

MLPA News October 2020

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President's Note

By this time next month we will have survived Halloween and (hopefully) the election. If you need any information on planning to vote, please contact the board of elections for <u>Fulton</u> or <u>Dekalb</u> county depending on your specific location. If you need any help moving on *after* the election, call me. In the meantime, it's business as "usual" here at the MLPA:

Annual Meeting. Per MLPA bylaws, I tasked a nominating committee in September to designate a slate of board members for 2021. That committee, comprised of board members Donald Campbell and Micah Coleman in addition to neighbor Jan Hogan, presented its slate per the note below and we are excited to welcome many new neighbors to help lead the MLPA as well as to create new needed roles across communications, sponsorships and technology. All paid MLPA members will be invited to participate in this virtual meeting on Monday, November 9 at 7:00pm via Zoom in a subsequent invitation.

The More You Know. Did you know that city ordinance 16-20U.012 outlaws the construction of off-street parking pads in your front yard? Or that city ordinance 130-37 requires empty garbage and recycling bins be removed from your curbside by 9:00am of the day after collection? We are going to start featuring ordinance education in the newsletter to properly comply with the standards that apply to all neighbors.

Street Racing Petition. We know many neighbors are disturbed by the increased street racing activity across Atlanta. Some of our friends from Midtown have begun a petition to open the courts to process and hear the citations issued for street racing. The petition states "there are over 500 outstanding citations for traffic violations associated with street racing, drag racing, and noise violations related to modified mufflers." It also indicates how this can be done safely: "Pursuant to the Statewide Judicial Emergency Order which expired on 10/10/20, the Honorable Christopher S. Brasher, Chief Judge of the Superior Court issued guidelines to address how limited in-court proceedings can be conducted to protect the health of litigants, lawyers, court personnel, judges, and the public." If you are interested in signing, you can do so here.

Keep hanging in there. Please contact me anytime at president@mlpa.org. Vote, vote, vote!!!!

Ben



MLPA Annual Meeting

The 2020 Annual Meeting of the MLPA membership will be held via Zoom at 7:00 PM on Monday, November 9. This is your chance to hear about MLPA initiatives and finances, vote on the 2021 board slate, and meet your new board members. All are welcome to attend, but only active MLPA members may vote. Contact communications@mlpa.org for login details or watch for the upcoming message sent to all active (paid) MLPA members.



2021 MLPA Board Slate

The MLPA Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of candidates for the 2021 board. Approval of the slate will be voted on at the November 9 Annual Meeting. Of note are the removal of at-large positions and the introduction of several new chairs – Webmaster, Social Media, and Legal. We are excited about these new positions as we better align the committees with the evolving needs of MLPA.

Position	Nominee
President	Ben Nemo
Vice President	Donald Campbell
Secretary	David Alexander
Treasurer	Lynn Ayers
Membership	Sarah Chatel
Business Partnerships	Mark Smith
Security	Phyllis Wingo
Parks	Micah Coleman

Zoning	Rebekah Falkler
Communications	Marla Johnson
Social Media	Kristen Pollock
Webmaster	Grant Davies
Events	Ryan Murphy
Traffic	Kim Cobb
Legal	Josh Kirschner





Sidney Marcus Park Capital Campaign Closing Soon

Friends of Sidney Marcus Park are in the final weeks of their Capital Campaign, raising funds to support the park <u>renovation plan</u>. A Park Pride Legacy Grant will match our funds raised up to \$100K, doubling the impact of every dollar you can spare to help preserve this neighborhood gem. The goal is to raise the final \$30K by November 1. Take a look at the <u>plans</u> and <u>donate today</u>.



SHE'S WIRED CAN HELP

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Voting in Fulton and Dekalb Counties

The 2020 election is finally upon us—you can find answers to many of your questions at https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do. This is the official site for the Georgia Secretary of State and has your registration information, absentee ballot status, and the locations for both early voting and your precinct for voting on Tuesday, November 3.

