



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

May 2021

Is May the new December? It sure is getting busy before the start of summer (and hopefully end of the pandemic) - and there don't appear to be any signs of things slowing down again. But before you get distracted by the beautiful weather, upcoming events or vacation travels, click now to [join or renew](#) your membership!

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President's Note

The theme of the last year has been change – and I'd like to highlight some coming our way in the neighborhood.

1. New kid in town [MLPF]. For many years the MLPA has considered alternative structures to be able to capture the market of grants and corporate/personal donations that seek tax-deductible targets. While the MLPA does not operate to make money, we feel we have a bigger opportunity to fund improvements in parks and neighborhood infrastructure if we build a new 501c3 foundation alongside MLPA. This yet-to-be-named MLP Foundation would then operate as a sister organization with its own leadership aligned with the vision of MLPA, but hopefully then be able to capture dollars outside of membership dues to support projects we'd all like to see finished. More to come by July as far as a formal recommendation – but I'm throwing it out there in case you want to send me any feedback for or against this now (or even might want to be part of this if it happens – it will need its own support for raising and administering funds). We did consider converting MLPA to a non-profit foundation – but non-profits are not allowed to advocate or influence political decisions, and we feel that is an important role to maintain when it comes to the City of Atlanta.

2. Going back offline. We are considering resuming our monthly meetings in person in a bigger space to accommodate for social distancing starting in July. We would not have the ability to incorporate a virtual component however – which may be a concern for any homeowners going through the variance process or others that want to participate in other topics.

3. Intown Suites. At last there seems to be progress to address this adjacent atrocity that has deteriorated for years. After last month's COA Administrative InRem Board hearing (attended by me and Piedmont Heights President Jim Hardy, who competed with me for who could best excoriate the property managers for the situation), the board approved that the property be demolished. They will first give 120 days for a pending sale of the property to complete (the new buyer would then demolish the property, likely in Q3), but if that fails, it will go in the city queue for demolition which could also then happen this calendar year.

With recent relaxing of rules we are also considering some family events this summer – more to come when we have more detail. And finally, we have active Friends of the Park groups for our principal recreational parks but would like to have one in place to help drive improvements at Morningside Nature Preserve. If you might be interested, please contact our Parks Chair Micah Coleman at parks@mlpa.org.

Please continue to reach out to us with neighborhood concerns. As I learned in the recent InRem hearing on Intown Suites, a lot can happen when you just show up.

Hope all are getting ready for a great summer!

Ben Nemo, president@mlpa.org



Homeless Camps in the Morningside Nature Preserve

By now, many neighbors are aware of the homeless camps that have occupied the Morningside Nature Preserve; a dilemma that became increasingly acute as the pandemic progressed. Although we can understand and have compassion for the difficulties faced by those who have chosen to set up there - some of whom are veterans - tents and temporary housing structures are not permitted in city parks.

Over the past several months, a dedicated team of MLPA members and concerned residents have been working with several agencies to find an appropriate and humane solution. Partnering with the Atlanta Police Department and their H.O.P.E (Homeless Outreach Prevention and Engagement) Team officers, who are specially trained to help people in crisis and can provide assistance in helping them connect with necessary services, has proven to be most successful. They have been incredibly responsive and are committed to identifying and removing these encampments. In addition, Intown Collaborative Ministries continues to provide assistance and help monitor ongoing needs.

Most recently, in the past few weeks, the homeless population living in the preserve were given a limited period of time to move their belongings and vacate the area. Of the three major camps that were identified, two of them are now physically gone. The third camp is believed to have also been abandoned. Next steps include clean up and removal of trash/debris.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of those who have worked to maintain the safety and security of one of our neighborhood's greatest assets. We also encourage neighbors to continue using (and enjoying!) the preserve. If you haven't been yet, [check it out!](#)



Concert on the Lawn

It was a 'BYOB, mask and lawn chair' event for a free concert on the lawn at the home of Elizabeth and Chris Moore on Plymouth Rd one recent Sunday afternoon. Organized by Georgette Willix (whose own front yard was unfortunately too sloped to host), the [Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra](#) (ACSO) performed for approximately 75-100 neighbors who were spread across three lawns and along nearby sidewalks. Featuring Spring from Vivaldi's Four Seasons, plus works by Mozart and Sussmayr, news of this neighborhood event spread through a post on Nextdoor, emails via street captains and personal networks.

