

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS March 2022

It wouldn't be Atlanta this time of year if it wasn't warm, freezing, breezy, gusty, bright and rainy in the span of a week. But as we spring forward, there is no better place to experience it all than in our great neighborhood. Please join or renew your MLPA membership and volunteer to make our community even better!

OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:

- President's Note
- Plan to Attend: Club Platinum Alcohol License Application
- 2022 MLPA Events
- Cheshire Bridge and Monroe Complete Street Updates
- Recycling Efforts
- Parks
- Sponsors
- Zoning
- Midtown Cluster Schools in the News
- From Morningside to Mercedes-Benz
- Morningside Elementary Temporary Noise Variances
- Morningside Craft Crawl
- Morningside Farmers' Market
- Neighborhood Meeting Schedule
- Around Town

President's Note

Hello neighbors – we're trading COVID fears for world instability to keep uncertainty top of mind – but pollen is as reliable as ever so I am looking inward to the neighborhood!

- 1. See something...send us something. As we repeat often, anytime you even remotely suspect the wrong activity in the neighborhood, your first step should always be to call 911 no reason is too small. Although we are tracking publicly available crime data, we would like to keep our own logs when it comes to hearing gunshots or similar violent crime. If you unfortunately witness such activity, please send the date, time, location and confirm 911 outreach to us at security@mlpa.org.
- **2. Getting social.** As the pandemic hopefully continues thawing, we have a lot of events coming up to bring the neighborhood out. See details below but we are looking forward to the ribbon cutting event and concert at Sidney Marcus Park on April 29, the return of our new mothers' brunch on May 1 at Whiskey Bird, and another concert series.
- **3. Going hybrid!** We are going to start alternating virtual and in-person monthly board meetings assuming the state of COVID stays in this current safe mode. Virtual meetings have brought many benefits in terms of meeting accessibility, but we also miss physical presence after two years. We are going to start alternating meetings with another virtual meeting in April and an inperson meeting in May. More details to come, including streaming options for those that may still want to participate with in-person meetings from home. #ontrend

I also hope many of you saw our communication last Sunday regarding the proposed changes to zoning for elementary schools in the Midtown cluster, including Morningside Elementary School (MES). Atlanta Public Schools will be determining the future use of the Inman building as of the 2023 school year to alleviate overcrowding throughout the cluster. Currently some zones of Morningside – notably the Manchester area north of Cheshire/east of Piedmont and the homes west of Monroe/north of Amsterdam along the park – would move to the new Inman facility in the proposals. The MLPA would like to keep the neighborhood together as much as possible and will advocate as such – but we encourage as many of you to reach out to APS leadership and board members to make sure they know those areas are considered Morningside proper. If you missed the communication and would like more information, please email our communications lead Marla Johnson.

In Monday night's meeting, we enjoyed hearing from two local businesses who are making every effort to reach out to the community. Have you seen our new beauty services neighbor The Ten Spot in Morningside Village? Owner LaDonna Suggs is also our residential neighbor and it was exciting to learn about her growing franchise, the first of its kind in the south. Meanwhile her neighbor Whiskey Bird is about to celebrate its 5th anniversary with a family event in April – more details to come but we thank Anthony Vipond for his support of MLPA and his time to share updates in our meeting. He has also started a new business called Artichoke Dinner Club, which provides healthy, ready-to-eat dinners delivered to your home.

Thanks also to Council Member Alex Wan who joined our meeting last night to update us on progress with Cheshire Bridge road repair (in process), Monroe Drive improvements (starting in May) and homeless encampments (working on a solution to restore facilities with the city deputy COO).

Two people responded to last month's call for volunteers to discuss ways to celebrate Morningside's centennial year in 2023 – thanks to them but we could sure use a few more volunteers for a task like that. If this interests you, please send me an email!

Ben Nemo, president@mlpa.org

NOTICE TO APPEAR

City Code Section 10-48(e) requires Applicants for liquor licenses to appear before the NPU in which the proposed licensed establishment is located. You are scheduled to appear before:

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNIT: F

Plan to Attend: Club Platinum Alcohol License Application

We are trying to be more vigilant about the abuse of alcohol licenses that contribute to noise, illegal parking, and other nuisance behaviors at establishments along Cheshire Bridge and nearby neighborhood streets. The new owners of the Club Platinum at 1905 Piedmont Road are seeking an alcohol license. This location has been on our radar for a while.

