's who were in a bad need of grooming! We took them back 2 weeks later for just a bath and our typically skiddish pups walked right in with no looking back. <http://atlpawpalace.com> 1198 Zonolite Rd

We ordered take out from DBA Barbeque on several occasions. We have never had a bad meal there and really liked their set up for take out. <http://dbabarbecue.com>

We ordered the take out special from Grindhouse Burgers a couple of times, too. \$35 for 8 pre-made patties, all the fixings, including cheese rolls and their special sauce. It's a perfect meal when you add corn on the cob and salad at home. <http://grindhouseburgers.com>

Doc Chey's is another one we frequently enjoyed. My favorite thing to order is the lettuce wraps! <http://doccheys.com>

Bangkok Thai has a delicious menu that we ordered from a couple of times. We love their food. <https://bangkokthaiatl.com> Behind Ansley Mall

I know it sounds like all we did was take-out during our shelter in place and we did do a lot of cooking at home too. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Nowak's. They are big supporters of MLPA and we wanted to support them, too. They had a great take out menu available with curbside pickup. <http://nowaksrestaurant.com>

Micah Coleman: We have always enjoyed the tasty, interesting menu and excellent service at Whiskey Bird. They love their local clients, have hosted park groups, and are obviously committed to being true Morningside neighbors. They also have an awesome mural of birds on their N Highland facade. It has been great for them to have been offering take out during our isolation. [Eatwhiskeybird.com](http://Eatwhiskeybird.com) for take-out

Grant Gandy: If you need a break from cooking at home, Casseroles has a good menu of prepared meals and casseroles. They can take orders over the phone and have your order waiting at the door for a contactless handoff. We have really enjoyed the variety during the Shelter in Place order. [casserolesatlanta.com](http://casserolesatlanta.com) 404-228-3260, 1393 North Highland Avenue (pull around to the back)

Will Haze: My wife and I have supported a number of businesses during the quarantine period. One that is under the radar screen is Tuscany at Your Table in VaHi across from Highland Hardware. The owner/chef, Luigi, is a real, bigger than life Italian with a beautiful accent and who's very outgoing. Both the food and wine selection are superb. I suspect that his financial situation is more perilous than others. 1050 N Highland <http://tuscanyatyourtable.com>

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We have also enjoyed Whiskey Bird. I ordered their Mother's Day brunch and it was superb. Food was very flavorful, not the usual brunch fare, as always really above average in terms of presentation, even for take-out with detailed instructions on reheating and prepping the food. We asked for their Frose, a frozen Rose' concoction which was a great counterpoint to the food being cool, refreshing, not very alcoholic and with a beautiful pink hue.

Alan Smith: I'm looking forward to getting back in my local gym Gravity Fitness safely. They have taken time to plan how to re-open in a safe way for employees and customers as follows: -Delayed open until May 11th for precaution & planning. -Max limit of 25 people. 1 person for every 600 feet. -Online reservation system to secure your spot. (Walk in's still welcome) -Each member gets their own disinfectant spray bottle & towel to wipe surfaces during visit. -All employees have PPE -All members encouraged to wear masks -Temperature checks for all members and employees. <http://gravgymatlanta.com> 2201 Faulkner Rd 404-486-0506

Thank you to everyone in Morningside who went out of their way to support our local businesses during this strange time. We certainly want them to be around when it's a completely safe Atlanta. Obviously, there are many more than we have room for here. *Please send us your best memories of local businesses.*



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## Meet the Board - Will Hazleton

Will Hazleton and his wife, Holly, moved to their home overlooking Noble Park in 1985. Will (UVA law grad) and Holly (UGA law grad) shared an intown law practice together for most of their careers. Their children, Kate and Scott, spent endless hours in Noble Park, their "front yard" in the days when it still had the first play structures which were built by neighborhood volunteers. Now two of their grandchildren, Niecy and Royce, get to enjoy the "new and enhanced" Noble Park.

Will has been actively involved in park and recreation issues in Morningside for many years. He has been on the Executive Board of Friends of Noble Park since 2016, overseeing both phases of the renovation of the entire park. Will has also been working since 2010 on protecting and improving the natural environment of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks. Currently an active member of the Friends of Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park, his focus has been on both habitat restoration and invasive removal as well as addressing creek bank erosion problems on S. Peachtree Creek. He started walking the trail along S. Peachtree from the original entrance on Johnson Road back in the mid 1990's and now is enjoying the new improvements to that trail.

Like his MLPA neighbors, Will is committed to protecting and improving access by everyone to our green spaces, ensuring that our neighborhood character is maintained and becomes more affordable and that we continue to build a sense of community welcoming to all.



## 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.

There's still time to join in. Please respond with what you're doing to maintain positive mental health during the crisis, using #ReframeMentalHealth. You can also email your response and a fun image to [gmarvin@hside.org](mailto:gmarvin@hside.org). Visit Hillside on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) to see all the posts.



## 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.

See [fultoncountyga.gov](http://fultoncountyga.gov) or [dekalbcountyga.gov](http://dekalbcountyga.gov) for early voting locations.

## Security

### MLPA Salutes Officer of the Month - Sergeant Kelly Lambert

Morningside salutes Sergeant Kelly Lambert. Sergeant Lambert has the most seniority of the officers who work the Morningside Security Patrol. He currently works the neighborhood Tuesday day shift and Sunday evening shift.

His current assignment in the Atlanta Police Department is supervisor in the highly successful Atlanta Police Fugitive Unit. Sergeant Lambert came to Atlanta about 23 years ago to join the police department. He always wanted to become a policeman to help in the community.

Sergeant Lambert grew up in Chesapeake, Virginia. In his free time, he likes to play golf and hang out with his boys Garrett and Grant. His wife Nicole is also a police officer who works for the City of Atlanta.

Thank you Sergeant Lambert for your service!



## Social News - Send Us Your Photos!

The MLPA Garden Club is on hiatus as all of us are sheltering in place which includes plenty of time to work on garden maintenance. Morningside Lenox Park has outdone itself with a burst of color from may apples, trilliums, azaleas, dogwoods, and spring flowers in our yards, parks, and nature preserves. The group has decided to wait until it's safe to gather again, but in the meantime, one of our members was gracious enough to send out a video tour of her garden. Neighbors Thanks to Alice Hood and her videographer, you too can enjoy these fabulous spaces.

[Middle Garden](#)   [Lower Tier Garden](#)

Neighbors were treated to a spectacular pair of flybys of the US Navy Blue Angels and US Air Force Thunderbirds. The demonstration squadron fighter jets were on a multi-city mission to express gratitude for healthcare workers.



We can do our part to express thanks to all the essential workers helping to sustain civilization during this time of crisis.



## Zoning

The zoning committee reviewed the following application for re-zoning.

Z-20-025 1890 Lenox Rd; Committee Approved 8-0-0; Board Approved 12-0-0

The next zoning meeting is scheduled to be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 2. This meeting is expected to be canceled or held online. The cases to be covered will be posted at [www.mlpa.org/zoning/](http://www.mlpa.org/zoning/).

## Events

**Saturdays, 8:00 - 11:30 AM**

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

**Tuesday, June 2 7:00 PM**

Zoning Committee Meeting. See [mlpa.org/zoning](http://mlpa.org/zoning) for the variances to be reviewed.

**Monday, June 8 7:00 PM**

MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church (or online)

**Tuesday, June 9**

Election Day

**Monday, June 15 7:00 PM**

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

**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

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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).

## 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

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[\*\*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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