The ACSO provides educational and cultural opportunities for its diverse audiences and is composed of musicians from the Atlanta area who perform on a volunteer basis. Georgette first heard the outdoor chamber music series (in their re-imagined 63rd season) at a concert in the Lake Claire neighborhood last fall. As with any new event that doesn't require tickets, she was concerned that either no one would come, or too many people would come. Luckily, neither happened! It was a perfectly-sized audience, beautiful weather and a wonderful performance. What a treat for those who came prepared and those who were caught by surprise while pushing strollers or walking dogs. Thank you to these neighbors for the opportunity!



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Several weeks ago, a resident of ours suffered a devastating house fire on East Morningside. Neighbors took immediate action, pounding on the door with a brick to alert the resident who was sleeping inside, and ensured a safe exit. We are extremely grateful to our community members who never hesitate to help and always offer an outpouring of support. Situations like this remind us how lucky we are to live in Morningside - where it oftentimes feels like we live in a small town, not a big city. We would be remiss not to thank our first responders, as well. Let's continue to take care of each other.



Our Meeting Minutes

On the second Monday of every month, our MLPA Board meets to discuss areas of concern and opportunities for improvement in our neighborhood. Covering everything from safety/security to events to zoning (so many swimming pools!) to parks - and of course, much more - our meetings are open to the public and we welcome you to join. A great way to share feedback and ideas, these monthly meetings are also an opportunity to interact with city officials. We are regularly joined by our Atlanta Police Department, City Council and State Representatives. However, if you can't make it to our meetings, we hope you will follow along by reading our Board Minutes. Once approved, they are posted to our website [here](#). The more you know!



Security

Common Safety and Quality of Life Concerns Raised by Neighbors in Morningside – How to Address with the City

The MLPA routinely receives communications about a variety of issues affecting the neighborhood. Frequently, these contacts are asks for help with houses under construction or renovation without a posted permit, construction at the wrong times of the day, abandoned or illegally parked cars, noise, illegal tree removal, persons wandering around and causing disturbances as a result of substance abuse, mental health challenges, etc. Please see the information below regarding how to begin the resolution of these situations.

As a first stop for many situations, use the City of Atlanta Call Center for **non-emergency services**. The service categories on the website include damaged garbage bin replacement, missed recycling, pothole repairs, building codes and construction, parks and trees, streets and sidewalks, etc.

- Visit the website at www.ATL311.com
- Email at ATL311@atlantaga.gov
- Dial 311 if you are in the City of Atlanta.
- Call 404-546-0311 M-F, 7:00 am-7:00 pm.

To see the status of **building permits/complaints** and **code enforcement complaints**, see the [City of Atlanta Citizen Access Gateway](#).

Illegal Construction/Renovation or Construction/Renovation at the Wrong Time of Day

- New construction and significant renovations require a building permit posted on the property. Construction noise is restricted to 7:00am - 7:00pm Monday thru Friday and 9:00am - 7:00pm on weekends and legal holidays. See the [Atlanta Building Code](#) for more information.
- If a building permit is not posted, then report your concern to: CodeBustersDCP@AtlantaGA.gov
- For construction noise outside of the permitted hours, call 911.

Abandoned or Illegally Parked Cars

- Call the Morningside Security Patrol at 404-308-2304 or email them morningsidepatrol@gmail.com. The neighborhood patrol officers are off-duty Atlanta Policemen who can investigate auto ownership and request towing. Another option is to call 911.

