



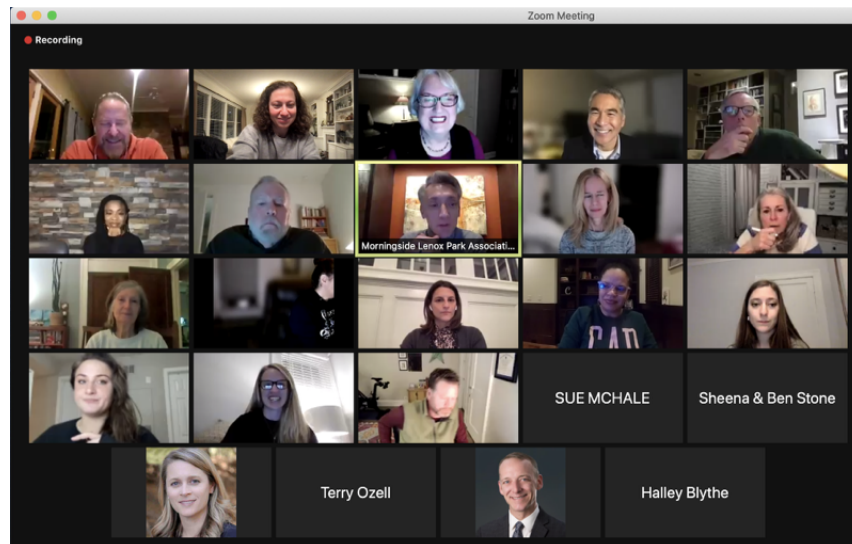
## YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

January 2022

In the New Year, a new [board](#) begins work - but we can't do it alone. There are a lot of great things happening in Morningside Lenox Park, the best neighborhood in Atlanta. Make a resolution today to [join or renew](#) your MLPA membership and volunteer to make our community even stronger in 2022!

### OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:

- [President's Note](#)
- [Master Plan Accomplishments](#)
- [Filming Notification with Street/Lane Closures](#)
- [Security: APD Restructuring and Code Enforcement](#)
- [Security: Recovering Stolen Devices](#)
- [Morningside Elementary Temporary Noise Variances](#)
- [Trash, Recycling and Yard Trimming Schedule Changes](#)
- [Buy Nothing Project](#)
- [Sponsors](#)
- [Parks](#)
- [Zoning](#)
- [Meet the Board](#)
- [Representative Updates](#)
- [Best of Atlanta Highlights](#)
- [Morningside Farmers' Market](#)
- [Neighborhood Meeting Schedule](#)
- [Around Town](#)



### President's Note

Happy new year! As I look out at this wintry mix, I hope this is a great day to read a LOT of

Happy New Year! As I look out at this wintry mix, I hope this is a great day to read a LOT of updates!

**1. New attitude!** We welcomed three new board members to our first meeting of the year: Ashley Milam, At-Large Board Member (who will likely help us focus on how to work with the city and CLEAR on alcohol license improvements); Camille Richardson, Traffic Chair; Holly Sasnett, Parks Co-Chair. Please welcome and thank them all for agreeing to volunteer. They brought great new energy and ideas to our discussion around priorities for the year ahead, as did several neighbors who joined to contribute their ideas (for example – beautifying the area around Morningside Village). We're going through the long list we brainstormed – ranging from improved clearance of invasive species in parks to new traffic initiatives to better defining Morningside's "brand" so we can bring the community together even more – and will report back next month on where we decide to focus. **BY THE WAY:** Did you know that 2023 will be Morningside's centennial? Our Communications Chair Marla Johnson reminded us of that significant fact, so we intend to use that exciting occasion to rally the neighborhood to get involved in initiatives that make us as strong as ever when it comes to the safety of our streets and the beauty of our surroundings.

**2. New traffic enhancements.** We know this is a big need in general, but particularly as the Cheshire Bridge detour continues to complicate the neighborhood and Morningside Elementary School reopens this fall. Although the MLPA had approved the purchase of a digital speed reader for Wellbourne Drive, in the end Jennifer Ide and Lance Orchid helped take care of it with the funds not only for that reader on Wellbourne, but for an additional reader (likely to be placed near the school) as well as two pedestrian refuges on the high-traffic streets of E. Morningside and Sherwood Rd. Huge thanks to the Master Plan Implementation Committee that continues to prioritize and close these projects to completion.

