



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



MLPA News July 2020

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President's Note

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I hope this finds you staying safe (and sane). As the world outside continues to look uncertain, I want to thank all neighbors for actions they are taking to keep the entire community safe. See below for some top of mind thoughts:

- 1. Safety.** We're feeling the increased risk of coronavirus between schools going virtual and tiring mask debates (no comment but if I had one it would be muffled BY MY MASK). We're also hearing of increased police resignations – and right or wrong, it will impact how they can cover our communities. I can assure you our patrol continues to do its work and we will evaluate any need for change. Please stay vigilant on all fronts.
- 2. Airbnb Complaints.** Over the July 4 weekend we had yet another situation involving police when a neighbor suffered battery from a tenant of a short-term Airbnb rental hosting a party that got out of control. This followed a similar event two months ago on Yorkshire Drive that actually resulted in gun shots. While there may be an acceptable type of rental, we do not want events like these to continue. If you have dealt with a negative experience associated with a short-term Airbnb rental near your home, please contact us with additional information so we can assess the need for more oversight. Feel free to email any information to neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org.
- 3. The Board Needs YOU.** We appreciate all our members immensely and we get such great support from many of you. But we also have many board members that have been doing selfless jobs for many years without a pipeline of other neighbors to step up. They continue out of obligation and service but we need fresh ideas and energy to be able to serve our objectives for the long term. If you think you have 3-5 hours a month to spend on board meetings and interim follow-up, we would love to hear from you. Don't let me this turn into begging – if you even remotely care about the MLPA continuing its role, it just can't maintain without new people. It really isn't a hard job – and of course we are all busy with jobs, families and other interests. Even if remotely interested please feel free to reach out to any of the following board members to hear more about the experience – I am confident they will share similar details about the work given our focus areas and the benefits of enhanced community ties.

Donald Campbell, Vice President – vicepresident@mlpa.org

Sarah Chatel, Membership – smchatel@gmail.com

Micah Coleman, Communications – communications@mlpa.org

Grant Gandy, Secretary – secretary@mlpa.org

Marla Johnson, Parks – parks@mlpa.org

Phyllis Wingo, Neighborhood Watch – neighborhoodwatch@mlpa.org

Tosh Wolfe, Security – security@mlpa.org

We are continuing to meet as a board via Zoom on the second Monday of each month – if you are interested in participating please reach out for details. Last week we were glad to be joined by Stacey Evans, who will run uncontested in November for the state house seat that represents our neighborhood. As always, we look forward to your feedback and questions.

Ben



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Morningside Art Contest

In these challenging times, local businesses are jumping into the community spirit. The Morningside Art Contest will allow K-12 children to use their imagination and art skills to create their rendition of what a Hero is this year. A mural of submitted artwork will hang in the open space between Pierce Chiropractic Center and Fit Learning on the Lanier Blvd side of Morningside Village. In early September they will hold a socially distanced gathering in the parking lot to announce the winners. There will be cash prizes for the top three entries in each age group. Stop by one of those two businesses or the Morningside Business Association [Facebook page](#) for entry forms and more details. Let's see our Morningside kids' community spirit and talent!

Dr. Randy Culig, Pierce Chiropractic Center, tells us, "With 2020 having its challenges and the majority of summer plans cancelled for families in the neighborhood. I thought it would be a good idea to create a contest that could keep the children busy and bring some light to our neighborhood. The 'Morningside Art Contest' was created to allow children to express their imagination and art skills to create their rendition of what a Hero is this year."



Heroes of 2020



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Blue and White Ribbons to Honor Lewis and Vivian

Within 24 hours Atlanta lost two of our beloved adopted sons – civil rights activist and intellectual Reverend C. T. Vivian, and Morningside’s own US Representative John Lewis.

Regardless of one’s political affiliation, we can adopt Rep. Lewis’s loving, humble spirit to celebrate both men’s selfless contributions to Atlanta and our nation. Borrowing a similar campaign in Inman Park, we call on neighbors to hang blue and white ribbons on trees and lampposts to show our solidarity and support. If you don’t want to buy ribbon in bulk or need help tying bows, [just ask](#).

We also ask anyone to [send us](#) their personal memories of meeting Rep. Lewis or being touched by his work. We would love to share your stories with the neighborhood.



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.

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Parks

As the summer sun blazes down on our trees, trails, and empty playgrounds, vines, hops, and other weeds wage their endless assault on our greenspaces. Working in pairs or alone, local nature lovers continue the fight to keep our paths and parks healthy and useable. The North Trail through Herbert Taylor Park along Peachtree Creek is widened each week with machete and weed whacker. Friends are tackling Japanese chaff flower before it can mature and release its seed in the fall. Families from local BSA Troop 29 cleared ivy from Lenox-Wildwood. Efforts continue to beat back the jungle from our newly planted milkweed and chestnut.