Street Racing

- Call 911. Street racing is a problem in our neighborhood and across the city. This activity involves dangerous driving in parking lots, speedy chases down highways or quiet roads, and stunts at parking decks or busy intersections in front of large crowds. Recently, the City and the State passed laws to crack down on participants. Under the state law, authorities can suspend the licenses of some violators for up to a year and impose penalties as high as \$5,000. It creates a new offense called “reckless stunt driving” and gives police new powers to seize cars that are involved. Repeat offenders face potential felony charges that carry additional prison time. Under the City law, police can levy fines of up to \$1,000 for people who attend a street racing-related event, even if they are not in a car. The APD Street Racing Detail is committed to citing and arresting individuals who participate in this illegal activity.

Noise

- Call 911. The Atlanta Police Department will send an officer to measure the noise level in the area of complaint. See the [Atlanta Noise Ordinance](#) for more specifics about party noise, noise from mechanical sound-making devices (e.g., music from instruments thru stereo or amplifiers), and persons making noise on public streets.

Persons Causing Disturbances Related to Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Homelessness

- Contact PAD (Policing Alternatives and Diversion Initiative) www.atlantapad.org. Dial 311 and reference PAD. PAD can manage individuals dealing with substance abuse and homelessness. If you feel threatened or unsafe, then call 911.
- Arresting and jailing people who are causing disturbances or harm as a result of substance use, mental health challenges, or survival activities does not serve our communities well. The cycle of arrest and incarceration does not address the underlying issues. These persons suffer from a lack of housing options and access to income, mental health services, medical care, and substance use recovery services. This is where PAD comes in. PAD fosters a new approach to community safety and wellness by engaging in creative problem-solving to respond to community concerns, and addressing people's human needs with dignity, patience and care.

Illegal Tree Removal

- Residential property owners looking to improve their landscape or remove distressed trees in Atlanta should know that a permit is required to remove all hardwood trees at least 6" in diameter and pines at least 12" in diameter. If you believe that a tree is planned for removal or being taken down without a permit, call:
 - Peter Stovall, Arborist for Northeast (South of I-85), 404-330-6077, psstovall@atlantaga.gov
 - David Zapanick, Interim Arboricultural Manager, 404-865-8489, dzapanick@atlantaga.gov

Laws for Paws

- The City of Atlanta has more than 400 parks and green spaces, and we are making sure that they can be enjoyed by everyone. Please know that there are LAWS for PAWS!
 - All dogs must be on a leash when in City parks, trails, or public spaces that are not designated as dog parks.
 - If you are caught with your dog off leash, Atlanta police officers can cite you.
 - Persons with pets must clean up after the pets.
 - No pets are allowed during festivals with [Class A, B, or C permits](#).
 - Owners are responsible for the actions of their dogs. Each dog must be kept within sight of the owner and under voice control.
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Zoning

Three zoning cases were heard in May by the Zoning Committee and MLPA Board:

- [V-21-038 \(amended\)](#) 1198 McLynn Ave. *Approved*
- [V-21-105](#) 1300 North Morningside Dr. *Approved*
- [V-21-100](#) 631 East Pelham Rd. *Deferred*

The next zoning meeting will be held online via Zoom on June 1 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.



