



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

June 2022

Summer is here! (Perhaps not officially, but these temperatures tell another story.) The MLPA continues to work hard for great things in our neighborhood no matter the season, so please [join or renew](#) your MLPA membership, if you haven't already! You've probably seen our signs around the neighborhood, too! :)

OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:

- [President's Note](#)
 - [Morningside Elementary School Update](#)
 - [Piedmont Enhancement Project \(Atlanta Gas Light\)](#)
 - [District 6 Updates: Cheshire Bridge and Monroe/10th](#)
 - [Atlanta Beltline Northeast Trail Updates](#)
 - [Monroe-Armour Roundabout Update](#)
 - [MLPA Events](#)
 - [Exploring the History and Trees of Morningside](#)
 - [Parks](#)
 - [Don't Forget to Vote!](#)
 - [Sponsors](#)
 - [Zoning](#)
 - [Morningside Farmers' Market Special Updates](#)
 - [Morningside Elementary Temporary Noise Variances](#)
 - [Neighborhood Meeting Schedule](#)
 - [Around Town](#)
-

President's Note

You're probably only talking about the steamy weather right now, so let me add some exciting new possibilities to your conversation topics!

1. Neighborhood investment. We are excited that the infrastructure bond passed, which will bring long-term funding to many of our beloved parks – in fact at least \$300,000 each to Sidney Marcus Park, Sunken Garden Park, Herbert Taylor/Daniel Johnson Park and Morningside Nature Preserve. Thank you for the support to help this vote succeed! On the heels of community grants for Sunken Garden/Lenox Wildwood and the successful food drive at Sidney Marcus, there is so much to be proud of in our parks, and I thank all the Friends' groups and volunteers that help make that so.

2. No parking. Huge thanks to Council Member Alex Wan, who introduced a bill to prohibit parking decks from being built on Cheshire Bridge. We appreciate all efforts to minimize the nuisance that many of us notice way too often.

3. Traffic progress. Thank you to all the neighbors who suggested ways to spend our budget on traffic projects and other neighborhood improvements. We also appreciate all of the neighbors who are giving us feedback through new traffic surveys thanks to the traffic committee leadership of Camille Richardson and Sue McHale. There are several initiatives in the works, including a speed reader on Wellbourne, a crosswalk at Family Dog in Morningside Village and the roundabout at E Rock Springs/Cumberland - and we also know crosswalks on Cheshire Bridge are of interest to increase safety.

We are about to turn the corner into the second half of the year. This means we are about to dial up recruiting for people to join the board in 2023. If it isn't obvious by now, if you want something in the neighborhood you have to make it happen. Service can take the time you have and does not have to require more than you can give. We are also still considering dividing our association into a new non-profit foundation to enhance funding for parks and other common neighborhood benefits, but it's going to take people. If you are interested in serving in any way, please reach out.

And speaking of "hot" ...be sure to look out for our new patrol car in the neighborhood! It is now fully decorated with signage and lighting, and we think it will serve our security officers much better in their patrols.

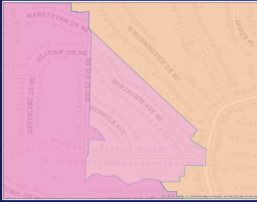
Hydrate!

Ben Nemo, president@mlpa.org

Changes to the Recommendation


1. Keep three streets in the Morningside ES attendance area (not move to Inman ES): Berwick Ave NE, Northview Ave NE, and part of Courtenay Dr NE.

Why? These students are in the 1-mile walk-zone.
Impact: Approximately 14 projected students



2. Redistrict vacant parcel of land (future 175-unit apartment complex) at 1941 Cheshire Bridge, from Morningside ES/Inman MS/Midtown HS to Garden Hills ES/Sutton MS/North Atlanta HS.

Why? Proactive measure to redistrict future students. Apartment next to this property (1965 Cheshire Bridge Rd) is currently zoned for the same schools (Garden Hills ES/Sutton MS/North Atlanta HS).
Impact: No current students



Morningside Elementary School Update

In a presentation to the Board of Education (BoE) on June 6, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) made its final recommendation for the future use of the Inman facility located at 774 Virginia Ave. [This latest update](#) continues to recommend a new K-5 elementary school for the Midtown Cluster, with changes to boundaries that will impact some Morningside-Lenox Park residents.