Milkweeds to Monarchs

Two years ago, Friends of Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Nature Preserve began planting milkweed to encourage the proliferation of monarch butterflies in Morningside Lenox Park. Monarchs, the familiar yellow and black butterflies visit our neighborhood during their migration every year. They are among the most spectacular of all insects, migrating up to 3,000 miles to find just the right temperature and humidity in which to thrive. Lately, biologist have raised concerns as the number of migrating Monarchs has dwindled.

These magnificent insects are attracted to milkweed, both as a source of nectar and as a host. Below is a so-called butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) growing in the Nature preserve where it was planted more than a year ago. As part of the recent Milkweeds to Monarchs initiative, More recently, a group of volunteers planted 20 swamp milkweed, *asclepias incarnata*, on the north shore of Peachtree Creek in the preserve.

As these young plants become established so they can serve as homes for our butterfly friends, it's important that neighborhood adults work to ensure they have a chance to become well established. Do not let your children or pets trample the plants. Most are marked, but you need to keep pets on leash and kids within your purview to protect the tender plants.



If the reader is wondering how to help while visiting our parks, leash your dog and kindly remind others to do the same. We always need help fighting back invasives while not destroying our native plants. If a plant is covering a trail, it can be removed or cut back. If it's privet, ivy, kudzu, or wisteria, it can be removed or cut back. If it barks when touched, it's likely an off-leash dog and should be gently removed.

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Off Leash Dogs - Please Help!

MLPA thanks all our neighbors who are heeding the advice of professionals and experts to avoid unnecessary outings, maintain social distance, and wear masks. The astute reader may notice a recurring theme in our newsletters and postings – *leash your dogs!*

Recognizing we may be preaching to the choir, we ask that neighbors not only be responsible for your own furry animals, but please be active helping to police our 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.

As a visual reminder of the precious nature these rules are meant to protect, here is a turtle nest on an undisclosed bank of Peachtree Creek right here in Morningside.



Back-to-School Supplies Needed for Conant School at Hillside

As APS students plan to go back to school virtually for the first 9 weeks, there is one school in the Morningside neighborhood where children will be back in their classrooms next month.

Conant School is a specialized school for children and adolescents struggling with mental health challenges. Located on the campus of [Hillside](#), one of the premier mental health facilities in Georgia for children and young adults, The Conant School provides an environment for Hillside residents to remediate their skill gaps and encourages students to move forward with their education. Children attending The Conant School are also enrolled in the Atlanta Public School system for the duration of their treatment. The Conant School is fully accredited and each child receives credits for the coursework they complete during their stay.

This year they are seeing the impact COVID-19 is having on children’s mental health as well as their education. New guidelines discourage sharing of school supplies, so there’s an increased need for classroom basics for each student. Please consider supporting Hillside and The Conant School by purchasing Back-to-School supplies for these students via their [Amazon Wish List link](#).



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Good Morningside

A recent grassroots branding campaign which celebrates this neighborhood we all love, Good Morningside signs are popping up on every street and lane. Eric O'Brien and his family were motivated to do something to help the local businesses hurting during the pandemic. They are also a positive reminder of community and neighbors supporting neighbors. The signs are for sale at the following links, and proceeds are being 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.



MLPA Zoning Chair Rebekah Falkler

Rebekah has been a Morningside resident since 2003. She is a graduate of the University of South Florida and for the past nine years has been working as an IT consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton. Rebekah and her partner, Marnie, can often be found riding their bikes in Piedmont Park and on the Beltline and spending time with their two pit bulls, Flour and Witt, and poodle, Manny.



Security

Airbnbs

Recently, the MLPA has heard numerous complaints about Airbnb short-term rentals in the neighborhood. These complaints involved party noise late at night and in the early morning, parking violations, rowdy behaviors, gun shots, etc. Members of the MLPA Board are investigating city ordinances that might impose restrictions on short term rentals in residential neighborhoods. We could use more data on the extent of Airbnb rentals in the neighborhood to understand the magnitude of the problem. If you are aware of an Airbnb rental on your street or have had to deal with problems related to the Airbnb, please [email us](#) the rental address and other relevant details.

City of Atlanta Use of Force Advisory Council and Survey

The Use of Force Advisory Council was launched on June 10, 2020 by Mayor Bottoms with the goal of evaluating APD's Use of Force procedures and developing recommendations on areas for improvement. Neighbors are encouraged to provide feedback on prioritizing recommendations and provide comment on APD use of force via the [online survey](#) until July 29.

Zoning

The zoning committee had no variances to review for July.

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

Tuesday, August 4 7:00 PM

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

Monday, August 10 7:00 PM

MLPA Board Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church (or online)

Monday, August 17 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 (TENTATIVE)

Friday, October 16 6:00 PM

Concert in the Park, Sidney Marcus Park (TENTATIVE)

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, David T Howard Middle School, Grady High School**](#)

[**VHMPA**](#) -Virginia Highland Morningside Parent Association
