

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS June 2021

Summer is here! As you'll see, the MLPA continues to work hard for great things in our neighborhood with efforts to calm traffic, improve parks, host events (safely) and more. We are always here for you no matter the season, so please join or renew your membership today!

OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:

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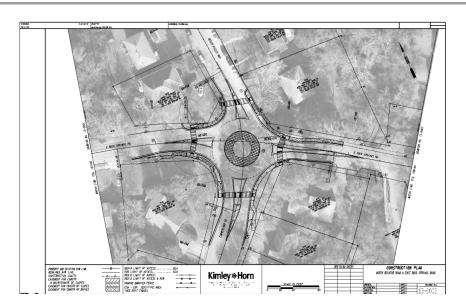
President's Note

It's a hot summer – and we have hot topics!

- 1. **Foundation update.** Last month I mentioned the possible creation of a new sister foundation to the MLPA with non-profit status to allow tax-deductible donations for the benefit of our neighborhood. The person we anticipated leading that new foundation is going to be stationed internationally for a year and I am reluctant to go much further on this plan unless we have the right leader. If you know someone who has non-profit experience and is passionate about the neighborhood, please refer him or her to me if there is a chance of interest! Otherwise we will likely be waiting until the person in mind returns next year.
- 2. **See you for real.** We are returning to in-person meetings in July! This includes residents that are going through the variance process. We will issue more details about location in the coming weeks before we meet on July 12.
- 3. **Cheshire Bridge.** (I said hot, right?) We are well aware of the spillover effects on the north side of our neighborhood from increased activity on Cheshire Bridge during evenings and weekends as a negative outcome of getting back to normal. Thanks to all the residents who have reached out to us to advise us of problems that arise. We are pushing for increased patrols from both APD and our own security patrol. We are also trying to work with businesses in the area when possible in fact outreach to the Onyx nightclub about music and parking problems have abated as they seek alternatives.

Hope all are staying safe as you enjoy new freedoms. To that point - please join us on Friday, June 25 for the first MLPA Summer Movie Night in Sunken Garden Park!

Ben Nemo, president@mlpa.org



Master Plan Implementation: Update on Roundabout at E Rock Springs, Cumberland and Beech Valley

As many of you know, the Master Plan Implementation Committee of the Morningside Lenox Park Association (MLPA) has made great progress for the neighborhood. In May, we received preliminary plans from DeKalb County for the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of E Rock Springs, Beech Valley, and Cumberland Road (see above). The roundabout is part of a group of projects designed to make improvements along N Decatur Road. We have also asked

about the schedule for construction and have been told that this should be available in a few weeks.

This roundabout has broad community support and was a recommendation in the Morningside Master Plan approved in 2018. In January 2020, we did a survey of residents on the streets nearby the intersection to ask about the roundabout. We heard from 34 persons, including 30 who were in favor of the roundabout and 4 who had objections or alternative suggestions. We are also aware of multiple efforts in the past by residents along E Rock Springs and in Edmund Park to make this happen.

We have not had a lot of communication with the County (see Background below), and it is not clear that neighborhood input is desired as part of the process. That said, we have forwarded questions and comments from nearby neighbors to Jeff Rader, DeKalb County Commissioner, and David Pelton, Transportation Division. Specifically, we made three recommendations: 1) connect the existing sidewalks in the City of Atlanta to new sidewalks planned for the roundabout; 2) use construction materials that are permeable because significant amounts of water always deluge the intersection during and after storms; and 3) establish infiltration landscaping, again to address the water issues.

Background:

- Fall 2018: The Atlanta City Council approved the Master Plan for Morningside.
- Spring-Summer 2019: MLPA Master Plan Implementation Committee reviewed plan, determined process for choosing first projects, and selected 5 projects.
- November 2019: Committee met with neighbors to discuss projects selected, including the roundabout.
- November 2019: Committee wrote letters to our State Senator and Representative to tell
 them about the project and request guidance about working across two jurisdictions (City
 of Atlanta and County of DeKalb) on road projects. The intersection is in the County of
 Dekalb; the City of Atlanta line is 1-2 houses in any direction from the center of the
 intersection.
- 2020: Committee made multiple requests (more than 10) for a meeting with DeKalb County Commissioner Jeff Rader. We did not ever have a meeting.
- August 2020: Committee received email from State Senator Elena Parent about funding from the Georgia Department of Transportation to DeKalb County for the roundabout. "The Department will commit up to \$400,000 or 70% of the project cost, whichever is less."
- April 2021: DeKalb County Commissioners approved funding for improvements along N Decatur Road, including the roundabout.
- May 2021: Committee received preliminary plans for the roundabout. FYI, we have been asking about these plans since December 2020.