**3. Octopus Kitchen – Second Chance.** As we reported in December, the License Review Board approved the alcohol license for Octopus Kitchen on December 6. The mayor has 60 days to take action to deny the license – and since the last mayor didn't take any, we have another chance to implore our new one to do so. Fish out any previous emails and resend them, focusing on the fact you are skeptical that the applicant meets the parking requirements. You can email Mayor Dickens at [mayordickens@atlantaga.gov](mailto:mayordickens@atlantaga.gov) AND [adickens@atlantaga.gov](mailto:adickens@atlantaga.gov). Sending a huge thank you to Council Member Alex Wan for re-engaging on this opportunity and giving us the insight on where to focus our message to the mayor. If you need help crafting a message just let us know.

As you may know it's the start of the state legislative session – and there is a lot going on as usual in Georgia. Keep reading for how to stay up to date with our elected officials.

Hoping for all of us that by February we are indeed in predicted decline of this omicron wave... but all I know at this point is to be flexible. Stay well all and please send feedback as always!

Ben Nemo, [president@mlpa.org](mailto:president@mlpa.org)

---



## Master Plan Implementation

As mentioned above, a small but mighty group of neighborhood volunteers continue to work on major projects that will better our lives here in Morningside. They are the Master Plan Implementation (MPI) Committee, and their relentless efforts to execute the recommendations in our [Master Plan](#) are to be commended.

In September 2019, the MLPA Board approved the MPI Committee's recommendations for initial projects. These first priorities focus on improving walking and biking safety, in addition to ensuring the character of the neighborhood. The MPI Committee wrapped up 2021 with fantastic news on the transportation front:

- Secured \$25,000 in funding for two digital speed readers (one to be placed on Wellbourne Dr and the other on E Rock Springs Rd near Morningside Elementary)
- Secured \$100,000 in funding to cover two pedestrian refuges on E Morningside Dr and a pedestrian refuge on Sherwood Rd by Smith Park

Huge thanks to our former District 6 City Councilwoman Jennifer Ide and her Chief of Staff Lance Orchid (now Alex Wan's Chief of Staff) for their support. The MPI Steering Committee will monitor these projects and move forward on others, including a sidewalk maintenance pilot program and designating the MLPWay (a network of bike-pedestrian streets that will establish a safe way to travel throughout the neighborhood).



## Filming Notification with Street/Lane Closures

Please be advised of permitted filming that will impact your travel route if you use Wellbourne Dr and Wildwood Rd, which are part of the Cheshire Bridge Rd detour. Details from the production company are below:

January 19-21 (Preparations Days) AND January 26-27 (Restoration Days)

- **Closure of eastern curb lane on Wellbourne Dr** between Wildwood Rd & 1905 Wellbourne Dr from 7am – 9pm

January 24 - 25: Filming Days

- **Full closure to thru traffic on Wellbourne Dr between Wildwood Rd and Cheshire Bridge** from 7am – 12am
- **Closure of northern lane on Wildwood Rd** between Wellbourne Dr and 924 Wildwood Rd 7am – 12am
- There will be **'simulated gunfire' on the day of filming**. There will be absolutely NO live ammunition, and Disney's safety protocols will be followed to ensure complete safety of the crew, cast, and neighbors.

Atlanta Police Officers will assist with traffic and pedestrian control, as well as crew safety. Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to our [Filming Liaison](#). This filming is for a new show titled, 'Class of '09.'

---



## Security

### Restructuring and Reorganization in the Atlanta Police Department

In recent months, the Atlanta Police Department has been restructuring and reorganizing. At the NPU-F meeting in December and the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting in January, Major Senzer shared that many vacant positions had been filled through promotions and lateral shifts. Both zones that serve Morningside Lenox Park have new Assistant Commanders (see below). Zone 2 addresses incidents on the North side of Cheshire Bridge, and Zone 6 covers incidents occurring in the area of the neighborhood between Cheshire Bridge and Amsterdam.

#### Zone 2

- Major [Andrew Senzer](#), Commander
- Captain [Jason Smith](#), Assistant Commander

#### Zone 6

- Major [Peter Ries](#), Commander
- Captain [Peter Malecki](#), Assistant Commander

### Code Enforcement

Morningside neighbors also interact with Code Enforcement from time to time to report code violations. Examples of code violations include open or vacant properties, properties with excessive trash or severe overgrowth, junk vehicles or inoperable vehicles in the street, etc. Code Enforcement has a new Commander: Major [Ailen Mitchell](#).

