



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK

ASSOCIATION



MLPA News September 2020

1. [President's Note](#)
2. [Light Up Morningside with Lanterns](#)
3. [Morningside Art Contest](#)
4. [Parks](#)
5. [Tree Protection Ordinance](#)
6. [Good Morningside](#)
7. [Renaming Grady High School](#)
8. [Meet the Board - Marla Johnson](#)
9. [Security](#)
10. [Zoning](#)
11. [Events](#)
12. [News from Atlanta City Council District 6](#)

President's Note

Fall is here! It is perhaps my favorite time in the neighborhood as the leaves go down and the Halloween decorations go up. The world feels stuck at times but there is still change to report – and it's not all spooky!

1. APD Updates for Zone 6. Zone 6 has a new commander with the appointment of Major Peter Ries (pronounced “rice”). He is a seasoned veteran of APD across many zones and departments and we are lucky to have him. In our September meeting we asked him about the ongoing nuisance of street racing in Atlanta. It is indeed a citywide phenomenon. When asked how we can help abate this issue, he encouraged us all to call 911 anytime we see or hear a potential problem – which can also include cars congregating in parking lots in nearby establishments. Activity on Cheshire Bridge Road is also brewing again as establishments reopen and crime and noise complaints increase – please know there is a coordinated effort between the affected neighborhoods, APD leaders from Zone 2 and Zone 6 and Council Member Jennifer Ide to address this. While we know police departments across the country are under pressure, many of us also asked Major Ries how we can support the APD during a time of low morale and turnover. He encouraged all of us to thank the officers we see in the field and recognize great effort when we see it.

2. Street improvements. You may have noticed improvements around the neighborhood with paving near completion for Lenox Road and Johnson Road and substantial progress on Lenox-Wildwood Park with the new parking zone, bridge and repainted tennis courts. Funding has also been sourced to establish a roundabout at the intersection of E. Rock Springs Rd. and Cumberland Road, which is a known speed corridor – we are excited to see that come to bear, hopefully in 2021.

3. Park playscapes clarification. As a parent, believe me I know we want our kids outside as much as possible right now – but please keep in mind that city park playscapes are still officially closed. The city has been taping the playscapes off but unfortunately park users are taking them down.

As Halloween festivities arise we will be looking to the city for any official guidance on how to have the safest Halloween possible and communicate accordingly. This year's [Lantern Parade-In-Place](#) is an excellent opportunity. Regardless of your plans, as always please keep safe distances and mask up – this is time after all! Please be understanding of neighbors who do not feel safe participating as well.

As always please reach out to me with any feedback at president@mlpa.org. Stay well!

Ben



Lifetime Member, Top Producers Club
Top 5% Atlanta Realtors
404.734.3185 | sonnyjones.com
Your Morningside Neighbor

DORSEY ALSTON
REALTORS*

INTOWN OFFICE
COMING IN 2020!



100 WEST PACES FERRY ROAD | ATLANTA, GA 30305 | DORSEYALSTON.COM | 404.352.2010

Lantern Parade-In-Place

Each year since 2010, intown residents have enjoyed the [Atlanta Beltline Lantern Parade](#). This event has attracted nearly 70,000 persons in recent years. Because of the pandemic, this year's event will be a [parade in place](#), and nearby neighborhoods are participating.

The MLPA is encouraging Morningside neighbors to participate in **Light Up Morningside with Lanterns** by decorating their porches and yards with [homemade lanterns](#) in September. For those who do not think they are particularly creative, lanterns can be purchased on numerous websites. We had great participation in Light Up Morningside to support front line workers in the spring. We view this as an extension of that event to honor again those workers who put their lives on the line every day.

September 21-26

Decorate the front of your home or porch with lanterns and lights. Take a photo and post on social media with hashtag #BeltLineParadeinPlace.

September 24, 25, 26

The Krewe of the Grateful Glutton (the creator and host of the Beltline Lantern Parade) will make unannounced pop-up appearances in BeltLine neighborhoods from 8 to 10 PM.

September 26, 7 - 9 PM

Morningside neighbors can walk their block to see lantern lights. Wearing masks and social distancing is important, of course.

Sooo... get your creative juices going and plan for lanterns on your porch or in your yard in September. Looking forward to significant participation. Post with #BeltLineParadeinPlace to share ideas or show off your work of art!

