

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS September 2021

Could it be? Are cooler temperatures on the way? At least something is dropping as we feel the impacts from increased traffic due to construction on Piedmont and Cheshire Bridge roads (and continuing incidents at nearby clubs). One way the MLPA gets involved is by amplifying our neighborhood's concerns with city and state officials. Your continued support always helps. Please join or renew your membership today, if you haven't already.

OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:

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President's Note

Hope you are all enjoying these mornings and evenings with a touch of fall. There is a LOT going on – including recruiting for MLPA board positions in 2022. If you have any interest whatsoever to learn about what kind of commitment is required or what kind of opportunities we have, please contact me at president@mlpa.org. I insist – everyone involved already has other priorities in life and we are grateful to have people just join us to do what they can. I am only committing to one more year of service if I am reappointed by the nominating committee, so we need a pipeline of people to lead the organization and its committees. Meanwhile, on with the show...

- 1. Traffic Concerns. We are hearing from a lot of people that live along the Wildwood corridor about the increased volume and speed of cars coming through the neighborhood. We are looking at several alternatives to help, whether funding digital speed readers, getting additional stop signs or speed humps, and looking for ways to require permitted parking on streets close to Cheshire Bridge. In the meantime, please continue to leverage 311 to complain about traffic issues, request speed humps, etc. Please continue to send us specific problems so we can document and use as evidence, as we anticipate a meeting soon with Council Member Ide on several ideas.
- **2. Election Education.** In our monthly board meeting we were joined by two city council candidates for our district (Courtney DeDi and Alex Wan), and it was great to be able to hear directly from them about their backgrounds and priorities. We are going to invite City Council President candidates to introduce themselves at our October board meetings in hopes we can also offer the chance to hear from them and understand their positions on security in particular. You can visit www.voteatl.org to learn more about any candidate for any city race PLEASE get smart about these races and take them seriously to help with so many of the broader problems affecting us.
- 3. New Alcohol License @ Piedmont & Monroe. We are trying to get more vigilant about the abuse of alcohol licenses that is clearly a source of problems on Cheshire Bridge. In our Monday evening meeting we heard from the owner and attorney of October Kitchen & Bar, which is seeking an alcohol license for their new restaurant at the corner of Piedmont and Monroe (formerly HobNob). We have concerns about the concept (given the owner's part ownership of The GOAT Club on Cheshire Bridge and the proposed usage of hookahs on the patio) and deferred a vote while working with the owner to establish operating guidelines as far as closing hours, noise and street parking nearby in the event that the license is approved by the review board but we encourage all neighbors who are concerned to join this Monday evening's NPU meeting to weigh in on their decision to endorse the license or not. You must register to attend and make public comments here.

We hope conditions will allow us to hold the family concerts planned for October and will communicate as such. Please consider helping us out in 2022!

Ben Nemo, president@mlpa.org



District 6 City Council Forum

MLPA is partnering with the Piedmont Heights Civic Association and Piedmont Heights Alliance to host a District 6 City Council Forum. Four candidates are running to fill Jennifer Ide's seat: Justin Critz, Courtney DeDi, Kathryn Voelpel and Alex Wan. All four have committed to attend, and there will be an opportunity for neighbors to submit questions for candidates ahead of time. Tom Baxter, from Saporta Report, will be the moderator.

The city council's primary responsibilities are setting policies, ordinances, resolutions and rules for the city; adopting the annual budget; and providing oversight of the executive branch, including city departments. More details to come soon, so please be on the lookout for a special edition email from us (and be sure you are following MLPA on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>)!



Fall Concert Series

The MLPA is thrilled to announce our Fall Concert Series sponsor, Sonny Jones. Sonny has been an extremely involved and engaged neighbor, and we are grateful for his investment in Morningside over the years. As such, we are excited for Sonny to introduce himself to you and share some of the history of our beloved concerts in the park.