School zone lines were slightly redrawn from the [map released in May](#), and homeowners on the following three streets have been moved back to the Morningside Elementary School (MES) attendance zone: Berwick Ave, Northview Ave, and part of Courtenay Dr. (because students here are within the 1-mile walk zone of MES). Streets in the southwest corner of our neighborhood - north of Amsterdam Ave, south of Yorkshire Rd, west and east of Monroe Dr, west of Wayne Ave and N Highland Ave - remain rezoned to the new Inman Elementary. In addition, a future 175-unit apartment complex on a vacant lot at 1941 Cheshire Bridge Rd will be rezoned from Morningside ES/Howard MS/Midtown HS to Garden Hills ES/Sutton MS/North Atlanta HS.

Our neighborhood association sent two letters to the district and BoE Members during this Facilities Master Planning process, requesting that they keep Morningside-Lenox Park families zoned for MES. The APS BoE is expected to vote on this recommendation at their next meeting on August 8; they do not meet in July. Board members can be contacted directly via the "Let's Connect" button on their individual pages [here](#).



SEGMENT 1

South of 85 – Pelham Road to Squire Place (northbound)

Mon-Thur 9am – 3pm and Sat 7am – 7pm

Piedmont Enhancement Project (Atlanta Gas Light)

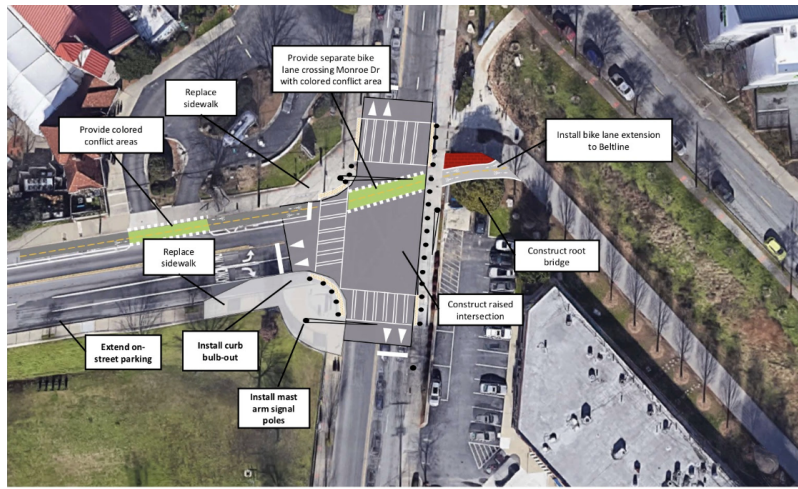
If you've been wondering about (or been frustrated by) the construction along Piedmont Rd, Atlanta Gas Light shared the following update regarding their Piedmont Enhancement Project:

The project is now more than 75% complete and on track to be finished by the end of 2022, six months ahead of the initial schedule. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we have worked to make this important system improvement.

Work on the project began last summer with crews working in different segments. The project includes the replacement of natural gas mains and service lines in the Buckhead area with newer more advanced pipe. It is part of Atlanta Gas Light's commitment to provide clean, safe, reliable and affordable gas to the communities it serves.

Final restoration of the roadway and sidewalks affected by our work will begin this summer. Work is currently underway on a regulator station that is part of the project. These stations serve to protect the pipeline system and ensure it operates safely by reducing the pressure as the gas flows further into the system.

As with all Atlanta Gas Light projects, safety is our top priority. Crews will continue to make every effort to minimize inconveniences to residents and businesses along the route. Community members with questions are encouraged to contact Atlanta Gas Light via the project line (404-584-3145) or email address (PiedmontEnhancement@southernco.com). Information and updates are also available on the Piedmont Enhancement Project's [website](#) and [Twitter](#).



District 6 Updates: Cheshire Bridge and Monroe/10th

Please see the following updates from our District 6 Councilperson, Alex Wan:

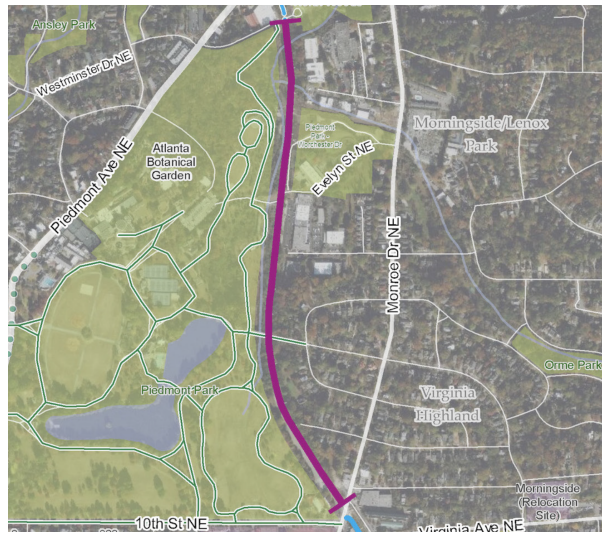
Cheshire Bridge Construction

Cheshire Bridge construction is now underway with a projected completion date of Halloween 2022. The city has contracted with C.W. Matthews for the design-build work, and I was able to confirm it includes financial incentives to the contractor for early completion. We have been told they will prioritize getting the travel lanes open first, and they will continue the other project work (finishes) afterwards to get traffic relief as quickly as possible.