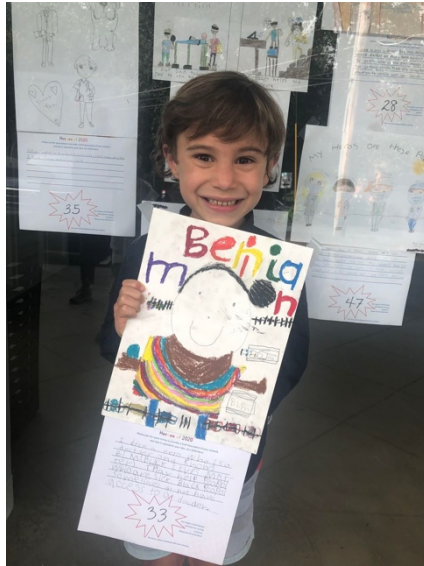


Half-Priced Wine at Varuni Napoli

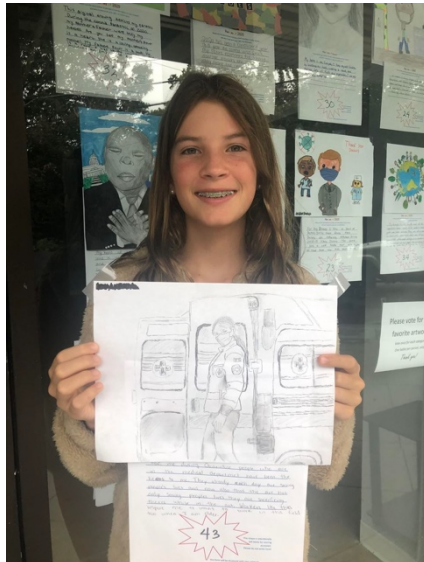
Stop by Tuesday and Wednesday for half-priced bottles of Montepulciano and Pinot Grigio with a purchase of any artisan pizza.

Morningside Art Contest Winners Awarded

Thanks to Morningside Village merchants and the [Morningside Business Association](#) for hosting the Morningside Art Contest, a fun competition for local children to use their imagination and art skills to create their rendition of what a Hero is this year. Over 50 entries were received, and \$200 cash prizes were awarded to the 1st place winners in each school level. Great work by all!



Elementary Division 1st Place Winner



Middle School Division 1st Place Winner



High School Division 1st Place Winner

 MIDTOWN *family* WELLNESS

WE SPECIALIZE IN:
GENERAL CHIROPRACTIC CARE
PEDIATRIC CHIROPRACTIC CARE
PREGNANCY CHIROPRACTIC CARE
MASSAGE THERAPY

404-810-9099
1259 MONROE DRIVE NE
ATLANTA GA 30306
MIDTOWNFAMILYWELLNESS.COM



MENTION THIS AD & RECEIVE 50% OFF YOUR INITIAL VISIT!

Parks

Scavenger Hunt

[Trees Atlanta](#) and Park Pride have put together a fun, educational virtual program for engaging the entire family with our amazing greenspaces.

Scavenger hunts are a great way to get outside, away from screens to explore a new park. Even better is an entire group of scavenger hunts that take you on an adventure around your city!

Join as we embark on an exploration of 5 different parks across Atlanta through September 30, including two right here in Morningside! Each park has its own unique scavenger hunt designed to get you and your family familiar with the park's history, trails, plant life, bodies of water, and even some forest critters!

Visit [their site](#) to register today.

Food Drive and Capital Campaign at Sidney Marcus Park

Friends of Sidney Marcus Park brought people back into the park in August by conducting their first ever Food Drive. For two days, August 21 and 22, FSMP set up a drop off at the park. Working with [Intown Collaborative Ministries](#), FSMP and the community delivered 1,323.2 pounds of food to the food bank. "Intown Collaborative aims to prevent and reverse homelessness and hunger within intown Atlanta. Now more than ever folks that haven't needed assistance, do and the need has never been greater," said Lori Brown, event organizer. "Friends of Sidney Marcus saw an opportunity and the desire from our community to get involved and serve those in need. We expect to do this again and make it a part of Sidney Marcus Park activities."

FSMP joined with [Grady Cares](#) to promote the event, and their extensive reach in the community helped boost the success of the drive. Grady Cares exists to provide needy families within the Grady cluster of schools with food and clothing. The Grady High School district is home to a large geography and many communities, including both affluent as well as impoverished neighborhoods. Almost 300 students in the school are experiencing homelessness or poverty.

Friends of Sidney Marcus Park continue their Capital Campaign, applying for a [Legacy Grant](#) from [Park Pride](#). Currently at \$65K, the Friends group hopes to reach \$100K this year, which will be matched by the grant for a possible total of \$200K.