I have sponsored the concerts for the last three years. I originally came to volunteer with the MLPA as a member of the Zoning Board and also sat on the main MLPA board as the Events Chair in 2014 until 2017. Prior to my sponsorship of the concert series and working with Carter Rude to bring the branding for the concerts into the MLPA fold, the MLPA put on the Celebration of Summer. We, as a board, thought the concerts were well designed to replace the Celebration of Summer.

After I was the MLPA Events Chair, I moved into the MLPA Membership Board role which I held for two years. After that, I left the board and sat on the MLPA neighborhood planning committee and helped in that area.

I have lived in Morningside since 2013 and in Atlanta since 2004. I grew up in Columbus, GA where I graduated from The Brookstone School and Columbus State University. When I moved to Morningside in 2013, I found Morningside to be such a special place, with all its rich history, beautiful homes, diversity, proximity to other parts of the city, and lush parks and landscapes. One of the reasons I wanted to get involved in the neighborhood is that I realized, after moving to Morningside from Midtown, that there is no other place like it in the city. We need to preserve the history and the charm of what makes Morningside special.

My original career was not real estate but in corporate America, where I worked in product development and marketing for such companies as Char-Broil Gas Grills, Remington Arms, and Home Depot. I look at real estate as a vertical move from what I did in my previous positions. Houses are products and each has its own attributes (good and bad), and my job is to market

these products, remove obstacles, promote benefits, manage risks, and, sometimes, be the bearer of tough love to clients. This is not very different from what I did in corporate America. One thing I hear all the time from so many of my clients is they appreciate that I shoot "straight from the hip." I tell it like it is vs. telling them what they want to hear as that may not be accurate. I love that I made the change to go into real estate 8 years ago and have never looked back. Everyone who knows me says that I have found my calling!

Thank you so much, Sonny! If you missed last week's email with details and updates, you can read it <u>here</u>.

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE





Trees Atlanta in Morningside

<u>Trees Atlanta</u> is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and improving Atlanta's urban forest by planting, educating and conserving. They are hosting two upcoming opportunities in our neighborhood:

- Walking Tour Exploring the Trees of Morningside, September 26, 9:00am 10:30pm: Touring a neighborhood is a delightful way to learn more about the special
 trees and explore (or rediscover) the urban forest growing along our community streets
 and parks. This tour will also explore three neighborhood parks with both interesting
 history dating from 1920s and classic trees. You will learn about the importance of the
 community in keeping tree canopy and promoting insects, birds, etc. Learn about how our
 neighborhood worked together to keep green areas by stopping Interstate 485 in late 60s.
 - This 1.5-hour tour is a leisurely walk on city sidewalks.
 - Tour Docent: Susan Slemenda, Morningside Lenox Park resident since 2005.
 Retired in 2007 and found a passion for walking and learning about trees.
 - Meeting Location: Smith Park at the intersection of Piedmont Avenue and Monroe Drive. Nearest GPS address: 1551 Piedmont Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30324.
 - Limited on-street parking available along Sherwood Road and Cumberland Road.
 - Registration required. Walk-in not accepted at this time.
 - This tour is free. Please consider adding a donation when you register. All "tips" are donations to Trees Atlanta.
- Plantlanta Tree Planting in Morningside, November 6, 9:00am 12:00pm: Help us plant 40 street trees along N Morningside Road to help sustain our urban forest.
 - This project in Morningside is part of our annual <u>Plantlanta celebration</u>, when Trees Atlanta plants trees in all 12 city of Atlanta council districts in one weekend. Plantlanta volunteers all over the city will plant 800 trees in two days!
 - To see the Trees Atlanta presentation that was shared at this month's MLPA meeting, click <u>here</u>.
 - o For more detailed information and to sign up, click here.
 - Questions, comments, concerns? Contact <u>James Moy</u>, NeighborWoods Project Coordinator.



Cheshire Bridge Road Updates

The Atlanta Department of Transportation has completed the response and recovery efforts associated with the fire on August 4, 2021, which severely compromised the efficacy of Cheshire Bridge over South Fork Peachtree Creek. The Communications Team is providing a summary of rebuild activities that are completed, in progress, and planned for implementation on their website here. You can also watch videos, see frequently asked questions and find contact information.