10th and Monroe Intersection Improvement

ATLDOT is moving forward with the Monroe Complete Street project. The first phase will be improvements to the intersection at 10th and Monroe, including installing a raised intersection and striping for additional pedestrian and cyclist safety. The project is scheduled to go out for bid this month, later than originally anticipated as additional time was required for designing around existing utilities. Pictured above is a rendering of the planned improvements.

Phase II covers the section from 8th Street to Ponce de Leon, and Phase III includes the road diet and other improvements for the section from 10th Street to Armour Dr. ATLDOT still expects both to be completed by May 2025.



Atlanta BeltLine Northeast Trail Updates

Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) announced in a [press release on May 31](#) that the existing unpaved trail between the northern end of Piedmont Park and Ansley Mall closed on June 1. Referred to as Northeast Trail – Segment 2, this full segment runs between Westminister Drive in the south to Mayson Street in the north. The paved section of the trail will remain open while lighting is installed. The unpaved sections will remain open to trail users until construction commences on those segments.

The first 0.7-mile phase of the Northeast Trail opened in March 2021 in an advanced interim state, which included the paved multi-use trail and an ADA access point to Montgomery Ferry Road, but still needed additional work to meet BeltLine trail standards. The second phase – that will now go under construction – will include the paved trail, a connection to Piedmont Avenue, lighting and security cameras, bridgework, duct bank, planting, and stormwater management systems for a full 1.2 miles.

The multi-use trail will be aligned to accommodate future transit in the same corridor. ABI will notify the public of trail closures on other sections as construction advances. Northeast Trail construction between Westminister Drive and Mayson Street is expected to last approximately 16 months.

As noted in last month's newsletter, the Northeast Trail and Morningside Lenox Park are located in Subarea 6 of ABI's Master Plan, which is currently being updated. We also shared that MLPA is contracting with Canvas Planning Group to ensure that our neighborhood is represented in the process - along with Midtown, Piedmont Heights and Virginia-Highland. At this time, Canvas Planning Group is providing input for traffic calming, transportation and land use recommendations for Morningside-Lenox Park based on our own Master Plan. You can view that information [here](#) (on slides 11-15).



Monroe-Armour Roundabout Update

We'd hate to leave out any of the construction updates for projects impacting our neighbors. From the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) on June 8 regarding the Monroe-Armour Roundabout:

The revised schedule provided by predicts an early July 2022 completion. We have received the required concrete quantities and progressed to Stage 3 construction with minimal impact to the schedule.

Here is our progress on items listed in the May 3 project update:

- Curb and gutter installations are complete.
- Sidewalk construction is complete.
- Traffic has been shifted onto the new roundabout lane configuration.

These are the remaining Stage 3 activities for June, weather and on-site conditions permitting:

- The center island concrete work is scheduled to begin week of June 6
- Curbing will begin week of June 13
- Temporary lighting will be installed week of June 6, with the permanent light poles scheduled for installation week of June 13
- Landscaping
- Paving and striping the lanes will be the final construction activity, tentatively at the end of June
- GDOT final acceptance of the project in early July.

The \$1.6 million project is scheduled for completion in early July 2022, pending weather, on-site conditions and the availability of required concrete quantities.

2022 EVENTS



2022 MLPA Events

Stay tuned for the rest of this year's line-up. And 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](#).

- **Concerts in the Park Series** - August through October, Sidney Marcus Park
- **Potential Morningside Parks Fundraiser Pickleball Tournament** - October, Lenox-Wildwood Park Courts
- **Winterfest** (with Virginia Highland District) - December 11, Morningside Village

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



Exploring the History and Trees of Morningside

Join Trees Atlanta tour docent Susan Slemenda, Morningside-Lenox Park resident since 2005 (retired in 2007 and found a passion for walking and learning about trees), this Saturday morning - June 18 from 9am-10:30am - to explore three neighborhood parks with both interesting history dating from the 1920s and classic trees. You will learn about the importance of the community in keeping tree canopy and promoting insects, birds, etc.