Last year the neighborhood, led by the Friends group, approved a Vision Plan for the park through the MLPA and NPU-F. The city parks department has approved it as well. It is a roadmap of a complete transformation of the park. You can view the plan at the park at the entrances on Cumberland and Sherwood Roads.

Park activist John Pappas says, "As you can see from visiting the park, the situation has deteriorated due to severe erosion and lack of proper drainage. By winning a Legacy Grant, we can tackle the hydrology of the park, stabilize the ground and foster sorely

needed ground cover. Once the park is naturally sustainable, we can continue to create an even better experience at the park with new features.”



While the Pandemic has slowed activities at the park, Park Pride is moving forward with its grant programs and Friends of Sidney Marcus Park is focused on maximizing this grant season. The tribute paver program and yard sign programs are available and information on the park and its Capital Campaign can be found at <http://mlpa.org/sidneymarcus-reno/>. Learn more on [Facebook](#) or via [email](#).

Thanks for all who have already ordered pavers and yard signs. Please consider a donation to the [Capital Campaign](#) before November 1.

Tree Plantings Scheduled

Planning for Trees Atlanta's fall tree planting on Beech Valley, Pasadena, Homestead, and connected streets is proceeding nicely. If you encounter or hear from Jacob Kennedy from Trees Atlanta, please thank him for all the hard work he has put into sustaining our tree cover. Trees have been selected and communications sent out to residents on those streets.

Planting is scheduled for October 10 and November 14. There is a dynamic map of the planting locations [here](#).

Trees Atlanta will also plant up to three free trees in front yards on request. Just let [Jacob Kennedy](#) know if you want some new trees planted in your garden. Trees available include Black Gum, Bald Cypress, Ginkgo, Hornbeam, River Birch, Tulip Poplar, and multiple species of Elm, Oak, and Magnolia. The strong preference is for native tree selection but homeowners can have their preference for other species subject to suitability and nursery availability.

Susan G. Schlittler
President, Associate Broker
susan@homesteadatlanta.com
Class of '70

Noble Park resident since 1987 • Intown Realtor since 1974

SENIOR ADVANTAGE
visit our website for more info

1196 North Highland Ave. NE Atlanta, GA 30306
404-876-4526 (office) 404-358-5929 (mobile)

www.homesteadatlanta.com

Free Website
Signage & Mailbox

Homestead
REALTORS®

Tree Protection Ordinance - Will It Protect Our Trees?

Atlanta, gleefully promoted as the 'City in the Trees' has been losing its tree canopy at an alarming rate. A survey in 2014 showed that tree coverage targeted at 50%, was actually already at 47%. And the destruction of trees in order to build more and larger houses has certainly not abated in the last six years. As are all issues, this has been exacerbated by the inability of city arborists to perform their services during Covid.

The city had mandated a rewrite of the outdated ordinance, hiring a group of consultants in 2018, who presented a draft in November, 2019. Several neighbors attended the meeting and happened to sit at a table with City Council members, all agreeing that the proposal was an unmitigated disaster. Matt Westmoreland, MES graduate and At Large City Council Representative, promised they would go back and deliver an update that would meet the original goal of protecting more trees.

A new draft was presented in March 2020 but still fell short of its goal. As Chet Tisdale, retired environmental lawyer who serves on the city's citizen-led Tree Conservation Commission observed, "That draft would make it easier to cut down trees, and pay a small fine. Atlanta needs and it deserves an ordinance that increases our tree canopy while protecting the right of every owner to develop their property in a reasonable manner." He and others wrote their own update, which they presented to City Council and the planning department this spring.

The city plans to unveil this "New" Tree Protection Ordinance sometime this month. Advocates are optimistic that it will strengthen the ability of neighbors and the city to protect the trees which originally attracted many of us to our homes. Check social media for updates once it is released, and take action to encourage the adoption of a Tree Protection Ordinance that actually lives up to its name.



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 certificates from Morningside Village businesses to be donated to MES.

As reported by [11 Alive](#), they have already raised over \$30K through sales and donations.

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



Renaming Grady High School

With claims of Henry W. Grady's racism and white supremacist views and greater awareness of racial injustice in Atlanta's history, a growing campaign to rename Grady High School solicits public input to determine the newly proposed name. There are currently petitions for and against the name change.