Residents in the Manchester area have made many 911 calls to complain, in particular, about noise and illegal parking related to Club Platinum customers. Entrance to the Manchester area townhouses is frequently impeded by overflow parking at the Club along Rockledge Road. The Club does not have adequate parking as required in the City of Atlanta alcohol code.

We encourage all neighbors who are concerned about this alcohol license application to join next Monday evening's NPU meeting to weigh in on their decision to endorse the license or not. This NPU-F meeting will be held on **March 21 at 7:00 pm** to vote on Club Platinum's alcohol license application. When available, the meeting agenda can be downloaded here.

The NPU Zoom link for Monday's meeting is here.

You must be registered as a resident of NPU-F in order to vote. <u>Registration</u> is required once a year. If you registered last summer, you are good to go for this meeting. If you need to register, please do so BEFORE March 21. Otherwise, your membership may not be verified in time. If you use your driver's license for verification, be sure to black-out your DL# and DOB.

Hope to see you on the NPU Zoom call.



2022 MLPA Events

It is our pleasure to announce some exciting MLPA Events for 2022! We want to focus on highlighting a few of the things that make our neighborhood special - the parks and local businesses! Please see below for this year's line-up. More details will be released closer to each event via email communications (like this newsletter) and social media posts. Also, these events don't happen by themselves. If you are looking for a way to get more involved, we'd greatly appreciate your volunteering to help! Email our Events Chair, Ryan Murphy.

- Sidney Marcus Park Ribbon Cutting Event and Concert (with The Friends of Sidney Marcus Park) April 29th
- New Mothers Brunch May 1, 10:30am at Whiskey Bird
- Morningside Parks Fundraiser Pickleball Tournament + Block Party October, Lenox Wildwood Courts + Morningside Village
- Concerts in the Park Series August through October, Sidney Marcus Park
- Winterfest (with Virginia Highland District) December 11, Morningside Village

Note: Given potential delays or public health restrictions, dates and times are subject to change.



Cheshire Bridge and Monroe Complete Streets Updates

The following are updates from District 6 Atlanta City Council Member Alex Wan:

Cheshire Bridge Update

After accepting, reviewing, and evaluating all bids submitted, ATLDOT has forwarded a contractor recommendation for the design and rebuild of the Cheshire Bridge over South Fork Peachtree Creek. Bids from prospective contractors were received on February 1, 2022, and the department's evaluation and recommendation were completed in accordance with the original procurement schedule. Once the project has been awarded, which is imminent, ATLDOT will announce the selected contractor and share next steps for the bridge design and rebuild.

I have been meeting regularly with ATLDOT, and then, last week, with the Department of Procurement last week to make certain that this project remain a priority. I have been assured that they are on track with the contracting phase. Like you, I am eager that construction get underway as quickly as possible, and will maintain my pressure on the departments throughout this process.

Cheshire Bridge Rebuild updates are available on the <u>ATLDOT website</u>. Stay engaged with ATLDOT on our Twitter feed @ATLDOT, ATLDOT Facebook page, Instagram channel @ATLDOT, and NextDoor platforms.

Monroe Complete Street Project

Construction on Phase I of the Monroe Complete Street Project should begin this summer.

The entire project will be implemented in three phases. Phase I will specifically address the intersection of 10th and Monroe. Phase II is the stretch south of the intersection, and Phase III will be Monore from 10th St NE north up to the GDOT work that is underway at Armour Dr NE.

ATLDOT engineers are recommending making 10th and Monroe a raised intersection similar to a raised intersection found in downtown Decatur. The plan has obtained safety approvals from the Fire Department. My office has received word from ATLDOT that a final plan review for Phase I of the project is scheduled for this month. Once the plans are complete, ATLDOT will submit a package to the Department of Procurement for the fastest procurement process to get the contractor out there to begin work. The goal is to have construction begin once school is out this summer.

As always, I encourage your feedback and comments. Please contact me at (404) 330-6049 or awan@atlantaga.gov if I can be of assistance. I appreciate the opportunity to be your voice in our city government.



Recycling Efforts

Last month, several neighbors received a notice on their recycling bins aimed to reduce contamination in the city's residential recycling bins and increase the quantity and quality of materials recycled.

Launched in 2017, the "Feet on the Street" public service and educational campaign shares what does and does not belong in resident recycling carts. City employees walk targeted recycling routes to "tip and tag" – tipping the lids of recycling carts and tagging those with contaminants. Contaminated carts receive an informational "oops" tag that highlights the contaminant within and the Street team logs contamination via smartphone app. The effort to educate residents about what is recyclable has proven to substantially reduce contaminants and saves cities money and makes the recycling process more efficient.