Use this [form](#) to report a vacant property.

You can also email or fax a code violation complaint:

- Fax: 404 979 4868
  - Email: [codesrequests@atlantaga.gov](mailto:codesrequests@atlantaga.gov)
-



## **Tips for Recovering Stolen Phones and Laptops**

Car break-ins are the most frequently occurring crime in Morningside. All too often, a phone or laptop is taken. The [SafeWise.com](http://SafeWise.com) site provides tips for recovering stolen (or missing) phones and laptops.

- Use built-in apps to try to locate your phone or laptop. [Find My Device](#) (Android and Google phone, laptop and tablet) and [Find My](#) (Apple iPhone, Macbook, AirPods, and watch) apps may help to locate your device.
  - File a stolen property report with the police department. Police reports can help you fight fraudulent charges. If your device is insured, you might need a police report to process your claim.
  - Do what you can to protect your information and data. If possible,
    - recover data from your device; this assumes that you have an iCloud account or have recently backed up data thru iTunes.
    - wipe your information from your device. Some software allows you to clean off all data from a remote location.
    - use iTunes and Google to log out of your accounts and deauthorize all devices.
  - Check your insurance. If someone steals your device from your car, your insurance might cover it. Call your agent to find out.
  - For phones, inform your carrier and service provider. They can disable your service, help trace the phone, or get you a replacement phone.
  - If your device was stolen in a public space, there may be surveillance footage of the act. Ask around to see if anyone saw anything.
  - Consider looking for your device in local pawn shops and online listings, e.g., Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, OfferUp, eBay, etc. If you find your device, don't buy it or let the seller know it's yours. Instead, ask if they will hold the item for you. Then contact the police to investigate and recover your stolen items.
-



## **Morningside Elementary Temporary Noise Variances**

As construction for the renovation and addition at Morningside Elementary continues, so do the temporary noise variance renewals. Please be aware that Parrish Construction Group requests weekday times from 5:00am-10:00pm, and weekend times of 6:00am-9:00pm, for construction noise, construction workers, delivery trucks and equipment operating. You can follow the progress reports and updates [here](#).

---



**DPW has temporarily modified recycling and yard trimming collection schedules due to COVID-19 surge/staffing shortages.**

\* As a result of recent COVID-19 surges that are affecting workforce sectors nationwide, the Department of Public Works is working on a modified collection schedule.

## **Trash, Recycling and Yard Trimmings Schedule Changes**

City of Atlanta's Department of Public Works (DPW) staffing continues to be affected by the recent surge in COVID-19 cases. Until further notice, the Office of Solid Waste Services is collecting garbage as a priority, with recycling and yard trimmings collected as staffing allows.

- No garbage collection on Monday, January 17 for MLK Day. There will be a one-day collection delay throughout this holiday week.
- [Click here](#) for the modified recycling schedule visits, which is now happening by NPU/Neighborhood. For delayed recycling pickups, please leave carts curbside until collected.
- While attendance remains an issue, recycling and yard trimmings will be offered to residents that have gone the longest without service first.

[Click here](#) for Modified Collection Schedule FAQs. The staffing situation is improving daily. If this trend continues, the Office of Solid Waste Services anticipates resuming the regular collection schedule for all services by January 31, 2022.

---





## Buy Nothing Project

We know that we are fortunate to live in a place where you can still ask your neighbors for a cup of sugar. But can you also ask them for a fire pit? A computer monitor? A baby swing? Yes, you can absolutely ask - and without apprehension - if you're on Facebook and a member of the [Buy Nothing Morningside/Lenox Park](#) private group! The group is not just for asking, though; it's also for giving away items (or services) and expressing gratitude for each other.

The Buy Nothing Project is a global movement that was established in 2013. What started as a simple experiment to create a "gift economy" on Bainbridge Island, WA, has now become a worldwide network that is supported by thousands of volunteers and over a million participants. The initial notion of community, in fact, was a way to share food and resources for the sake of sheer survival. Thanks to our neighbors, Emily Toledo and Camille Richardson, we have an evolved, hyper-local opportunity to make tangible connections, buy less and share more.