MIDTOWN *family* WELLNESS

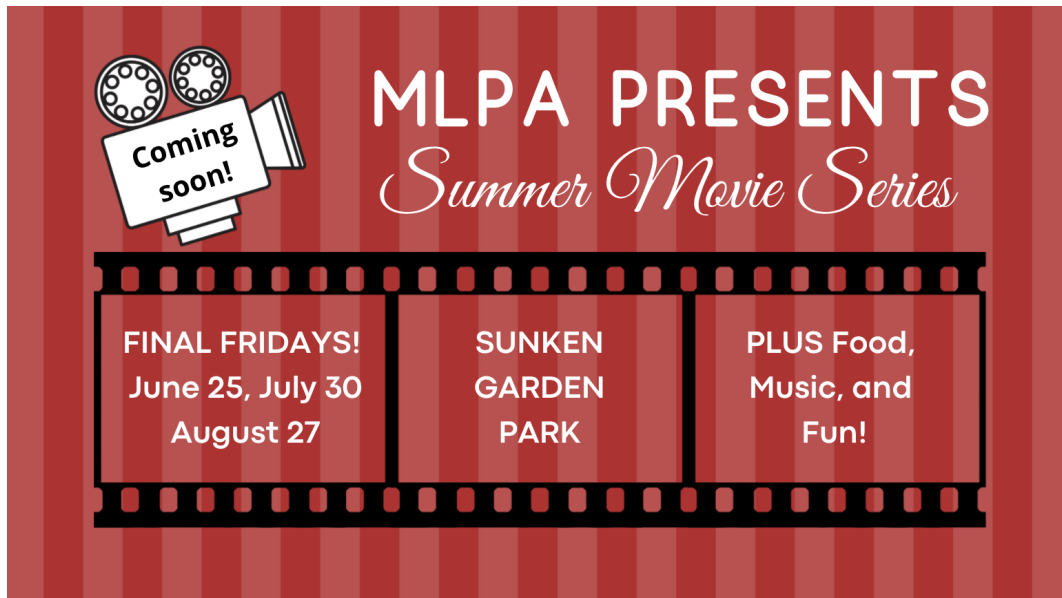
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MENTION THIS AD & RECEIVE 50% OFF YOUR INITIAL VISIT!



Summer Movie Series



Coming soon!

MLPA PRESENTS
Summer Movie Series

FINAL FRIDAYS! June 25, July 30 August 27	SUNKEN GARDEN PARK	PLUS Food, Music, and Fun!
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Coming Soon to a Park Near You!

MLPA is excited to present a Summer Movie Series on the Final Fridays of June (25th), July (30th), and August (27th). Save the dates and join us for a family-friendly movie preceded by food, music and fun in Sunken Garden Park. Stay tuned for more details - and be sure you're following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). We can't wait to actually see our neighbors again!



Morningside Neighbors Needs Morningside Neighbors

By Ken Schmanski

Have you seen the Morningside Neighbors community publication?

Many families in the Morningside Lenox Park community receive the private community publication in their mailbox every month. If you receive it, there's no need to explain it to you. But if you don't, it is one of several community publications in the greater Atlanta area that focuses on a specific area, and helps introduce neighbor to neighbor and the local businesses to the community. Paul Holland, the Publisher of Morningside Neighbors, lives with his family on Amsterdam Avenue NE and has produced the publication since February of 2019.

Every issue has a photo-essay cover story about a family living in the neighborhood, and this is the most popular feature in the publication. If you'd like to volunteer your family to grace the cover of a future issue, please contact us. If you're bashful, but would like to nominate a family you know to be a future family-feature, please let us know that, too.

If you like to write, or know someone who does that lives in the community, we are always looking for content. This is your community publication, so please share your ideas, stories, updates, events, art, recipes, pet pictures, photos or anything you think would be of interest to your neighbors.

Interested? Please reach out to me at kschmanski@bestversionmedia.com. I'd love to talk to you about contributing in any way to your community publication.



Information for Rising Kindergarten Families at MES

Morningside Elementary is excited to welcome our Rising Kindergarten families into our school community.

We have information on registration and upcoming events for families who will be attending this fall. This information is also accessible from the [Prospective Parent page](#) of the MES website.

Our school will continue to be temporarily located at the MES@Inman location (774 Virginia Ave) next school year as our campus renovations are completed. While we are not able to offer in person tours of MES@Inman at this time due to existing COVID protocols that limit visitors in our school buildings, a short virtual tour of the building is available [here](#).

Rising K Registration

All APS registration is being done online this year. While registration is ongoing, we encourage families to complete the process as soon as possible to help us prepare for next year. Families may visit the [Kindergarten registration page](#) on the MES website to start the process and see a list of [required APS documents](#) for registration.