Thanks for being mindful and keeping Morningside clean and green!

Parks





KET

Car – Parking lot of Lenox-Wildwood Yellow Dots – Current trail Bridge – Site location across the creek

Purple Dots – New trail

The Friends of Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood Parks (FoSGLW) have announced that they've received a Legacy Matching Grant from Park Pride in the amount of \$30,000 to fund a portion of the cost of installing a new pedestrian bridge in Lenox-Wildwood Park that will improve accessibility and connectivity with other sections of the park.

This new bridge will be constructed in the northern section of Lenox-Wildwood Park across a small creek that flows through the park and next to the Morningside Nature Trail. Currently, the only trail that leads from the tennis courts on Lenox Road to Berkshire Road crosses a meadow and then goes up a steep, unevenly angled and eroding incline. It is unimproved and nearly impassable after rainfall. A new pedestrian bridge will bypass that difficulty and offer an accessible, level connection across the creek that separates the two meadows in this section of the park.

The bridge will also create an obvious, continuous trail from the tennis courts to the Morningside Nature Trail in the southern section of Lenox-Wildwood Park, and on to Sunken Garden Park. At present there is no obvious trail connection between the two sections of Lenox-Wildwood. The existing trails are disjointed, with entrances at different points on Berkshire Road that are about 50 yards apart and are not visible from each other. Visitors walking through the park on the trail have been confused about where to go, and sometimes try to find a trail from Berkshire through the south meadow - only to run into the creek and end up in homeowners' backyards.

FosSGLW member Peter Dean said, "Constructing this bridge will create a pleasant and accessible trail that will attract neighbors and visitors, provide an easy walking route to the tennis courts, and increase use of Lenox-Wildwood Park for exercise and recreation." "We are thrilled and grateful to receive this grant from Park Pride," adds FoSGLW member Marla Johson. "This is the second grant that our Friends of the Parks group has attained. Without Park Pride's support and financial contribution, it would be so much harder to pursue these much-needed capital improvement projects. This is a matching grant and we are starting a fundraising campaign to raise the balance of the funds required."

To make a donation for the new pedestrian bridge addition, please <u>click here</u> and select Lenox-Wildwood Park from the dropdown menu.

A trusted Atlanta-based nonprofit for over 30 years, Park Pride engages communities to activate the power of parks. Working with over 180 local Friends of the Park groups across 250 greenspaces, Park Pride provides leadership, services, and funding to help communities realize their dreams for parks that support healthy people, united neighborhoods, a resilient city, and a healthy environment. Park Pride is active in greenspace advocacy and educating both civic leaders and the public about the benefits of parks, and annually hosts the Parks and Greenspace Conference. Learn more about Park Pride at parkpride.org.

......



Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park

Herbert Taylor Park Celebrates a Silver Anniversary

Twenty-five years ago, City of Atlanta Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Affairs and two of our City Council Members, Mary Davis and Elaine Valentine, celebrated Earth Day with the dedication of a 28-acre site on Johnson Road, Herbert Taylor Park. The park, at 1795 Johnson Road, spans the South Fork of Peachtree Creek and its confluence with Rock Creek.

If you stroll through the park's trails today, you will likely see wildflowers starting to peek through the leaf litter (and perhaps even invasive English ivy). Join us this **Sunday, March 20 at 4:00pm** at the Herbert Taylor Park kiosk (1343 Pasadena Ave) for a hike through the parks. Wear hiking shoes and long pants/sleeves as our native poison ivy may be sprouting as well. Suitable for all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult and the hike will be up and down some hills and narrow trails so come prepared for some exercise. Contact wisittaylorpark@gmail.com for details and to RSVP - attendance is limited to minimize the impact of our visit.

.....



Sidney Marcus Park

While the renovation at Sidney Marcus Park continues, the <u>Friends of Sidney Marcus Park</u> (FSMP) held another successful neighborhood food drive benefitting Intown Collaborative Ministries and a volunteer clean up day the weekend of March 4.

Also, we put out the word for wood chips at Sidney Marcus Park and we got an avalanche. There are three large piles of wood chips at the park that we will never be able to spread. They are on the corner of Cumberland Road and Cumberland Circle. If you want some, come and get them!