Please know that the MLPA continually works as a volunteer Board to make positive changes to enhance the lives of those living and working in our neighborhood. If you'd like to learn more about the available volunteer opportunities and/or join our neighborhood association, please contact Sarah Chatel (Membership Chair) at membership@mlpa.org. or Ron Name (President)



Morningside Nature Preserve Clean-Up

This Thursday, June 17 at 6:30pm, meet us at the Wellbourne Entrance and help clean up the beach area of the Morningside Nature Preserve. Specifically, we are looking for at least 10 people, which we believe can thoroughly clean the area in approximately one hour. The MLPA will supply work gloves, trash bags and cold water. In addition to the manpower, we are also in need of several wheelbarrows. The plan is for approximately half of the group to work collecting trash on the beach and carry it across the bridge, where the other half of our group will be waiting with wheelbarrows to physically carry (or "wheel") the trash out of the park.

Please note that this is the final step in a series of prior steps that have been taken to work with local authorities, as well as the non-profit community to reach out and offer services to individuals who have previously camped at the park for any extend period of time. Going forward, the MLPA is looking to establish a formal "Friends of Morningside Nature Preserve" who would agree to meet periodically for park improvements. Thanks in advance and looking forward to seeing a good crowd Thursday afternoon. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Smith with questions/comments at partnerships@mlpa.org.



Morningside Rocks

It's not over until it's over! We are still hiding rocks around the neighborhood, and you still have the chance to win some awesome prizes from our local restaurants and shops. Congratulations to our winners on the fourth clue of our #MorningsideRocks Scavenger Hunt. Connie Morris and Ada Burdette found the hidden rock outside Haygood Memorial UMC and each received a gift card from our sponsor **Nowak's**. Here's our next clue:

Find the fifth #MorningsideRock in one of the neighborhood's first commercial zones. Developed in 1925, this building has housed a pharmacy, grocery store, dry cleaners, hardware store and 5&10 - just to name a few! - in its almost 100 years in the heart of our neighborhood.

Think you know where the rock is hanging out? Go take a picture, post it, tag us (on <u>Facebook</u> or <u>Instagram</u>) and #MorningsideRocks for a chance to win a gift card from our sponsor **Whiskey Bird**!



Summer Movie Series

Join us for our first event featuring **Shrek** on June 25 in Sunken Garden Park! <u>Dogs on Wheels</u> will be serving dinner (available for purchase) from 5:30-7:30pm. Enjoy music from Carter Rude until the movie starts at 6:30pm. The Haygood Happy Camper will be there with complimentary snacks and treats, too! Don't forget your picnic blanket and extra drinks. <u>Registration</u> NOT required but most appreciated. We can't wait to catch up with you. It's been too long!

Save these dates for the rest of the series: July 30th and August 27th. Special thanks to Haygood Memorial UMC and Carter Rude & Friends!



Morningside Farmers Market: Special Event on June 19

On June 19 from 8:00-11:30am, Morningside Farmers Market will celebrate summer's vibrant veggies with Mexican Southern Chef Maricela Vega of CHICOMECÓATL (Chico). The event will feature hot food and take-away tamales from Chico, kids activities, music by Indee La Bohemia, and all of the market's standard offerings.

Look for produce from Diamond Hill and Sparta Gardens and eggs and meats from Grateful Pastures, Riverview Farms, and Woodsong Farms. Wake up with Café Campesino coffee and plan for dinner from Antonio's Fresh Pasta with delicious ravioli, tagliatelle, and pappardelle. Pick up local honey from Honey Next Door and artisanal chocolate from Xocolatl. Root Baking Co. will provide your weekly bread. Cradleboard Creations offers an assortment of herbal botanical products. Morningside Presbyterian Church will host a children's corner with "yard games" for kids. Morningside Lenox Park Association (MLPA) will be happy to tell you about upcoming neighborhood happenings. Georgia Organics continues to be a strong supporter of the market. Join us and perhaps, treat Dad to a Father's Day weekend tamale!

Morningside Farmers Market can be found at Morningside Presbyterian Church's parking lot (1411 N. Morningside Drive NE). The market is located in a spacious, tree-lined setting offering shade for market-goers and vendors alike.



