



MLPA News November 2020

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President's Note

I was hoping to congratulate us all for surviving the election but it seems we have a few more weeks of suspense, not to mention additional attention in Georgia. We did survive the MLPA board election however! Details below.

I really enjoyed seeing families out celebrating Halloween. Thanks to all the neighbors who managed to create a safe, appropriate holiday that allowed for a bit of normalcy. With the holidays coming and case counts rising, please keep doing what you're doing to keep us all safe with masks and social distancing.

Although our board meetings will be Zooming for the foreseeable future, we still have been working with the new normal:

1. Annual Meeting. The 2021 board of directors was voted in on Monday, November 9. Going into my fourth year on the board I am really happy to welcome five new board members that stepped up to volunteer (with one in the wings once distancing allows for our VIP treasurer Lynn Ayers to teach the job to her prodigy!). With those additions we hope to take on some new opportunities next year, including designing a business sponsorship program as well as finalize a non-profit status strategy to build revenue in years ahead.
2. Be grateful. It has been a stressful time for everyone, especially on the hardworking police, firemen, and other city employees that have supported us. I have had many people ask how to show appreciation to our security patrol team, which is easy by writing an [email](#) or reaching out to provide a meal – that’s just one example of the ways we can help our critical neighborhood support feel acknowledged and appreciated.
3. Please speak up! In our meeting last Monday, one resident spoke up to ask about how we can reduce the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the neighborhood given their negative impact on the environment. While it may not be an issue that we will take on as a board based on one comment, we can certainly be the vehicle to find out if others are equally supportive of such moves to then work with officials on how to address the interest. Don’t be afraid to bring any questions or requests our way.

We promised last month to educate you about city ordinances. If you like peace and quiet, I have one for you: [Section 74-131](#) within Article IV outlines your rights to both. Mechanical, human and party noise is not permitted to be audible within 300 feet of the property limits of its source during 7a-11p Sun-Thurs or 7a-12p Fri-Sat. During overnight hours that restriction goes down to 100 feet. If you hear something you don’t like, this ordinance is on your side when calling authorities or addressing violators.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday in whatever form it happens – I know I won’t be sticking to the usual traditions, but I am thankful nonetheless to have our neighborhood to help get through the winter months ahead. Please contact me anytime at president@mlpa.org.

Ben



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MLPA Annual Meeting and Election

As Ben noted, we held a successful virtual Annual Meeting November 9 and elected a slate of members for the 2021 board. We introduced the new positions of Business Partnerships, Webmaster, Legal, and Social Media. These changes reflect our focus on active engagement with the community and modernizing our communication channels. Each board member represents a committee of hard working neighbors. Contact volunteer@mlpa.org anytime to learn how you can contribute. Any skills or interests are needed and welcome.



Runoffs - It's Not Over Yet!

This winter we have 2 separate runoff dates. One is December 1, 2020 and the second is January 5, 2021.

The first is the runoff for the specially called elections to complete the term of Rep. John Lewis. It will be held on December 1st, but early voting has already begun. The candidates are Robert Franklin and Kwanza Hall. Absentee ballots *will not* be issued for this runoff so make your plan to vote now at the state's [My Voter Page](#). Go there to check to see if you are eligible to vote, where to vote early or on election day, and to view a sample ballot.



The federal runoff for the two Georgia Senate seats is January 5th, 2021. A few of our neighbors in the 39th District will also be able to vote in the runoff to fill Nikema Williams's seat in the Georgia Senate, a race between Sonya Halpern and Linda Pritchett. There is also the Public Service Commission runoff and others. You can request an absentee ballot for these races at [My Voter Page](#). If you are over 65 and requested an absentee ballot for the June Primary or the November 3rd election, you should automatically receive a mail-in ballot, but it never hurts to check. Early voting for the January 5th runoff is December 14-31, 2020.

Anyone who will be 18 by election day and would like to register to vote in the runoff can do so up until December 7, 2020.



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MLPA Fall Membership Drive

Hopefully, you've seen the signs around the neighborhood reminding you of our bi-annual MLPA Membership Drive which ends November 18.