Sunken Garden Park

The Friends of Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood manage two recreational parks that are connected by a nature trail. In this way, we are able to coordinate and focus our efforts without competing for resources. In 2019-20, our first initiative was to improve the drainage and add a retaining seat wall in Sunken Garden. Now we are working on the new pedestrian bridge in Lenox-Wildwood. After this project, we'd like to turn back to Sunken Garden and evaluate a large-scale renovation for this special park. A vision plan is in order. What do you want to see in Sunken Garden Park? But most importantly, are you willing and able to help us restore what was once the heart of our community? If you are interested and would like to be a part of Sunken Garden's makeover (or you know someone!), please email Marla Johnson. It can happen with your help!

.....



Morningside Parks Need YOU!

Parks throughout our neighborhood are being restored by active Friends of the Park groups, but **we need your help**. No experience necessary, all ages welcome, and credit for service will be provided if needed. See the following schedule for volunteering, or you can support our parks financially with a tax deductible donation through Park Pride here (select a Morningside park from the drop down menu).

- Herbert Taylor Park, Friends of the Park Workday
 - o Occurs on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 9:00am-Noon
 - o Meet at kiosk on the corner of Beech Valley and Pasadena
- Lenox-Wildwood Park, Friends of the Park Workday
 - Occurs on the 3rd Saturday of each month, 9:00am-Noon
 - Meet at the picnic table/grill area by the parking lot on Lenox
- Morningside Nature Preserve, Trees Atlanta Workday
 - Occurs on the 4th Saturday of each month, 9:00am-Noon
 - Visit <u>Trees Atlanta</u>

If you have any questions or for more information, please contact <u>parks@mlpa.org</u>.

MEET OUR SPONSORS



Meet Kristen Pollock, one of our MLPA Platinum Sponsors. Kristen is an Atlanta REALTOR and is based out of the Morningside office of Engel & Völkers Atlanta. As a longtime resident and

involved community member in her 3rd year on the MLPA board, she loves helping her neighbors with their real estate needs. Whether it's assisting a family to navigate a move-up for more space, or downsizing to a home that better suits their needs, she provides the expertise and guidance to help her clients make a seamless and successful transition. Stop by her office at 1411 N Highland Ave NE to grab a complimentary neighborhood market report and coffee the next time you're strolling through Morningside Village.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Artichoke Dinner Club

VVHISKEY SIRD









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.

Zoning

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

- V-22-23 1987 Wellbourne Drive NE
 - Applicant seeks a variance to reduce the rear yard setback from 20 feet to 14 feet to increase the lot coverage from 40 percent to 49.62 percent.
 - Approved
- V-22-31 1018 Reeder Circle NE
 - Applicant seeks a variance to reduce the half-depth front yard setback from 17.5
 feet to 10.75 feet and a special exception to increase the height of a privacy fence
 (more than 50 percent opaque) in the half-depth front yard setback from 4 feet to 6
 feet.
 - Approved

The next zoning meeting will be held on April 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.



Midtown Cluster Schools in the News

Our neighborhood schools have been in the City's spotlight recently. Check out these fun features:

- Mayor Andre Dickens Visits Morningside Elementary School to kick off the first-ever Peace Week ATL.
- Former Midtown (Grady) High School sweethearts who share the same birthday, 2/22, welcomed their first son on the same date, 2/22/22!



From Morningside to Mercedes-Benz

By Dyana Bagby for Reporter Newspapers & Atlanta Intown

Caleb Wiley was just shy of his 14th birthday when he witnessed Atlanta United win its first Major League Soccer Cup in front of a record-breaking crowd at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

It was Dec. 8, 2018, and he was a ball boy for Atlanta United. The expansion team with just two seasons under its belt defeated the Portland Timbers 2-0 for the title.

Caleb, now 17, watched more than 70,000 fans explode into cheers for the home team. He saw the excitement on the faces of the players and coaches. The energy in the stadium hummed through his body. He knew professional soccer was his calling.

"I got to be on the field and experience that feeling of winning," he recalls. "I wasn't a player at the time, so I didn't know how it felt to actually win it. But after seeing that happen, it was like, wow! I wanted to be in their shoes, I wanted to be doing that, playing in front of 70,000-plus fans."

Caleb got his start in soccer while growing up in Morningside. He and a group of friends played football, basketball, baseball, and soccer together at area parks and at school.

But when he was a fourth grader at Morningside Elementary School, Caleb felt a pull to focus on soccer.

Read the rest of the article here.



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.