Armour at Monroe Drive Updates

Many of us have encountered significant delays at the Monroe Drive and Armour Drive intersection in nearby Piedmont Heights. A project of the Georgia Department of Transportation, a roundabout is being installed due to high traffic volumes on the corridor (especially at peak hours) and a high number of crashes. At this Monday's MLPA meeting, our State House Representative Stacey Evans shared her frustrations with the implementation and now has a direct line to a project lead. Please contact her by <a href="mailto:emailto









Summer Movie Series Finale

What a blast we had at our last Summer Movie Series in Sunken Garden Park! These events brought us safely together after far too long, and we appreciate all of the musicians and food vendors who helped make it such a success. The MLPA also could not have done it without the help of Carter Rude, who lined up the entertainment and generously provided his generator. And we owe major thanks to Haygood Memorial UMC. Not only did they bring their Happy Camper full of friendly volunteers and endless (complimentary!) treats, they also let us use their large screen and projector - in addition to opening their doors for us to use their restroom facilities. We also had fun giveaways, too, as we raffled great gift cards to several local businesses. It truly takes a village, and that village is Morningside!



Security

MLPA Neighborhood Watch Program - We Need Street Captains

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

- Reducing crime and fear of crime in our neighborhood. The neighbors, the stay-at-home
 Moms and Dads, the folks working from home, and the retirees, are the "eyes and ears"
 of the security patrol. With "eyes and ears" on every street, we can contribute to improving
 security in the community.
- Acting as a deterrent to criminal activity,
- Promoting positive communication and relationships within the neighborhood and with the police,
- Providing the APD with volunteer support year-round,
- And building a sense of community pride and unity.

Many thanks to Stephanie Aron for stepping forward to lead the Neighborhood Watch activities in the neighborhood. We are grateful for her volunteerism and commitment to the neighborhood. By way of an introduction... Stephanie was born in Atlanta and has lived in the City permanently since 1999, moving from Midtown to Downtown and then to Morningside in 2015. She has been involved in various business and civic organizations, including the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (President, 2004), Commercial Real Estate Women Atlanta (President, 2006), and Atlanta Women's Foundation (Board Member 2010-2011). She graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law and started her firm in 1999, growing it until 2019 when she merged her real estate practice with Chamberlain Hrdlicka. She is now co-Managing Partner of the Atlanta office of Chamberlain. She is married to Chad Aron and mother of Mars Aron (Age 10), and believes that Morningside provides an idyllic life for its residents, and cannot imagine a better place to live.

The current MLPA Neighborhood Watch Program has more than 60 street captains, who notify neighbors about security issues thru the monthly MLPA Security Reports, be-on-the-lookout (BOLO) notices, and the monthly newsletters. However, there are many streets or blocks without a captain. Please see the list below and consider volunteering if you live on one of these streets. This is not a difficult job – mostly forwarding Security Reports and Newsletters to your neighbors.

If you'd like to volunteer, find out more about the MLPA Neighborhood Watch Program, or learn who is the street captain for your block, then please contact NeighborhoodWatch@mlpa.org.

Streets without a Captain:

Wayne Avenue

Bismark Road Cumberland Road 886-1090; N Morningside Dr to N Highland **Dutch Valley Place and Drive** Greystone Park Highland Park Lane Hillpine Lane and Terrace Manchester Street Marstevan Drive Middlesex Avenue Morning Glory Lane, Place, and Way Morningtide Court and Way N Highland Amsterdam to Lanier Place Niles Place Parkview Lane Pine Ridge Reeder Circle N Highland to Bonnie Lane Rockledge Road Telfair Circle

Zoning

One zoning case was heard in August by the Zoning Committee and MLPA Board:

V-21-183 1220 Pasadena Ave.

- Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to 1). reduce the required east side
 yard setback from 7 feet to 5 feet, and to 2). reduce the required rear yard from 15 feet to
 3 feet in order to construct an accessory structure.
- Approved

The next zoning meeting will be held online via Zoom on October 5 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. For more information, contact MLPA Zoning Chair, Rebekah Falkler, at zoning@mlpa.org.