Security

Town Hall with Zone 6 and Chief Rodney Bryant of the Atlanta Police Department--- June 30, 2021

Come one, come all, and bring your questions. Public Affairs in the Atlanta Police Department (APD) is inviting you to join a virtual town hall meeting that will allow residents of Zone 6 to connect with the Atlanta Police Department and address current concerns. To join the Zoom, please register using the link below.

The event will be held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Chief Rodney Bryant, members of APD's Executive Command Staff, and the Zone 6 leadership will be participating. Please note that those joining the Zoom call must be residents or business owners in Zone 6. The deadline to register is Tuesday, June 22. Thank you for your cooperation and we hope you can join us.

Click Here to Register

Zoning

Two zoning cases were heard in June by the Zoning Committee and MLPA Board:

- <u>V-21-112</u> 1237 Reeder Cir. *Approved*
- V-21-100 631 East Pelham Rd. Approved

The next zoning meeting will be held online via Zoom on July 6 at 7:00 pm. Any neighbors interested in variance outcomes should come to these meetings. All neighbors are welcome to attend; come to three meetings to qualify to vote.





Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Over the weekend, there was another devastating house fire in our neighborhood. Fortunately though, as posted on Nextdoor, no one was injured in the blaze on Lanier Blvd. And once again, our neighbors showed an outpouring of support - not only to the homeowners, but also to the City of Atlanta Fire Department. Neighbors went above and beyond to express their appreciation of these brave firefighters by providing them with snacks, water, ice and even pizza! It was also shared that the firemen and women were equally grateful, as they thanked those who brought them food and water and commented that it was the best community support they have ever received. We have great people here.

Parks Updates



Sidney Marcus Park

On Saturday, April 24, <u>Friends of Sidney Marcus Park</u> resumed its volunteer cleanup days after a year of pandemic precautions. It was great to see 15 people at the park to clean up the park and get it ready for a fun summer of parties, gatherings and concerts.

And we had a special appearance of an Army Mule, a ½ ton army vehicle, fully restored by Brian Berry. Brian brought it to the park and it was a real "workhorse" for the volunteers, as it hauled debris and distributed pine straw and woodchips.

Samuel Nelms, Maintenance Supervisor, delivered pine straw and woodchips for the volunteer day. Ms. Barbara Thomas, our former supervisor, moved to supporting Piedmont Park. Together, Friends of Sidney Marcus Park and the Department of Parks and Recreation are making a difference at the park and forging a strong partnership.

Next up is the completion of the Legacy Grant the park was awarded in 2021 and a major renovation of the park starting this summer. You can see the upcoming renovation color rendering at the park's information kiosk or reach out to the conservancy at riendsofsmp@gmail.com.



Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks

What's Popping in Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park?

Habitat restoration work at Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park (HTDJ) is uncovering an abundance of native plants and allowing them to grow. This spring the Friends of HTDJ led an ephemeral walk where we found the trillium, mayapple, cranefly orchid, Jack in the pulpit, and ferns with fiddleheads. Most of these have now disappeared with the warmer weather, but new perennial species are appearing each month. In April & May, walkers along the bottomlands and north spur trails would have seen a sea of yellow complements of the butterweed. Now along the same trail, the delicate yellow flowers of whorled loosestrife line the walkway. Along the banks of Rock Creek & South Fork Peachtree Creek you can find clasping Venus's looking glass, swamp milkweed (thanks to the Milkweed for Monarchs project), rivercane, cutleaf coneflower and elderberry in bloom. Throughout the parks you will see jewelweed, black cherry, crossvine, sensitive fern, Solomon's seal, hearts-a-bustin', cat briar, white avens, muscadine, and jumpseed.

All of these natives are essential nutrition for wildlife like the eastern box turtle recently seen digging a spot for eggs. The removal of invasive species like Chinese privet, Japanese privet and chaff flower, cherry Laurel and English ivy have allowed the native plants to prosper, encouraging the return of wildlife.

BUT, we need your help - when you come to the parks, keep to the trails and keep your dogs on leash. This will protect the park from the spread of invasive species that cling to clothing and dog fur - and protect your loved ones and fur babies from the indigenous snakes in the woods. We can also use your help in removing invasive species - check the kiosk at Pasadena and Beech Valley for news on workdays (usually the 2nd Saturday morning of the month) and the spotlighted invasive species. Your park and its wildlife will be grateful.



