



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



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President's Note

I remember three months ago thinking “I hope by July life is back to normal”. We’re not anywhere near the way things were but the new normal is here for a while it seems. We appreciate all that neighbors are doing to keep each other safe. As we turn towards the second half of the year the big things on my mind include:

- **Black Lives Matter.** While the country wakes up to the longstanding need for inclusivity and anti-racism, it lifted my spirit to see so many families and neighbors show up to the June 6 Rally for Black Lives on Highland Avenue. I showed up sad that we had to be there to even ask for it but left inspired to see our neighborhood demonstrate such support. Thank you to the MES and SPARK parents who organized this event and I hope those that also attended or witnessed it found it meaningful. The MLPA of course stands against any racism and wants to be a part of continued support for this vital mission.

- **Masks.** If you are the parent of school children, you are likely aware that Atlanta Public Schools will make its decision on how to reopen in August based on the rate of spread of COVID-19. If the spread is low, they will be able to reopen in a hybrid or traditional method. I'm not going to get political here but there is enough science to validate the benefits of wearing masks as a community. I know a lot of parents are eager to see their kids back in school in some form – which also helps local businesses if people can get back to routine – so please let's all do our part to do what we can to keep any spread low! We can do this.
- **We repeat keep your dogs on leashes.** I cannot tell you how many people continue to thank the MLPA for reiterating this and ask us to repeat the message given how many people behave as if rules don't apply to them. As an example of why – in last month's volunteer Herbert Taylor clean-up morning, one volunteer was bitten on the hand by a dog that was off-leash. As he said to the owner – did you think what could have happened with young children in this situation? Sadly I'm sure he didn't. I'm a dog owner. I love my dog and I think my dog is harmless and friendly. But I walk her on a leash at all times because city ordinance 110.70(a) states **“No person shall walk any pet in any park except on a leash, unless the area of the park is explicitly designated as an off-leash dog area”**. I want all neighbors to feel empowered to ask violators to put their dogs on their leashes and to quote this ordinance and point them to the fact it is posted in park entrances. You are doing the right thing even if the owners think they're exempt because their dogs are angels or if they are rude in response (which has happened to me many times unfortunately). The only way to make progress here is to keep speaking up.

Please know we are also in touch with APD these days on how current events may impact our neighborhood. As some of you may have read, there was a sick-out on Thursday, June 18 that impacted our zone. The department has assured us they can still police our area in such an event and if helpful we were able to verify that the Morningside Security Patrol was on duty as expected and we can also confirm they conducted their patrol routes as expected. Our security chairs are connected to APD, the Atlanta Police Foundation, and security patrol officers and will continue to monitor for updates.

As we turn towards the second half of the year, we also start thinking about assembling the MLPA board for the year ahead. If you are interested in helping lead in some way or dedicate effort to a specific cause, please reach out to me at president@mlpa.org. As always, we look forward to your feedback and questions.

Ben



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Parks

This newsletter has published photos of the occasional retention pond which is Sunken Garden. Things are looking drier and lovelier, with the addition of a beautiful, new retaining wall on both sides of the main stairwell. It matches the original stonework seamlessly and will aesthetically help with erosion control. The second phase of this project - addition of drainage lines that will alleviate the flooding and muddy conditions - was just finished, as well. These park improvements are the result of a Park Pride Community Building Grant (supported by The Home Depot Foundation) that was awarded to our Friends of the Park group in December. We are so grateful to have received \$10,000 in matching funds from Park Pride, and we extend special thanks to the Morningside Lenox Park Association and City Councilmember Jennifer Ide for their contributions. We also truly appreciate Patrick Hand, of Integrated Land Design, for his vision, plans and implementation of these capital improvement projects. And of course, thanks to the City of Atlanta Parks and Recreation Department, too!



When we surveyed neighbors about problems in Sunken Garden Park, the highest area of concern was muddy conditions and drainage. Mosquitoes were a

very close second. Our hope is that the installation of additional drainage lines will not only improve the former, but also reduce the standing, stagnant water that breeds the latter. Much to our surprise, the Morningside Lenox Park Association's Garden Club graciously donated and placed two Biogent traps in Sunken Garden Park. We are so grateful to have another line of defense against those pesky insects! These BG-GAT traps are passive, which means they do not require power or supplemental attractants like CO2 or chemical lures. You can find more information about them here: <https://us.biogents.com/bg-gat/>. Let's be sure to leave these traps alone, so they can serve their duty as an alternative breeding site and catch the egg-laying females. Thanks again, MLPA Garden Club!