Rising Kindergarten Summer Camp: June 1-4 and June 7-11

We're excited to bring this opportunity back this year for our incoming K students! Get a sneak peek of what it's like to be an MES dolphin as Rising K students get to know MES Kindergarten teachers and build friendships that are sure to carry over into the next school year. There are two weeks available in June - each with a different theme, both at our MES@Inman location:

- Tuesday June 1 - Friday June 4 (Monday is holiday) - "Under the Sea"
- Monday June 7 - Friday June 11 - "A Week of Eric Carle"

Camp runs 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and the cost is \$275 per week. Registration is open on www.myafterschoolprogram.com (in the Extracurricular Programs section - you will need an account to register). Parents of students eligible for this camp must have completed the 2021-22 Morningside Elementary Kindergarten school registration process before registering for this summer camp option. **Please contact Beth Geurin at beth@myafterschoolprogram.com with any questions about summer camp.**

Rising Kindergarten 2021/2022 Facebook Group

The Morningside Elementary PTA is managing a [private Facebook group](#) to keep our Rising K and prospective parents informed on important topics ahead of next school year. Search Facebook for "MES Rising K 2021/2022" and request to join.



Midtown High School's New Logo

On June 1, Grady High School officially becomes Midtown High School. And with that change, comes new branding. They will still be the Knights and the colors will remain red and gray, but the logos and visual identity are new. To read more about the makeover, check out [this article](#) written by Senior Kamryn Harty for the school's online student publication, [the Southerner](#).



Meet the Board: David Alexander

The MLPA Board is excited to welcome David Alexander as our Secretary this year. He is doing a great job capturing all of the information discussed and presented at our monthly board meetings (see aforementioned link to read them!), and this is his first year serving on the board.

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

1585 Lenox Road served first as the field office for the Lenox Park development, in which prospective home buyers could review plats and homesite information. The Lenox Park Garden Club met monthly at the land office in the 1930s. If only they could see us now (and how fast the houses in our neighborhood are selling!).

SUPPORT MLPA AND SEE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

For sponsorship opportunities, contact partnerships@mlpa.org



The Meridian Chorale Presents:
The Wellerman Song
Sea Shantys that will Shiver ye Timbers!
Fiddler-Singer, Leah Calvert; Tenor, Timothy Miller
Steven Darsey, Artistic Director
Saturday, June 12, 4:00 P.M.
(Rain Date, June 13, 4:00 P.M.)
Zionlitz Park, Outdoor Meadow
1164 Zionlitz Pl NE, Atlanta, GA
Bring Camp Chairs—Masks Preferred
Tickets—\$25.00 Adults, \$5.00 Children
Tickets and information @ MeridianHerald.org



MERIDIAN HERALD

The Meridian Chorale at Zonolite Park

[The Meridian Chorale](#) presents The Wellerman Song and Sea Shantys that will shiver ye timbers in the meadow at nearby Zonolite Park on June 12 at 4:00pm. It will feature Tim Miller (the "God Bless America" singer at Braves games) and Leah Calvert, a well-known bluegrass fiddler, as well as the Chorale. Comprised of some of the South's finest professional and amateur singers and directed by Steven Darsey, the group sang Christmas carols on the front yard of a Morningside home this past December. For more information about the event and to purchase tickets, [click here](#).

MLPA Wants Your Photos

The MLPA Communications team is looking for photo submissions for our social media channels on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) 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, Online via 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](#)
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MLPA Events Listing

- **Every Saturday Morning, 8:00-11:30am:** Morningside Farmers' Market
 - **May 17, 7pm:** NPU F Meeting
 - **June 1, 7pm:** MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting
 - **June 3, 7pm:** MLPA Parks Committee Meeting
 - **June 12, 9am-12pm:** Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks Workday
 - **June 12, 4pm:** Meridian Chorale at Zonolite Park
 - **June 14, 7pm:** MLPA Board Meeting
 - **June 19, 9am-12pm:** Friends of Lenox-Wildwood Park Workday
 - **June 21, 7pm:** NPU F Meeting
 - **June 25, 5:30/6pm:** MLPA Summer Movie Series in Sunken Garden Park
 - **July 1, 7pm:** MLPA Parks Committee Meeting
 - **July 6, 7pm:** MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting
 - **July 10, 9am-12pm:** Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks Workday
 - **July 12, 7pm:** MLPA Board Meeting
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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)
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Join MLPA or Renew Membership



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

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