Touring a neighborhood is a delightful way to learn more about the special trees, history and explore (or rediscover) the urban forest growing along our community streets and parks. Learn how this neighborhood worked together to keep green areas by stopping Interstate 485 in the late 60s. This 1.5-hour tour is a leisurely walk on city sidewalks. [Register here](#). Can't make it this weekend? No worries! Save the following dates for additional tours: July 16, August 20 and September 17.

Parks





Morningside Nature Preserve

Exciting news! We now have a [Friends of Morningside Nature Preserve](#) forming! We are thankful to Dave and Laura Lucas for taking the lead of this volunteer group, and we hope that many of you will join the effort. Friends of the Park groups are the most effective first step in creating positive and long-lasting changes in a neighborhood park, and the Morningside Nature Preserve was our only neighborhood greenspace without an active group. Despite differences in size and scope, every Friends of the Park group features a group of park users (and community and business leaders) actively working to maintain, improve and transform a park. Want to get involved? Contact parks@mlpa.org.



Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park

Thanks to the hard work of volunteers with the Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Park, trails that were once lined with invasive Japanese chaff flower are now covered in native plants like Jewelweed, *Impatiens capensis* and Jump seed, *Polygonum virginianum*. As native plants take over, park wildlife comes out as well. The park also benefited from fifteen volunteers who joined the Milkweed for Monarchs planting, including students from Emory Law & Physical Therapy. Lastly, trail safety improvements from the Rock Creek Trail to the North Trail are now underway with 2022 Park Pride grant funding.





Lenox-Wildwood Park

A portion of the Morningside Nature Trail in the southern section of Lenox-Wildwood Park is now safer, and it's the result of another great Eagle Scout Service Project. Keaton Tsepas Bucciero, a member of Troop 455, led a group of volunteers with his plan to reroute a section of the trail that was dangerously eroding into the creek bank - and becoming a real hazard for the many walkers and park explorers who use it on a regular basis. Not only is there now a stable continuation of the trail, but many invasive plants were removed in the process and a fallen tree that was blocking the new path became a trail liner. We are grateful!



Sidney Marcus Park

The Friends of Sidney Marcus Park (FSMP) have found a way to truly help the community, and it's one that is rapidly becoming a tradition. Their quarterly food drive in June delivered 620 pounds of food and hygiene products to a nearby neighborhood food bank, [Intown Collaborative Ministries](#)! Thank you friends and neighbors for this tremendous outpouring of giving and support to those in need.

More thanks to one of our park supporters and neighbor, Chris Vale; his brother, Colin Vale (a.k.a. [Carving Colin](#)), will be traveling to Sidney Marcus Park from Maryland to transform a big poplar log at the park into a work of art and bench next month. This is a 9 ft by 4 ft in diameter poplar log donated from a neighbor's yard. Colin will be here until July 15, which means there will be plenty of time to stop by and watch him work. As we get closer, FSMP will organize an opportunity to meet Colin and learn more about this artistic addition to our renovated Sidney Marcus Park.



Sunken Garden Park

With its close proximity and commitment to service, Haygood United Methodist Church continues to be a great supporter of Sunken Garden Park. For at least the second summer in a row, Haygood's Youth Mission Camp of rising 5th, 6th and 7th graders helped clear out brush and clean up debris for beautification and safety in the park. We are so appreciative of their time and engagement!

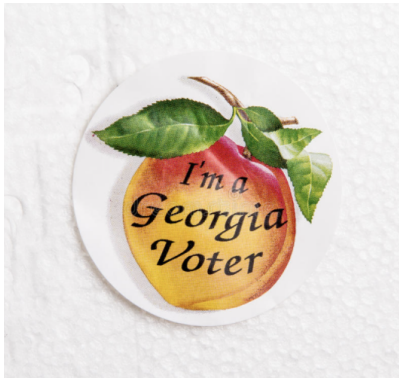


Morningside Parks Need YOU!

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
 - Occurs on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 9:00am-Noon
 - Meet at kiosk on the corner of Beech Valley and Pasadena
- Morningside Nature Preserve, Trees Atlanta Workday
 - Occurs on the 4th Saturday of each month, 9:00am-Noon
 - Visit [Trees Atlanta](#)

If you have any questions or for more information about any of our parks and greenspaces, please contact parks@mlpa.org.



Don't Forget to Vote!

Please return to the polls on June 21 to vote in the Primary Run-Off Election! The last day to submit absentee ballot applications was June 10. Early voting ends this Friday, June 17. Local elections offices ([DeKalb](#) | [Fulton](#)) have more information online. You can also check locations and hours at the [Georgia My Voter site](#).