"In a way, we have the pandemic to thank for this incredible group. We were six months into the initial lockdown and I was craving community in a big way," says Emily. "Fast forward a year and a half and I love how interactive the group has become, how we're all really getting to know one another and finding ways to support each other. The sense of community that's being created is truly special and I'm grateful for it everyday."

Launched in October 2020, the [Morningside/Lenox Park Buy Nothing](#) group encourages residents to share generously with each other and trust in the abundance that surrounds us all. The point is to connect with and actually get to know your immediate neighbors - to truly "give where you live." And you can literally give - or ask - for anything and everything. From furniture to clothing to appliances to hardware to home decor to electronics - the options are endless. Camille does an amazing job keeping everyone on track, offering tips and suggesting creative ideas for engagement.

With 440 members, the [Morningside/Lenox Park Buy Nothing](#) group's boundaries are Lenox Rd to the north, Briarcliff Rd to the east, Amsterdam Ave to the south, and Monroe Dr and Buford-Spring Connector to the west. There are alternate groups surrounding ours, as well, including a 'Midtown' group that includes Sherwood Forest and Ansley Park, in addition to a 'Midtown South' group that encompasses Virginia-Highland and Old Fourth Ward. So if you're looking to start the new year cleaner and greener - or maybe you received a holiday gift that isn't quite your style - this is a great way to do that while building and strengthening our beloved community, too. It's a win win!

---

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

*Beauty Bar*  
**THE TEN SPOT**<sup>®</sup>

---

**JOY MYRICK**  
*associates*

---

Atlanta Fine Homes | **Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

---



**ENGEL & VÖLKERS**<sup>®</sup>  
**KRISTEN POLLOCK**

**Become an MLPA Sponsor in 2022**

Start the new year off as an MLPA Sponsor in 2022! We are excited to share 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. For more detailed information, click [here](#) or contact our Partnerships Chair, [Mark Smith](#), with any questions.

---

**Parks**



### **Morningside Nature Preserve**

The City of Atlanta Parks Department just reopened the Morningside Nature Preserve (MNP) suspension bridge. The bridge was closed due to serious safety hazards, but now the compromised planks and openings across the bridge floor have been repaired. The Department of Parks and Recreation's Commissioner also shared that the boardwalk between the Lenox Rd entrance and the bridge will be fixed, as well.

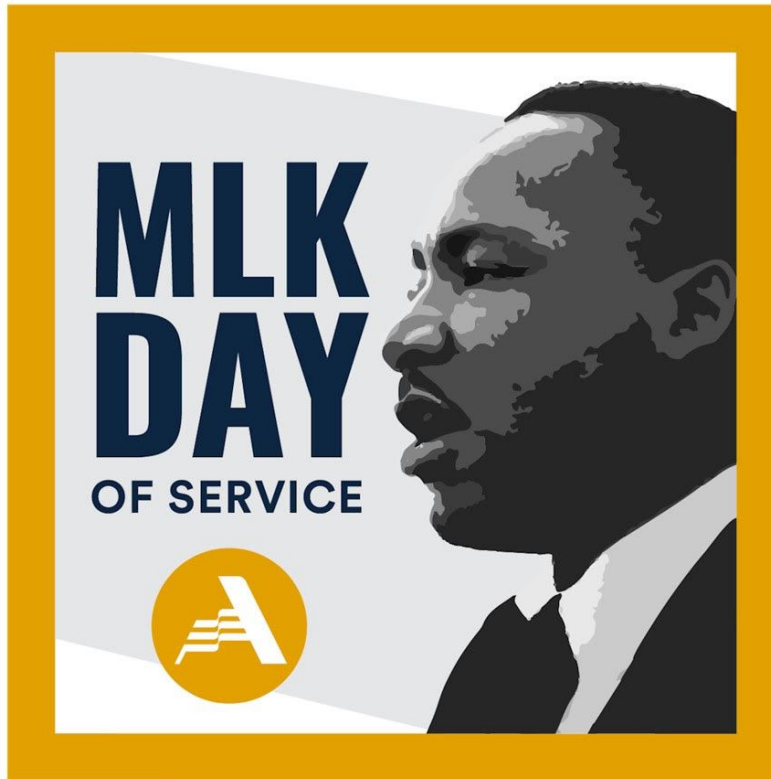


## **Forest Restoration in Morningside Nature Preserve**

**Sat Jan 22 | 9am-12pm | Morningside/Lenox Park**

Join [Trees Atlanta](#) on the fourth Saturday of every month in the Morningside Nature Preserve (MNP). Activities include removing invasive plants such as English ivy and Chinese privet in the MNP, a beautiful and popular greenspace situated on the South Fork of Peachtree Creek. Our goal is to promote a healthy plant community and a sustainable forest in this special greenspace. For more information and to sign up, [click here](#).