The [Atlanta Board of Education](#) has formed a Naming Committee to collect stakeholder opinions and propose a new name so that the school board can decide whether to keep the legacy name or adopt the new name. Popular suggestions include Midtown High, Piedmont Park High, or naming the school after such icons as John Lewis, C.T. Vivian, or beloved principal Dr. Thomas Adger. Neighbors are encouraged to review and propose suggested names and offer comment at their [online survey](#).

MLPA Parks Co-Chair Marla Johnson

Marla and her husband, Ryan, moved to Morningside seven years ago. A native Atlantan, Marla has also lived in Sandy Springs, Buckhead, Old Fourth Ward and Candler Park. Appreciating that each neighborhood has its own unique characteristics and charm, she loves Morningside for its parks, greenspaces, restaurants, shops, great schools, wonderful neighbors and its proximity to so many of our city's greatest assets.

After graduating from the University of Georgia with an undergraduate degree in Journalism, she joined Teach For America and began a teaching career in Atlanta Public Schools. Earning a post-baccalaureate degree in Early Childhood Education from Agnes Scott College and a masters degree in Urban Teacher Leadership from Georgia State University, she enjoyed working in our local school district for 11 years. Marla now spends her time volunteering with several community organizations and at Morningside Elementary, where her two children attend.



Security

Officer of the Month - Luis Medina

Please welcome Officer Medina to Morningside. He has been with the Atlanta Police Department for 2 years and with the Morningside Security Patrol just since February 2020. He works the morning watch, which is from 10:00 pm – 6:00 am, for the Atlanta Police Department.

Officer Medina has worked a variety of jobs in the telecommunications industry. However, late in 2017, he decided that he decided to take a different direction in life and was eager to do work that was meaningful and that would allow him to help people. At the recommendation of Jemmy Haagsma (who also works for the Morningside Security Patrol), he and a friend traveled to Georgia to sign up for the Atlanta Police Department.

Officer Medina was born in the Dominican Republic. When he was 8 years old, he came to the United States with his mother and sister. From the time he came to the United States before moving to Atlanta, he lived in Queens.

When he is not working, he spends as much time as possible with his wife Tshering and 3 daughters, Jazmin (13 years old), Gizelle (10 years old) and Esmee (4 years old). Because he works the morning watch shift, he usually sleeps during the day. So on his days off, they take the kids out to go shopping and other fun activities.

“I appreciate the acknowledgement I have received from Morningside Security Patrol. and I want to thank all my colleagues who do this job and keep this community safe.” In addition, he thanks Officer Haagsma for guiding and supporting him while he changed jobs and moved from New York and Major Vazquez who gave him the opportunity to do this job and to be part of something bigger than himself.



New Commander for APD Zone 6

Major Peter Ries was named the new Commander for Zone 6 this week. In March, Major Ries was promoted to the rank of Major and assigned to the Field Operations Division as the Body Worn Camera Unit Commander. As a Captain, he was the Assistant Commander for Zone 4 in Southwest Atlanta. His extensive experience also includes commanding the both the Crime Analysis Unit and the Criminal Intelligence Unit as a Lieutenant, managing the administrative functions of the Narcotics Unit as a Sergeant, and working undercover on the street to investigate the selling of illegal drugs as an Investigator. He began his career with the APD in 2003 as a patrol officer in Zone 3 in Southeast Atlanta. Major Ries received his B.S. in Sociology and an M.S. in Criminal Justice from Bowling Green State University. He is also a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. Last fall, he participated in the National Seminar for Law Enforcement for Promoting and Protecting Civil and Human Rights at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights here in Atlanta.

Morningside is patrolled by two police zones, Beat 212 in Zone 2 and Beat 613 in Zone 6. Welcome to our community, Major Ries!



Zoning

The zoning committee reviewed the following variances in September.

Variance	Address	Comm. Vote	Board Vote
V-20-084	1775 Wildwood Rd	6/0/0	15/0/0
V-20-085	1280 Middlesex Ave	5/1/0	15/0/0
V-20-086	1007 Courtenay Dr	6/0/0	15/0/0
V-20-108	1164 Mclynn Ave	6/0/0	15/0/0
V-20-109	1112 Zimmer Dr	8/0/0	15/0/0

Zoning committee meetings are typically held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Morningside Presbyterian. 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

Saturdays, 8:00 - 11:30 AM

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

Tuesday, October 6 7:00 PM

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

Monday, October 12 7:00 PM

MLPA Board Meeting, via Zoom. [Contact us](#) for login details.

Monday, October 19 7:00 PM

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

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 and Zone 6.

[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