Becoming a member of our Morningside Lenox Park Neighborhood Association is the best way to stay connected and supportive of our neighborhood's security and park initiatives. Some of our accomplishments over the last year have been continuing with the upgrades on Sidney Marcus Park and the beginning of upgrades to Sunken Garden Park, working with our City Councilperson to upgrade accessibility to the tennis courts on Lenox Rd as well as resurfacing the courts, the addition of laser tag readers for security to our neighborhood, to name a few. We have other neighborhood initiatives we would love to tackle. Your financial support helps make these neighborhood improvements possible.

There are different levels of membership which you can find listed on our website, mlpa.org. For more information contact Sarah Chatel, Membership Chair, at 404-784-4871.



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Post-COVID Transportation Survey


A research group at Georgia Tech is conducting a study to understand the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on our willingness to share transportation and invites [your participation](#).

For efficient use of the roadway, users must shift travel from “ride-hailing” toward “ride-sharing” in services like UberPool and Lyft Shared. Unfortunately, due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic which has dramatically impacted the way people work, socialize, and travel, Uber and Lyft have indefinitely suspended shared services since March 17, 2020. Trends of physical distancing, wearing masks, and improving hygiene will likely continue to impact travel behavior for years to come. To study the shifting willingness to share a ride in a post-COVID-19 world, the group created a survey to collect preferences related to ride sharing environments and COVID-19 procedures, frequency of travel on different modes before COVID-19 and currently, attitudinal indicators, and socio-demographic data. Your response will help inform our research and future transit decisions. Responses are anonymous, voluntary, and greatly appreciated!

Take a moment to complete the survey [here](#). [Contact us](#) for more information on the survey or the study.

COVID-19 AND SHARED MOBILITY
 RESEARCH SURVEY

TAKE A **SHORT SURVEY** ABOUT YOUR TRANSPORTATION PREFERENCES



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Parks

Friends of Sidney Marcus Park Capital Campaign

Friends of Sidney Marcus Park recently held a Capital Campaign, raising over \$105K to support the park [renovation plan](#). A Park Pride Legacy Grant will match our funds raised up to \$100K, doubling the impact of all the generosity put forward by our neighbors and MLPA. Construction is expected to begin next year, including many personalized brick pavers. Thanks to all who gave!

There's still plenty to be done in the park. Look out for volunteer workdays next year. See you all there.



Food Drive at Sidney Marcus Park

For two days Friends of Sidney Marcus Park held a food drive to collect sorely needed pantry staples for [Intown Collaborative Ministries](#). In the first hour on Friday, the picnic tables were already overflowing and boxes filling up. Thanks to all the neighbors who stopped by for fellowship and contributed to helping those in need.



Stormy Weather Wreaks Havoc

A series of tropical weather (North Georgia's new normal?) wreaked havoc across our neighborhood and nature preserves. a 200+ year old oak blocked Johnson Road for days. Towering trees and a bridge were lost in Herbert Taylor Park.



Several teak benches have served as resting spots for many park visitors. With the creek repeatedly overflowing its banks, one of the benches went on an adventure. The bench normally stationed at the Dog Beach floated just downstream of the Rock Creek confluence for one week. With the next storm it continued to the beach at Zonolite Park, where it was finally rescued and returned to Herbert Taylor Park. Thanks to the 2021 MLPA Parks Chair, Micah Coleman, and neighbor, Cal Crutchfield for returning the bench home!



These severe weather events have also wreaked damage on the bluff overlooking the creek and the trails and trees located there. Significant action will be required over the next few years to slow or reverse the damage. As climate change continues to bring frequent severe weather and development continues throughout the Peachtree Creek watershed, deluges of stormwater flowing into the creek will continue to change its channels and take out the surrounding elevated ground. Look for calls for action from MLPA to start tackling this work. Contact communications@mlpa.org to get involved.



Daniel Johnson Park Volunteer Workday

Neighbors closed out 2020 workdays with a gorgeous Saturday morning spent removing Japanese chaff flower and ivy from the park. Simultaneously, four of our friends attended their last class in the park to attain certification with Trees Atlanta through their [Forest Stewardship course](#), taught by urban forestry director Brian Williams.



Hillside Annual Fundraiser

Thanks to all our neighbors who supported and enjoyed Hillside's Drive-Thru BBQ annual fundraiser. Guests were treated to an audio tour of the Hillside facility while meandering the campus and receiving a no-touch pickup of BBQ meals. The on-site DJ and Hillside dancers hosted a Zoom dance party for everyone to celebrate together while safely enjoying BBQ at home.