Parks Updates





Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks

From the Friends of Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park (FHTDJ):

Morningside Champions Recognized

Did you know that Morningside Lenox Park is home to several champion trees? Do you even know what makes a champion tree?

Champion trees are recognized as among the largest of a species in a given area in a particular year. Our neighborhood is home to many champions, with 14 currently recognized in Herbert Taylor Park, Daniel Johnson Park and Noble Park. While the recognition of these dates back quite a while, it took neighborhood support from MLPA and grants from Park Pride to finally acquire the granite markers for the trees.

Then a small army of volunteers spent time digging holes, pouring in concrete and placing these stones by each champion tree. We will have a walk to show off the forest on Sunday, October 3 at 4:00 pm.

Contact parks@mlpa.org to learn more about our work and to be added to our mailing list.



Lenox-Wildwood Park

The Friends of Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood Parks continue to hold volunteer workdays on the third Saturday of each month. Please join us this Saturday, September 18 from 9am - 12pm. We are making great progress clearing out ivy, invasive plants and brush along the creek - all to make the park a more welcoming and inviting place. We've also really enjoyed meeting so many neighbors. All ages and experience levels are welcome!

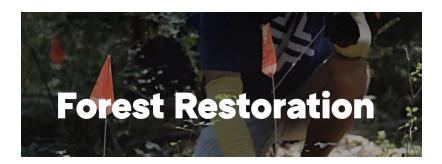
Meet us at the picnic table near the grill by the parking lot on Lenox Rd. Please bring your own tools such as gloves, pruners, loppers and shovels. Also, please consider wearing long pants and sleeves because the poison ivy and other critter friends are living their best life in this natural habitat.





Sidney Marcus Park

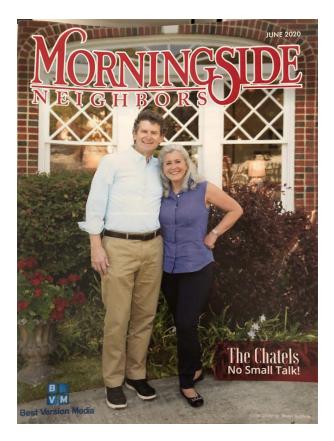
One of our favorite instrumental groups that formed at the beginning of this pandemic is still meeting to play music in Sidney Marcus Park. They have moved to the stone circle, in the middle of the park, due to construction noise near their first gathering spot that was on the corner of Cumberland Rd and Cumberland Cir. This new location has brought the children and caregivers over, so the accommodating group has been singing lots of children's songs! They still aim to meet on Tuesdays at 10:00am. As the weather cools, they will move to 1:30 in the afternoon. Stop by and enjoy!



Morningside Nature Preserve

Trees Atlanta continues working in the Morningside Nature Preserve. Today, September 15, their Forest Restoration crew had plans for kudzu treatment. On Saturday, September 25, they will host a volunteer project to remove invasive vegetation with Alyssa Killingsworth. Questions? Please contact Forest Restoration Coordinator, Emily Roth.

Meet the Board



Sarah Chatel, Membership Chair

How long have you lived in Morningside? We have lived in Morningside for 6 years.

Where are you from originally?

I'm originally from Sanford, FL.

Where did you go to school?

I received a BA in Religious Studies from Converse College in Spartanburg, SC.

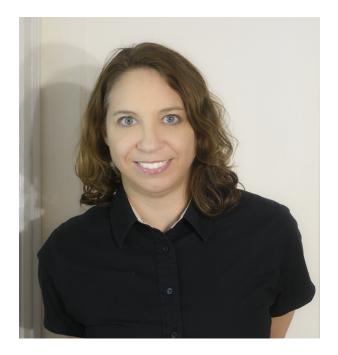
Tell us about your family.