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THE TEN SPOT


ENGEL & VÖLKERS®
KRISTEN POLLOCK

Artichoke
Dinner Club

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

There were no zoning cases heard by the Zoning Committee and MLPA Board this month.

The next zoning meeting will be held on July 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.



Morningside Farmers' Market Special Updates

Check out these upcoming guests:

- Come meet Evan, owner of [Southern Cap Mushrooms](#), on Saturday (June 18)! Evan has been farming for 10+ years, previously on the West Coast and mainly in aquaculture. He started Southern Cap Mushrooms about a year ago. His grow rooms are right in the heart of Atlanta, on Highland Ave NE (near Highland Bakery). Evan primarily grows Blue Oyster and Lions Mane mushrooms, but also plans to grow Pink Oyster and Chestnuts. He grows some specialty varieties such as Reishi as well. Evan sells his mushrooms at several other Atlanta farmers markets and sells wholesale to restaurants such as: Gun Show, Little Bear, and Octopus Bar.
- Atlo Refillery returns this Saturday (June 18)! Mark your calendar and start saving your containers! Atlo helps you refill your everyday products and discover eco swaps to live a low-waste lifestyle. Step into their mobile refillery, weigh your bottle, hit tare, fill up with the amount of product you need and pay by the ounce! Check out their refill menu + more at [helloatlo.com!](#)
- Maricella Vega of [Chico](#) will be back at our market this Saturday (June 18)! Bring your appetites for delicious Mexican fare created with local produce and meats. Dine with us at our shady picnic tables and grab some provisions for busy weeknight dinners :) [Pre-order options THIS week](#): Beverages (Cacao Pecan Milk, Jardin Tea), Tamalitos (Mushroom & Bean or Quesitos y Grnz), Luis Martinez Oaxacan Pozole, Salsa Macha, 6 pack house-made Tortillas, Vanilla Bean Pot de Creame with Cacao Ganache.
- Casa Cardoza Empanadas also returns on Saturday (June 18). Empanadas are delicious, warming pastries that come in so many different shapes, styles, flavors and sizes. [Casa Cardoza](#)'s are mostly done the way southern South American countries make them; think Argentina, Uruguay or Chile. Their flakey, wheat based dough gets filled with a variety of fillings - some sweet, some savory - then baked to golden brown perfection. Yum! [Pre-order here](#).
- [Just Bakery](#) has breakfast treats, breads, granola, and so much more! Eat well. Do good. Change lives. Just Bakery of Atlanta is a nonprofit partnering with our neighbors who resettled as refugees on paid job training, professional certification, and living wage work.
- Camping this summer? Are you a hiker, biker, or runner? Love to kayak? [Secondwind Gear Shop](#) has upcycled clothing, apparel, and gear! Bring your goods for consignment, too. They return on June 25.

Visit ALL of the farmers, artisans and vendors at [Morningside Farmers' Market](#) every Saturday, year-round, from 8am - 11:30am in the parking lot of Morningside Presbyterian (1411 N. Morningside Dr). 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!



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](#).

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

CLEAN WALKS + marta

June 18, 2022 - Clean Walks Event
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Weather Permitting

What We Do
Clean-up events (walks) and other activities.
Our slogan is **Treat our city as National Parks!**
Leave No Trace behind!

How To Join Us

1. Sign up at www.cleanwalks.org
2. **BYOT: Bring Your Own Tools**
(Trash bags, grabbers & gloves)
we have limited tools
3. Let us clean and walk together as a community
4. Report your volunteer hours and send us your Clean Walks photos!

Who Can Participate?
Neighbors, HOAs, Families, Individuals, Companies and Everyone in between from 5 to 100 years old.

Where
We meet at Lindbergh Station.

Connect

- Follow on FB @Clean Walks
- cleanwalks.org
- itsmarta.com
- contact@cleanwalks.org

Please park at the station parking lot.

Clean Walks. Please join our first joint event with Marta this Saturday, June 18. We will clean up part of Piedmont and Sydney Marcus Blvd, and we need your participation. Let us know if you can come - or just show up! Please invite your neighbors, friends and family. Contact: Mei Lin, contact@cleanwalks.org/678-709-7015.

Free Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) Concerts in the Park. Bring a picnic and your friends and family to enjoy music under the stars. On June 22 at 7:30pm, guest conductor Anthony Parnter and the ASO will perform a program of some of Hollywood's greatest hits, including music from *Back to the Future*, *King Richard*, *Call of the Wild*, *Out of Africa*, *E.T.* and more. [Click here](#) for more information.

SEE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

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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](#), [Midtown High School](#)
 - [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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