Lenox-Wildwood Park

The Friends of Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood Parks are extremely grateful to Benne Ackerman, a Life Rank Scout from Troop 455. He successfully completed his Eagle Scout Project in Lenox-Wildwood and restored the park's entrance on W Sussex Rd - an original feature that many neighbors did not even know existed! Over several workdays and with the help of scouts from Troops 455 and 29, ivy was pulled back to widen the path, existing stone steps were fixed and new ones were added. Additional project work included grading the footpath and installing ground stabilization. We are so excited and even more appreciative of this effort to improve park access.

Please join our efforts to continually improve the park on our Volunteer Workdays, held on the third Saturday of every month from 9:00am-12:00pm. Meet us at the grill/picnic area near the parking lot.



Need a bee hive removed and want to help our nature preserves?

What would you do if you walked outside one day and discovered a hive or swarm of bees in your trees, bushes, or an outdoor structure? You could reach out to Pat Saxman, one of our neighbors who would be happy to come and safely remove them - at no charge!

Three years ago, Pat Saxman and his family moved to Morningside from San Francisco. During the ten years he spent on the West Coast, Pat learned how to beekeep from some beekeeper friends. Pat kept bees on their property in Northern California for several years before moving here, and he was excited to see how many beekeepers live in Georgia.

Prior to healthcare tech, he was a Captain and Apache Helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army. Pat and his family have been keeping bees in our neighborhood for the past two years. Pat offers to remove bees so that they can be saved and given a new home, versus being sprayed or killed as potential pests. He puts their homes near the nature preserves where they can disperse and pollinate, instead of intermingling with neighbors in their yards as a potential issue. You can reach Pat at 415-610-1329.



Family Fun with Pollinators: Build a Beneficial Bug Hotel

Pollinators need homes, too! We will go on a mini-hike, read a story book, build a bug hotel, and have fun outdoors! Join Trees Atlanta for this in-person <u>Tyke Hike</u> program, presented by Founder Anne Marie, to learn about pollinators and explore the <u>Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park.</u> Tyke Hikes are hosted outdoors in small, distanced groups to make your experience special and safe! An adult attends and explores together with their child. Ideal for ages 2-5.

Meeting Time and Location: Saturday, June 19 from 9:30-11:30am Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park 1301 Beech Valley Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. Meet at the corner of Pasadena Ave NE and Beech Valley Rd NE.

Important notices for this event: Cost: \$10 per child. Registration required. Walk-ins not accepted at this time. <u>Click here</u> for more information.



Meet the Board: Marc Tammes

The MLPA Board is excited to welcome Marc Tammes as our new Treasurer this year. He is doing a great job keeping our financials and accounting in order.

David is an Atlanta native and has lived in Morningside since 2012. He and his wife Liz have a young daughter named Wesley, two rascal dogs named Bernie and Finn, and a murderous cat named Spook. David attended Washington & Lee University for his undergraduate degree and the University of Georgia for his JD/MBA.

David works as an investment banker. He is a member of the Cathedral of St. Philip, serves as a mentor in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Atlanta, and is also a member of Big Heads, Atlanta's premier cartoon character costume-based charity benefiting CHOA. David is always ready to talk Atlanta sports, and while often wrong about the subject at hand, he is never in doubt.



Morningside Pride and History

Around the turn of the 20th century, Kimballville Farm enticed Atlanta residents to come out into the 'country' to see exotic, rare, and well-bred animals (Jersey Cows, Berkshire Hogs, Peking Ducks). They offered tours, breeding, and purchase of the livestock as well. The grounds of the farm are near present-day Zimmer Ave, named after the owner of the farm, Mr. Will Zimmer. In the 1920's the farmland was converted into the housing tracts that we see today (via Georgia Historic Newspapers).



Morningside Elementary School: Special Meeting

MES Families - We hope you are enjoying summer break! The MES Administration team will host a virtual **Town Hall meeting** for families of **all grades** on **Thursday, June 24 at 12:00pm on <u>Zoom</u>** (Meeting ID: 436 006 5156 Passcode: 8KzqRC).

The meeting will cover the following:

- Intervention/Enrichment Block
- Adjusted Bell Schedules
- Upcoming Dates Open House, First Day of School

We hope you can join us! The meeting will be recorded and posted for those unable to attend live.

SUPPORT MLPA AND SEE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

For sponsorship opportunities, contact partnerships@mlpa.org



MLPA Wants Your Photos

The MLPA Communications team is looking for photo submissions for our social media channels on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u> which fall into the following categories:

Throwback Thursdays

"Throwback Thursdays" will feature your photos from Morningside-Lenox Park and the stories behind them to be shared on social media for the neighborhood to enjoy. Whether they are from the last century, or last year, we'd love to see and share them. Email your photo and the story behind it to communications@mlpa.org. Please include your name and social media handle for photo credits.