We are a blended family of 5: one lives in Georgia, two live in Vietnam, one is in South Carolina and one lives in Florida. We also have two Coton du Tulear dogs and we love to travel (Peter has 46 stamps in his passport! - I'm trying to catch up!).

How do you spend your time when you're not volunteering to serve our neighborhood? I served two years as Chair of Dancing Stars of Atlanta for Alzheimers, raising over \$700,000 during the Pandemic. In 2019, I danced in the Dancing Stars event and raised \$115,000. I also volunteer with Atlanta Habitat and have helped build over 14 homes. I'm a realtor with Keller Williams Atlanta Midtown where I teach and mentor new agents, as well as sell Real Estate. I have been a Top Producer (Lifetime Member) with the Atlanta Board of Realtors for eight years and I co-wrote a book on real estate.

What do you enjoy most about living in Morningside?

Peter and I love our neighborhood so much because everyone is so friendly. We started our own street wine and cheese monthly gathering before the pandemic and we met regularly for three years. We're looking forward to starting these back soon. I am also in charge of the Morningside Supper Club. Both of these events have been instrumental in us feeling very connected to our neighborhood.



Rebekah Falkler, Zoning Chair

How long have you lived in Morningside?

I have lived in the neighborhood just over 18 years.

Where are you from originally?

I was born in York, PA but have lived in the metro Atlanta area (Stone Mountain and later Lawrenceville) since I was 2 years old.

Where did you go to school?

I have a B.S. in Management Information Systems from the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Tell us about your family.

I live with my partner, Marnie, and our pit bulls, Flour and Wit.

How many years have you served on the board?

I have been the Zoning Chair for almost 2 years.

How do you spend your time when you're not volunteering to serve our neighborhood? I spend a lot of time working in the yard and hanging out at home with our dogs. I also love playing music, taking photographs and riding bikes around the city.

What do you enjoy most about living in Morningside?

I enjoy the location and the wonderful people I have met here over the years.



Morningside Pride and History

Pop Quiz: Where is a presidential monument in Morningside Lenox Park? Which president does it recognize? And for what occasion?

Answer: Wilson Park, the triangular park at the intersection of E. Morningside and N. Rock Springs roads, memorializes President Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924). Dedicated by the Atlanta Woman's Club on May 25, 1924, Wilson Park was planted with crepe myrtles and elm trees (which all later succumbed to Dutch elm disease).

Wilson practiced law for a while in Atlanta, and the text on the plaque reads: The elm and crepe myrtle trees in this park and on these thoroughfares were planted by the Atlanta Women's Club as a living memorial to our great statesman, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, March 3, 1913 to March 4, 1921, commander in chief of this country during the Great World War, advocate of permanent world peace through the League of Nations based upon the brotherhood of mankind. Born Dec. 10, 1856, died Feb. 3, 1924. Dedicated this 23rd day of May, 1924.

The <u>Atlanta Woman's Club</u> was started in 1895 and still exists today. The club is a non-profit philanthropic organization made up of professional women of all ages, races and religions who share a common goal: to work together to improve the local community, socially, physically, culturally and educationally.

Adapted from the Morningside Walking Tour, MLPA Newsletter (Fall 2001), and Culture Now.

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 Contact
- MLPA Parks Committee Meetings 1st Thursday of every month, 7:00pm Contact
- MLPA Zoning Meetings 1st Tuesday of every month, 7:00pm Contact
- NPU-F Meetings 3rd Monday of every month, 7:00pm, Online via Zoom

Around Town



Music Midtown This Weekend. Music Midtown will be held Saturday, September 18th and Sunday, September 19th in Piedmont Park. We write to inform you of a few details in an effort to mitigate and minimize any inconvenience caused by the festival. The official event hours are Saturday, September 18th from 12:00pm - 11:00pm, and Sunday, September 19th from 12:00pm-10:00pm. There will be amplified sound during sound checks and performances. Sound checks begin Friday, September 17th from 5:00pm - 9:00pm, and again prior to performances on Saturday and Sunday, beginning at 9:00am. Community stakeholders may submit questions, concerns, and general feedback directly HERE, and a member of our team will respond as soon as possible. This support ticket system is also available on the Music Midtown website > Information > Midtown Neighbors.