Along with the new ADA-compliant pedestrian bridge at the parking lot, the Lenox Wildwood tennis courts are now open for singles games. Please continue to check with your local Friends of Park group and the [DPR site](#) for updates on ongoing park closures – playgrounds, indoor facilities, etc. As always, we remind you to practice [social distancing](#), litter patrol, and pet leashing in each of our wonderful Morningside parks.

ActivateATL - parks and recreation for all!

Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation has launched a new initiative, ActivateATL. This effort focuses on engaging and work with all stakeholders to ensure our city has world class parks which provide green equity and provide the resources needed and *wanted* by the neighbors they serve. Find out more on [Park Pride's site](#). Provide input for Morningside parks through the [online survey](#). Join a [virtual public input meeting](#). Let your voice be heard for parks!



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Stand Up for Black Lives Protest and Rally

2000+ Morningside and Virginia Highland neighbors came together for a peaceful, family-friendly protest and rally in support of Black Lives Matter. This event on the N Highland sidewalks allowed multiple generations to engage in the movement while maintaining social distancing. At the conclusion of the N Highland rally, many proceeded along Virginia to Piedmont Park and the larger demonstrations in the evening. The MES and SPARK parents who organized the protest and rally stressed social distance, masks, healthy conversation with kids about anti-racism, and followup actions like *voting*.





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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.

Leash your dogs! Pets are *not allowed to be off leash* in Atlanta or Dekalb County parks. If you see an off leash dog, respectfully ask the owner to leash their dog. You can explain the reasons, including fellow visitors' safety and security, the spread of invasives, and *it's the law*. The newly installed signs instruct us to dial 911. Your call will be triaged to avoid wasting resources needed for an emergency, but this situation has gotten out of hand. Let's enjoy our wonderful parks together.



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MES End of the Year Staff Parade

In a touching tribute to teachers and staff, Morningside Elementary held an end of year staff parade to wave and cheer with all the children and families they've missed during isolation. This was a celebration of a tumultuous unprecedented year before the big move this fall to the former Inman Middle campus. The neighborhood came together with a small town feel to root for all the cars.



Good Morningside

Speaking of small town spirit, the O'Brien family has put their talent and devotion towards an idea to help bring us together and support our local businesses. The signs are for sale to all, and proceeds will be used to buy gift certificate from Morningside Village businesses and donated to MES.

Check them out on [Facebook](#) or [NextDoor](#) and order your Good Morningside sign to show your love and support for our community.



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.



Meet the Board - Membership Chair Sarah Chatel

Sarah Chatel has lived, worked and raised a family in the Atlanta area for the last 40 years. She began her Real Estate career 8 years ago and has consistently been in the top 10% of all Realtors in the Atlanta area. Sarah is also a local actress doing commercials, film, TV, and radio for over 25 years.

She and her husband, Peter, are active in the community. Sarah serves on the MLPA Board as Membership Chair, Alliance Theatre Advisory Board, is a member of the Midtown Rotary Club of Atlanta as well as the 2021 Gala Chair for Dancing Stars of Atlanta for Alzheimer's. She serves on the Alumnae Board of Directors for Converse College, her alma mater, where she obtained a BA in Religion and minored in Theatre.

During COVID shelter in place, Sarah started the Morningside Lenox Park Neighbors Helping Neighbors Facebook page to support our community and post positive comments. She is a contributor to the Morningside Magazine, coordinates the Morningside Supper Club and hosts a monthly wine and cheese party for her neighbors on and near E Rock Springs.

"With over 4000 homes in our Morningside - Lenox Park neighborhood and only a little over 1000 members of MLPA, my goal as the MLPA Membership Chair would be to add 500 more homes as members during my tenure as Chair. Together we are stronger and have more of a voice in how our neighborhood is run. There are certain grants we can apply for based solely on our membership numbers, too. Those grants include park renovations and beautification as well as rebuilding/investing in getting our sidewalks fixed, to name a few. With the suburban neighborhoods paying well over \$500 a year, being a member of MLPA is a bargain at \$300/year!"



APS Survey and Townhall

Atlanta Public Schools and particularly MES are fighting to meet the challenge of managing an already challenging year combined with the Coronavirus shutdown and re-opening. They need your feedback on how to properly and safely re-open and meet the needs of our young Atlantans. Please take the [survey](#) ([Spanish option](#)) or join Monday's [Townhall](#) to let your voice be heard and show your support.

Who to Call

With Nextdoor only a phone app away, our tendency may be to use it when something occurs—but before you reach for it, please make the appropriate phone call, otherwise your posts will be no more than idle words.

If you see something, say something...