With the pandemic, many are voting by mail. There are several places in both Fulton and DeKalb counties where you can drop your ballot in a secured box that is emptied daily by elections officials. The AJC recently published this helpful/map showing the location of drop boxes in the metro area. The closest for our neighbors in Fulton are at the Ponce de Leon Library and the Auburn Avenue Research Library. DeKalb's closest drop boxes are at the Toco Hill-Avis G Williams Library or Decatur City Hall. Note that you may drop your ballot at any of your county drop boxes, or you can use the postal service to return your ballot. To follow up and make sure your ballot is received and accepted, go to the MVP site referenced above. Once you input your name, birthdate, and county it will take you to your registration page. Scroll down below your name, etc. and there's a box with absentee ballot status that you can use to track your ballot.

Early voting in Georgia started Monday, Oct. 12. There are a number of early voting sites in both neighborhood counties—again, go to your MVP page to find them. Unlike the November 3rd date when you MUST vote at your precinct, during the early vote (Oct. 12-Oct. 30) you can vote at the most convenient location as long as it is in your county.

If you go to vote in person, you must have a photo ID issued by the state or federal government. This site has a full list of the kinds of ID that are acceptable

forms for voting in Georgia. If you have problems or questions while at the polls or voting by mail, you can call the voter protection hotline at 888-730-5816.



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Hillside Drive Thru BBQ and Fundraiser

Take a break from the kitchen and treat yourself while raising much needed funds for <u>Hillside</u>! Join us on November 7th for **Hillside**'s <u>Drive Thru BBQ</u>. On your way to pick up your delicious BBQ from Hillside's Dining Hall, you'll be accompanied

by our guided audio tour learning about Hillside's services, historic campus, and how we've been serving Atlanta for over 130 years.

The barbecue will be available for contactless pick up between 11am and 3pm. Each order comes with your choice of main dish:

- BBQ Pulled pork
- Grilled Jerk chicken
- BBQ tofu and pimento cheese

And 4 homemade sides:

- Mac 'n cheese
- Coleslaw
- Potato salad
- Texas toast

Since March, the newly launched Hillside Atlanta Foundation has seen **increased demand for mental health services** from children no longer able to cope with the daily stress and anxiety caused by the pandemic. The readmission rate for our programs has jumped from 8% to 20% in recent months, as kids struggle to adapt to the upheaval in their lives. Our financial aid fund for low-income families or those without healthcare has been depleted and **we need your help** to continue providing essential mental healthcare treatment to children and adolescents.

<u>Click here</u> for more information and to order your tickets.



Renaming Grady High School

In November a special committee will submit a recommendation to the Atlanta Board of Education to rename Henry W. Grady High School. This submission will contain one suggested name, and the decision for the Board will be to adopt the suggested name or maintain the current name. There are five names remaining to be considered at this week's committee meeting and they welcome any last minute feedback here.

Final names

Ida B Wells High School Thomas E Adger High School Midtown High School Piedmont High School Freedom High School

Let your voice be heard!

https://forms.gle/wG1wFgkNoWemwEee6

Security

Major Peter Ries, the new Commander for Zone 6, again attended our virtual MLPA Board meeting. He provided an update to the challenges in managing the street racing that is happening in neighborhoods across Atlanta. APD has recently developed some new strategies and has increased patrols in downtown, Midtown, and Buckhead, where a large proportion of these incidents happen. In an effort to head off the magnitude of these gatherings, the APD is monitoring social media for indications about where and when these events are planned. They can then work with the owners of the properties where riders are gathering to make charges of trespassing and other relevant crimes. According to WSB, APD officers wrote more than 200 citations and made 255 traffic stops last weekend. Charges typically included street racing and reckless driving. When asked about the city's no chase policy, APD Interim Chief Rodney Bryant said they have a partnership with the Georgia State Patrol, which does have the ability to chase.

Zoning

The Zoning Committee reviewed the following variances in October.

Variance Address Comm. Vote Board Vote

V-20-136 1746 Noble Dr Deferred

V-20-122 1435 N Highland Ave 4/0/0 13/0/0

V-20-121 1715 Merton Rd 4/0/0 13/0/0

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, November 3 7:00 PM

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

Saturday, November 7 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Hillside's Drive Thru BBQ Fall Fundraiser. Hillside Center, 690 Courtenay Dr.

Monday, November 9 7:00 PM

MLPA Annual Meeting, via Zoom. Contact us for login details.

Monday, November 16 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

<u>View</u> 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

<u>Atlanta Public Schools, Morningside Elementary School, David T Howard Middle School, Grady High School</u>

VHMPA -Virginia Highland Morningside Parent Association