---



**Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park**

The [Friends of Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park](#) will continue the work that more than 90 volunteers have been doing to return the old growth, Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park acreage to nature. Come join the fun and honor Dr. King's legacy of service!

MLK Service Day

This Monday, January 17

9:00am-12:00pm

NOTE - If it's icy, we will cancel by 8am. Please contact [visittaylorpark@gmail.com](mailto:visittaylorpark@gmail.com) with questions

In 2021, invasive species removal has let light and nutrients promote native plant growth. This is a great opportunity for kids of all ages to learn about native flora - and to help it thrive. Meet at the kiosk at 1343 Pasadena Ave for instructions.

---



## **Noble Park**

A group of 20+ Noble Park neighbors turned out for the annual Fall work day on November 6, 2021. The determined volunteers demolished a massive mulch pile. The mulch was used on new plantings and to freshen up established areas. The day was capped off with the placing of a granite marker at the base of the park's Black Tupelo. The marker recognizes that this graceful tree was designated as a Champion Tree in 2010 by the City of Atlanta.

[Friends of Noble Park](#) concluded 2021 with a short but successful fundraising drive. The new donations will replenish our coffers and enable us to maintain and improve the park in the future.

On January 15, 2022, a small but hardy band of neighbors assembled and installed three replacement bench swings in the park. The new swings, made of Ipe wood, promise to age to a weathered grey and will provide years of enjoyment to the neighborhood.

---



### **Sidney Marcus Park**

The Legacy Grant awarded to the [Friends of Sidney Marcus Park](#) (FSMP) in 2020 is finally breaking ground. The required site visit and walkthrough by the City was completed last week, and work on the park will begin the week of January 19.

Expected to take 3 months, the project will start with staging equipment and supplies at the Sherwood side of the park. Work will start on the lower area and work its way up to the playscape and picnic area. In this way, the contractor, Integrated Land Design, will work to keep the picnic area and playscape open for as long as possible. However, it will be important to adhere to the safety fences and stay away from the construction areas and heavy equipment.

What has been dubbed the Knoll or hill bordered by Cumberland Rd and Cumberland Cir will not be part of this renovation. Speaking with the Friends of Sidney Marcus Park team, volunteer activities will be available on a limited basis for the Legacy Grant project and can be used as in-kind donations as part of the matching dollar for dollar for the grant. In addition, the conservancy group is planning volunteer activities on the Knoll.

All in all, Sidney Marcus Park will be ready for Spring and Summer activities and return a sense of community to the neighborhood. Our parks in Morningside are key to the neighborhood's success and Sidney Marcus Park will be at full strength this spring.

---



### **Lenox-Wildwood Park**

It might be chilly in the mornings these days, but what a great way to start your weekend! Get some exercise, breathe the fresh air and meet some neighbors. Or enjoy a little solitude and volunteer in your own space - we don't judge!

The [Friends of Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood Park](#) hold these volunteer workdays on the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00am-12:00pm. 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 trowels. We promise there is a job for everyone - no matter the age or skill level!

---

## **Zoning**

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

- **V-21-322 1330 North Highland AVE NE**
  - Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required front yard setback from 35 feet to 23.56 feet in order to construct a 2nd story addition to an existing single family residence.
  - Approved

The next zoning meeting will be held online via Zoom on February 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. For more information, contact MLPA Zoning Chair, Rebekah Falkler, at [zoning@mlpa.org](mailto:zoning@mlpa.org).

---

**Meet the Board**





## Camille Rich, Traffic Chair

Camille Richardson is a brand and marketing leader at Meta (formerly Facebook). A recent transplant from Silicon Valley, Camille and her family moved to Morningside in September 2020 and immediately fell in love with the neighborhood's schools, proximity to attractions, beautiful homes and friendly neighbors. Camille initially began her involvement in the neighborhood by stepping in as Wellbourne Drive's Street Captain, then moving on to co-lead the MLPA Traffic-Calming Committee with Sue McHale. Camille has been married to Darian Richardson – also a leader at Meta – for 10 years and they have two sons, Grant (6) who attends Morningside Elementary and Evan (3).