Morningside Craft Crawl

The show must go on! Despite a surprisingly bitter cold and windy Saturday, March 12, a few people ventured out for the Morningside Craft Crawl and several more gathered for a performance from Atlanta Irish Dance by Burke Connolly. Because of the unexpectedly unpleasant weather, the front yard craft fair was extended to Sunday and neighbors enjoyed arts, crafts and food from local creatives along Courtenay Dr, Northview Ave, Wayne Ave and Berwick Ave. These shows are free to attend (and pets are welcome). We appreciate the organizers, artists and community members who continue to make this a fun experience for all!



Morningside Farmers' Market Special Updates

Zachary and Rockford Basto, from Casa Cordoza, will be back serving sweet, savory and flaky hot empanadas and to-go frozen packs this weekend (March 19). Chico, an Atlanta-based maker of nixtamal and more, will also be making a special appearance.

Visit the farmers, artisans and vendors at <u>Morningside Farmers' Market!</u> 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/2nd Tuesday of every month (see Zoning above), 7:00pm Contact
- NPU-F Meetings 3rd Monday of every month, 7:00pm, Online via Zoom

Around Town



Vote now for the 2022 AJC Peachtree Road Race T-shirt design. *By Kiersten Willis for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution:* The time has come once again to vote for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race T-shirt contest. Each year, nearly 60,000 participants join The AJC Peachtree Road Race on Fourth of July weekend — all eager for the coveted T-shirt ... This year's theme is "There is Only One Peachtree," signifying the race's return to a one-day affair after COVID-19 led the event to be held over two days in 2021. A panel of judges from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta Track Club, and the Atlanta running and walking community have narrowed down hundreds of submissions to five. Now the public has the chance to decide on the winning design online in the poll ... Read more ...



BeltLine Rail from Ponce City Market to Lindbergh MARTA Station. Study: Cost of Atlanta Beltline rail segment could be twice original estimate, by David Wickert for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Light rail on a key segment of the Atlanta Beltline could cost twice as much as originally projected, a new study has found. The cost of building 3 miles of rail from Ponce City Market to MARTA's Lindbergh station on the northeast side of Atlanta would cost an estimated \$286.5 million to \$448.2 million, depending on the route, the MARTA engineering study found. That's far more than the \$171.6 million the agency estimated three years ago. Read more ...

<u>Virtual Town Hall</u>

Representative Stacey Evans and Senator Sonya Halpern Host Virtual Town Hall. We will be having our second town hall of the 2022 Legislative Session on March 22. State Senator Sonya Halpern and I will bring you the latest news from the Gold Dome post-crossover day and answer any of your questions. Please register here for this virtual event.



Georgia Audobon's Lights Out Georgia. Atlanta ranks as the 9th most dangerous city during spring migration for light exposure to migratory birds. With an estimated 250 million birds passing over Georgia during spring and 675 million birds migrating over in the fall, it is vital to learn about

participants that reduce or minimize the amount of light from their residential and commercial buildings during peak spring and fall migrations. The spring migration period officially begins on March 15, and we encourage you to reduce or eliminate outdoor lighting through May 31 to help our migrating birds. For more information on steps you can take to reduce bird-building collisions and to sign our lights out pledge, please visit our <u>Lights Out Georgia website</u>.



The City of Atlanta is divided into twenty-five (25) Neighborhood Planning Units (NPUs), which are citizen advisory councils that make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on zoning, land use, and other planning-related matters.

Housing Security Series | Home Scams, Property Tax Exemptions and Tax Appeals. Are you aware of the pitfalls and scams to avoid in homeownership? As a part of our Housing Security Series, this course provides information on property tax exemptions that can help homeowners lower their property tax bills as well as information on how to appeal property tax assessments before the annual April 1 deadline. Registration is now open for Housing Security Series | Home Scams, Property Tax Exemptions and Tax Appeals . This virtual class is free to the public and designed to empower NPU and community members on how to maintain the homes they have as well as improve conditions in which they live in order to help communities thrive. March 24, 2022, • 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM on Zoom • Limited Seats Available! Pre-register here.

Introduction to Invest Atlanta. In this introductory course, participants will learn about programs offered by the City of Atlanta's economic development agency. Instructors will provide an overview of the grants, loans, support, and other incentives available to homebuyers, small business owners, and developers, and will gain an understanding of tax allocation districts (TADs), opportunity zones, and urban enterprise zones. Students will learn how Invest Atlanta's tools can be used to increase economic prosperity for all Atlantans, revitalize neighborhoods and build vibrant, equitable communities. April 7, 2022, • 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM on Zoom • Limited Seats Available! Pre-register here.



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
- <u>NextDoor</u> 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.

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