Photo: Atlanta Public Schools

Midtown High Renovations. In case you haven't seen or heard about our historic public high school's renovation that was completed just before school started this year, check out these stories from What Now Atlanta and Atlanta Intown. The \$34.9 million renovation of the high school formerly known as Grady was funded by the one-penny Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST). It includes a 63,000 square foot, four-level addition.



South Fork Conservancy's Creek Rising. Quilt Auction and Raffle, September 14 - October 14. Although it is not possible to gather in person, we have an exciting series of fundraising events planned over the coming weeks that you won't want to miss! Make sure to check out our inaugural "Quilting the Creek" quilt exhibit and auction and our ever-popular raffle, featuring great prizes, such as a Big Green Egg smoker, an REI tent, a weekend at a North Carolina mountain home, and another at a lakeside home not far from Atlanta, just to name a few!



Marta to Hold Public Hearings for Route Changes. Attention City of Atlanta and Clayton County! MARTA is proposing route changes for routes 12, 95, 194, and 196, effective December 4, 2021. Please join us for in-person public hearings on September 14 at 7 p.m. at the Flint River Community Center, on September 16 at 7 p.m. at MARTA Headquarters, or a virtual meeting on September 15 at 11 a.m. For more information, click here.

Your Ride, You Decide! Help MARTA Select an Exciting Exterior Graphic Design! Rail car 120 is still in service 42 years after first hitting the rails in 1979, but MARTA will soon replace these rail cars with a brand new fleet. Go to our website to give us your input on the new design!



Department of Watershed Management Wants to Hear From You. DWM cares deeply about our customers and improving the level of service we provide on a daily basis. Please help us to take our service to the next level by completing a brief, nine question survey, which will take you less than one minute to complete. Access the survey at bit.ly/DWMCustomerSurvey. We appreciate your feedback!

THANK YOU TO OUR MLPA SPONSORS



ENGEL&VÖLKERS KRISTEN POLLOCK

MLPA Sponsorships

We are excited to announce new partnership packages that will further support our work in the neighborhood! With three levels for engagement, the MLPA Business Partnership Program will connect you with our members and other Morningside homeowners and residents. Click here to see our different tiers, their benefits and to become a sponsor. Select opportunities can include:

- · MLPA Sponsor window decal
- Logo included in monthly newsletter
- Flyer/coupons in new resident packs
- "Live" social media introductions Featured "Meet our Sponsors" article
- Prominent placement on MLPA website
- Prominent signage at all MLPA events
- "Live" social media introductions Featured "Meet our Sponsors" article on the MLPA website
- 4x/yr. personalized social media posts
- MLPA Board Meeting business introduction

For more detailed information, click here. Please reach out to Mark Smith at partnerships@mlpa.org with any questions!



MLPA Events Listing

- Every Saturday Morning, 8:00-11:30am: Morningside Farmers' Market
- September 18, 9am-12pm: Friends of Lenox-Wildwood Park Workday
- September 20, 7pm: NPU F Meeting
- September 26, 9:00-10:30am: Trees Atlanta Walking Tour
- October 1*, 6:00-8:00pm: Fall Concert Series in Sunken Garden Park
- October 3, 4:00pm: Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks Champion Tree Walk
- October 5, 7pm: MLPA Zoning Committee Meeting
- October 7, 7pm: MLPA Parks Committee Meeting
- October 9, 9am-12pm: Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks Workday
- October 11, 7pm: MLPA Monthly Board Meeting
- October 15*, 6:00-8:00pm: Fall Concert Series in Sunken Garden Park
- October 30, 9am: Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks Archaeology Walk
- November 5*, 6:00-8:00pm: Fall Concert Series in Sunken Garden Park
- November 6, 9:00am-12:00pm: Trees Atlanta Plantlanta in Morningside

^{*} Dependent on COVID trends and safety guidelines.

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, Midtown 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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