---

## Representative Updates

Whether they attend monthly or occasionally, these city and state representatives have joined our board meetings to keep us informed and stay engaged. If they cannot make it or you are unable to join, stay connected to your elected officials:

### Alex Wan, Atlanta City Council District 6

- Website: <https://www.atlantadistrict6.com/>
- Email: [awan@atlantaga.gov](mailto:awan@atlantaga.gov)
- Phone: 404-330-6049
- [Subscribe](#) to his newsletter.
  - [Click here](#) for the most recent update, which includes Alex's committee assignments.

### Rep. Becky Evans (D), District 83, *Serving MLP residents in DeKalb County*

- [Official Page and Contact Information](#)
- [Website](#)
  - Sign up for her newsletter.

### Rep. Stacey Evans (D), District 57, *Serving MLP residents in Fulton County*

- [Official Page and Contact Information](#)
  - [Website](#)
    - Sign up for her newsletter.
- 





## **Best of Atlanta Highlights**

Morningside Lenox Park benefits from being in one of the most central and well-traveled areas of the city. One of the top attractions cited in the MLPA Master Plan are the vibrant commercial districts within walking (or a short driving) distance of our neighborhood. The shops and restaurants along North Highland, on and just off of Cheshire Bridge Rd and nearby in Piedmont Heights and Midtown are an invaluable amenity. Congratulations to these local businesses who were featured in [Atlanta Magazine's Best of 2021](#) issue.\*

- Meatballs - *Grana*
- Gourmet Market - *The Buttery*
- New-Wave Coffee Drinks - *Academy Coffee + Kinship Butcher & Sundry*
- New Indie Bookstore - *Virginia-Highland Books*
- Furniture Store - *Intaglia Home Collection*
- Kitchen Store - *The Cook's Warehouse*
- Jewelry Store - *Worthmore*
- Butcher Shop - *Midtown Butcher Shoppe*
- Tennis Shop - *I Play Tennis*
- Local Clothing Store - *Dakota J's*
- Sports Bar - *Taco Mac*
- Framing Shop - *Framing by Design*
- Dry Cleaner - *Sig Samuels*
- Car Wash - *Two Minit "Gorilla" Car Wash*
- Spa/Salon (Facial) - *The Ten Spot*
- Tacos - *Taqueria Del Sol*
- Brunch - *Murphy's*
- Japanese - *Nakato Japanese Restaurant*
- Gourmet Foods - *Alon's*
- Jazz Club - *Blind Willie's*
- Local Attraction (Outdoors) - *Atlanta Botanical Gardens*
- Yoga Studio - *Highland Yoga*

\*The annual Best of Atlanta awards are selected by our editors and readers, with no outside influence from advertisers. Honorees are unaware of their selection until after our list has been finalized, and they cannot promote their status until publication date.

---



Bringing good people and good food together  
since 1995.

## **Morningside Farmers' Market Special Updates**

Visit the farmers, artisans and vendors at [Morningside Farmers' Market!](#) Sign up to receive their newsletter and find out who will be there each weekend - plus you'll get the inside scoop on special events and pop-up chefs!

Every Saturday, year-round, from 8am - 11:30am

Morningside Presbyterian: [1411 N. Morningside Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30306](#)

(Street parking or spots available in the small lot accessed from Wessyngton Rd NE)

---

## 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 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



**MARTA unveils new rail cars.** These modern 4-car train sets will feature open gangways that allow passenger movement through the entire train set, allowing room for more people per car than our current trains can provide. Colored lights on the front & rear and over each doorway will also indicate the rail line - red, gold, blue, or green. Customers will also benefit from conveniently placed mobile device charging stations throughout the rail cars and digital system maps and screens that display timely transit service information. Look for the first delivery to begin next year in 2023. [Click here](#) for more information.

We are also saddened to hear of the recent tragic death of MARTA's CEO, Jeffrey Parker.

---

SEE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

*Become a*

**MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK**  
ASSOCIATION

*Sponsor*

[CLICK TO LEARN MORE >>](#)

---

### 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](mailto:communications@mlpa.org).

*Copyright © 2021 Morningside Lenox Park Association, All rights reserved.*