We are naturally reluctant to bother first responders with what may be trivial matters. However, as anyone who has interacted with them will tell you, that is exactly what you should do. If you have a suspicion that something is not as it should be, it's always best to be safe and call 911. The operators are trained to triage calls, so you needn't worry that your situation may not rise to the level of an emergency. There are numerous anecdotes relating the value of neighbors having made the call—so if you see something, by all means, call 911.

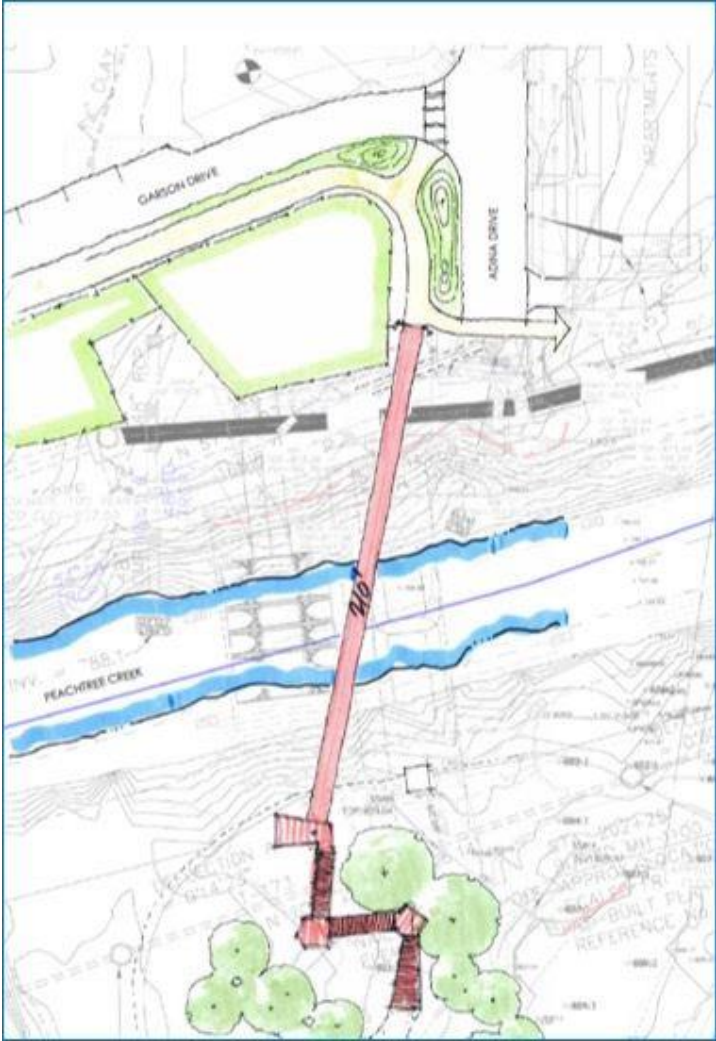
If something needs attention...

How many times have you been walking or driving and noticed a branch down, a hydrant leaking, a traffic signal misbehaving etc., yet done nothing about it? In the future, call 311 to report these annoyances. The city even makes it easy by allowing you to do it via the internet at atl311.com. Again, trained operators will take the information and transmit it to the appropriate city department for action.

Confluence Trail Pedestrian Bridge

Have you ever wondered about the urban creeks meandering through Atlanta? Thanks to living in the Piedmont, our city and neighborhood are blessed with creeks which help define our roads and neighborhoods. Many of our parks and the trails connecting them naturally arise around these urban waterways. The confluence of Peachtree Creek, where the North Fork and South Fork meet, will soon provide accessibility to many of those greenspaces, realizing ATL, Park

Pride, and the Trust For Public Land’s goal to ensure each Atlantan is within a [ten minute walk of a park](#). Recently the [South Fork Conservancy](#) broke ground on a 175-foot-long, \$2.8M pedestrian bridge at the confluence, connecting the Peachtree Creek Greenway with PATH400. Construction is expected to complete this fall. As the South Fork runs through Morningside, cutting through Daniel Johnson, Herbert Taylor, and Zonolite Parks, and we witness the next generation of Atlantans devoted to greenspace and all its benefits for health and wellness, this is an important step forward. Get out and get nature, Morningside!



Zoning

The zoning committee had no variances to review for June.

The next zoning meeting is scheduled to be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, July 7. 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

Monday, June 22 6:30 PM

APS Reopening Strategy [Virtual Town Hall](#).

Monday, June 22 7:00 PM

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

Tuesday, July 7 7:00 PM

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

Monday, July 13 7:00 PM

MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church (or online)

Monday, July 20 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

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 and important information on Renew Atlanta work.

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