- Follow us on social media [@HillsideATL](#) and [@HillsideAtlantaFoundation](#).
- See pics from the [BBQ HERE!](#)
- Subscribe and review our new podcast, [Reframe Children's Mental Health](#)
- Consider [making a donation](#) to help other children struggling with mental health challenges.



MLPA Neighborhood Watch Program

Neighborhood Watch Programs are the eyes and ears of the neighborhood for law enforcement personnel. The MLPA Neighborhood Watch Program is an ongoing effort to establish and maintain a broad communication network throughout the community. There are numerous benefits that Neighborhood Watch communities have experienced.

- Reduce crime and fear of crime in our neighborhood.
 - Act as a deterrent to criminal activity
 - Promote positive communication and relationships within the neighborhood and with the police.
 - Provide the APD with volunteer support year round.
 - Build a sense of community pride and unity.
-

The current MLPA Program has more than 60 street captains, who notify neighbors about security issues through the MLPA Security Report, be-on-the-lookout (BOLO) notices, and other emails.

As the new MLPA Board prepares for 2021, Tom Rawlings, the street captain for Zimmer Dr, has graciously stepped forward to lead the Neighborhood Watch activities in the neighborhood. Tom moved into the neighborhood a little over two years ago, after living the last 18 years in his hometown of Sandersville. He is married to Kay, with one son still at home (Bram) and two sons (Charlie and Will) in college. The son still at home is a junior at Paideia and the guitarist in a band we all hope you'll be hearing a lot from soon, [The Manly Hero](#). Tom is an attorney by training and a former juvenile court judge. He lived in Guatemala for three years directing a child abuse prosecution and treatment team for an NGO and learned Spanish. He is currently the Director of the State Division of Family and Children Services. In his free time, he likes reading, world travel, volunteering in foreign countries, and hiking.

If you'd like to learn more about the MLPA Neighborhood Watch Program, to volunteer, or to learn if there is a street captain for your block, please contact NeighborhoodWatch@mlpa.org. If you live on any of the following streets, please consider volunteering as a street captain. Streets that do not participate in the Program include:

Hillpine Lane

Hillpine Terrace

Liddell

Manchester

Marstevan

Middlesex

Security

Weekend street racing, which often involves drivers loudly driving in tight circles amid cheering crowds, blocking the interstates and other major thoroughfares, and driving at excessive rates of speed, has been a significant safety concern this year. According to the [AJC](#), "people arrested on charges related to street racing in Atlanta will no longer automatically be eligible for bond, police officials said. Public safety leaders hope the policy change will help deter the mayhem that's created concern in neighborhoods around the city in recent months. "This is

something that we consider to be a gamechanger," said Atlanta police Sgt. John Chafee.

Previously, if someone was arrested on traffic charges connected to street racing, they were able to immediately bond out of jail, and the impact of that arrest was minimal. ... Now, the city has officially declared street racing a public nuisance and public safety concern. Offenders will have to appear before a judge 24 to 48 hours after their arrest before they can receive a bond. The judge could also put special conditions on that bond."

Although the police have made hundreds of arrests this year in connection with street racing, those cases have largely not moved forward because Atlanta's Municipal Court has been closed due to the pandemic. The Court is now open, and street racing offenses can result in up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Over 2,200 residents signed a petition urging the court to resume cases and prioritize street racing.

The APD is hopeful that this is going to have a positive impact on public safety.

Social

As we move into the holiday season still under a pandemic, neighbors found creative ways to celebrate traditions while maintaining social distance. For Halloween, neighbors and restaurants set up trick or treat stations by the sidewalk or cleverly engineered candy chutes to disburse the goodies as a hygienic distance. Tiny heros such as firefighters abounded on our sidewalks.



Zoning

The Zoning Committee had no variances to review for November.

Zoning Committee meetings are currently virtual.

Contact communications@mlpa.org for login information. 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, December 1

Election Day - runoff for remainder of Rep Lewis's term representing the 5th Congressional District

Tuesday, December 1 7:00 PM

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

Monday, November 14 7:00 PM

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

Monday, November 21 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