Our Beautiful Neighborhood

Calling all amateurs and professionals! We'd love to share your scenic shots of our neighborhood on social media. Email your photo submissions to communications@mlpa.org. Please include your name and social media handle for photo credits.

Neighborhood Meeting Schedule

All neighborhood meetings are open to the public and your involvement is always welcome. There will be a public comment period at the beginning of each MLPA Board meeting if you would like to share an idea or concern. Or just join us to learn more. We hope to see you there!

- MLPA Board Meetings 2nd Monday of every month, 7:00 pm, *Back in Person* at Morningside Presbyterian Church with option to Zoom (Meeting ID: 535 603 8520 Passcode: TJb7U3)
- MLPA Parks Committee Meetings 1st Thursday of every month, 7:00pm, Online via Zoom (Meeting ID: 933 3649 3805 Passcode: 671035)
- MLPA Zoning Meetings 1st Tuesday of every month, 7:00pm, Online via Zoom (Meeting ID: 535 603 8520 Passcode: TJb7U3)
- NPU-F Meetings 3rd Monday of every month, 7:00pm, Online via Zoom

Around Town

SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Resumption of the Weekly Recycling and Yard Waste Schedule Began

Monday, June 7, 2021.

DPW Service Update. Weekly recycling and yard trimming collections resumed on June 7. To report service issues, visit <u>ATL311</u> or call 404-546-0311. To sign up for service reminders, visit <u>www.atlantaga.gov/solidwaste</u>.



Community Leaders for Enforcement, Accountability, and Responsibility (CLEAR) in alcohol licensing. A private citizen advocacy group frustrated by the imbalance between community needs and the right to sell alcohol, <u>CLEAR</u> advocates for a modernized application process, improved specificity in code, effective enforcement tools, loophole closure, and an expanded NPU role.

Thu, Jun 24 | Zoon

WB 1006 : The Legislative Process

The Legislative Process. Offered by the Neighborhood Planning Unit University, this course will help students to identify, analyze, and follow legislation at the various stages in the City of Atlanta legislative process. It takes place on June 24. For more information and to RSVP, <u>click here</u>.



2021 Comprehensive Development Plan. Atlanta is growing. The Comprehensive Development Plan, Plan A, helps to guide Atlanta's growth. This plan examines how the city will use Housing and Community Development, Transportation, Public Land Use, and Nature to build a more equitable and sustainable city. Visit atlaititydesign.com/2021-cdp for more information.



NPU-F Invitation to Summer Book Club for Upcoming MARTA Bus Network

Redesign. MARTA is embarking on a <u>Bus Network Redesign</u> that could thoroughly change the shape and feel of our city's bus network. Riders could have more reliable and frequent buses, easier transfers, and be able to go to more places more quickly. Tradeoffs would be that some bus stops and even entire routes are removed in order to free up resources (buses and drivers) to improve the rest of the network. This process cannot happen without engagement from transit supporters.

MARTA Army and several of our partner organizations are conducting a book club of *Human Transit*. A book written by Jarrett Walker, whose firm is leading this effort with MARTA, on how transit can be an integral and sustainable part of society. The goal of the book club is to engage transit supporters and develop within them the confidence to articulate what they want and need out of the system. Anyone who wants to participate can sign up here.

MLPA Events Listing

- Morningside Rocks, Ongoing
- Every Saturday Morning, 8:00-11:30am: Morningside Farmers' Market
- June 21, 7pm: NPU F Meeting
- June 25, 5:30-8:30pm: Summer Movie Series in Sunken Garden Park
- July 6, 7pm: MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting
- July 8, 7pm: MLPA Parks Committee Meeting
- July 10, 9am-12pm: Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks Workday
- July 12, 7pm: MLPA Board Meeting
- July 17, 9am-12pm: Friends of Lenox-Wildwood Park Workday
- July 19, 7pm: NPU F Meeting

Quick Links

- MLPA Morningside Lenox Park Association website
- NPU-F Neighborhood Planning Unit F website
- APD Atlanta Police website
- 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 Stacey Evans, 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
- NextDoor Neighborhood List Serve (not affiliated with MLPA)

Join MLPA or Renew Membership





This is your newsletter. Please send questions, ideas and photos to communications@mlpa.org.

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