



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

July 2022

If you thought things slow down in the summer, perhaps not so much! Our volunteer Board Members, Committees and Friends of the Parks continue to work hard on projects and events for the benefit of our great neighborhood - read more about them below. Of course, we'd love for you to help us! And as always, please [join or renew](#) your MLPA membership if you haven't!

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President's Note

Summer lovin'...hope you're havin' a blast. Or at least not havin' COVID.

1. New Chief in Town. Most of Morningside is in Zone 6 and Atlanta Police Department has named Major Andrea Webster as our new Commander. She has an incredible 20-year career with APD to date and has served roles including Chief of Staff to the Chief of Police, has specialized in strategic crime fighting initiatives and has extensive degrees and certifications in her educational background. We have already been in touch with her and we look forward to engaging more – and we also thank her predecessor Major Peter Ries (who is moving to the Information Services Section) for his service as he was such a responsive leader to our community.

2. Be a “pillar” for our community! We would like to undertake an effort to make sure our brick Morningside pillars are cleaned and beautified regularly. If you would be interested in adopting one to make sure it is maintained (we will provide a budget!), please reach out to me at president@mlpa.org.

3. Pound the pavement. Thanks to the work of several people, we have the structure in place to help subsidize sidewalk repair (up to \$400 per household) if you are interested in doing that for the sidewalk in front of your residence. We are finalizing the process – we just need someone to help the team that put this in place to help us manage it. If you would be interested, you know who to email by now...

The more you know... based on what I see on the street, there is a raging debate about whether trash and recycling bins should have the wheels towards the street or towards the curb. The answer is: towards the curb! I know it seems counterintuitive...but that's the way they want it if you read the fine print. Let's help them out.

I'm going to keep beating my drum again on asking for volunteers. Still trying to get a few more folks to step up for board service – and in addition to the opportunities above, we also now have the beginnings of a committee to help develop ways to celebrate Morningside's 100th anniversary in 2023. Our current secretary could also use help for the rest of the year doing minutes for our board meetings (perhaps you have a high schooler who would like some volunteer service????). Whether you have an hour a month or 7 days a week, there are so many ways for you to get involved - things won't get done without people stepping up.

Thanks for reading Dad humor and pressure! Oh by the way kids - start going to bed early because school starts in two weeks...

Ben Nemo, president@mlpa.org



Is the Sidewalk in Front of Your House Blocked or in Need of Repair?

One of the great characteristics of our neighborhood is walkability! We live in a wonderful community that has sidewalks on most streets, and we can walk to friends' houses, one of the many parks in Morningside, and nearby restaurants and other businesses.

When the sidewalk is blocked, then walkers are forced out into the street, which is incredibly unsafe. Even if there is no traffic, not everyone has the ability or mobility to walk around the obstructions – moms and dads with strollers, neighbors with canes or wheelchairs, and even small children riding on scooters or bikes.

There are several causes of blocked sidewalks that can easily be remedied. First, plants that grow out onto the sidewalk and tree limbs that hang too low are obstructions. Plants growing out into the sidewalk are a fall hazard. Please cut back your plants along the sidewalk and trim up your tree limbs.

Second, contractors frequently park up on the curb or block the sidewalk while parked in the driveway. If you have workers at your house, please remind them to stay off the sidewalk and to be sure not to block the sidewalk.

Third, we have sidewalks in some areas that need repair. Homeowners in the City of Atlanta bear the responsibility for keeping their sidewalks in good condition. As mentioned above in the President's Note, the MLPA has a framework in place to help subsidize sidewalk repair (up to \$400 per household). We are so grateful to the volunteers who have invested their time and efforts to organize this project, but now we need another neighbor to help manage it. Please [email Ben](#) if you can assist.

Safe sidewalks make an immediate impact. We appreciate your attention!

MLPA Events



The Neighborhood Challenge Golf Tournament

[The Neighborhood Challenge Golf Tournament](#) (TNC) was born out of love and respect for family and community. TNC is on a mission to bring awareness to issues affecting Atlanta's Intown communities and beyond while creating opportunities for these 45+ city neighborhoods to live, work, and play together. Through the Neighborhood Challenge, residents and supporters will have the opportunity to reinvest in their community in a fun, meaningful way.

The tournament will take place at *Browns Mill Golf Course on August 6 beginning at 8:00am*. **The MLPA will sponsor a team of four players (any level) to represent our neighborhood!** Interested golfers will be chosen on a first-come, first-served basis (with priority given to current MLPA members). If you'd like to play, please email communications@mlpa.org.

Proceeds from TNC will support [First Tee Metro Atlanta](#) and [Committed To Communities](#).

FALL CONCERT SERIES



Sidney Marcus Park
786 Cumberland Rd.



AUGUST 26, SEPTEMBER 23, OCTOBER 21

6:00 - 8:00pm

Live Music, Food Trucks, Kids' Activities, Fun!

PRESENTED BY **MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK**
ASSOCIATION

Fall Concert Series

We're excited to announce the dates for our beloved Fall Concert Series in Sidney Marcus Park. Join us for live music, food trucks and more! This is a great way to meet new neighbors and reconnect with old ones (and enjoy the cooler weather, hopefully). **Mark these Fridays in your calendar, from 6:00-8:00pm: August 26, September 23 and October 21.**

WELCOME

TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!



Welcome to the Neighborhood Social

New to the neighborhood? If you moved to Morningside just before Covid, during the pandemic or recently, we'd like to welcome y'all with some Southern hospitality (drinks and appetizers) at The Family Dog. Meet new neighbors and representatives of the MLPA Board at this family-friendly event on **September 8, from 6:30-8:30pm!** [Click here to register.](#)

Located in Morningside Village, The Family Dog is a neighborhood establishment that has great service and fun events, including live music, game nights and specials. We are glad you're here - and hope to see you there!

BATTLE OF THE PADDLE



Inaugural Pickleball Festival

It's been said to be the fastest growing sport in America - combining many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. So save the date for a new event hosted by MLPA: **Battle of the Paddle - Inaugural Pickleball Festival!** Teams of all levels can compete in this tournament, with fun for all who come to play, watch and cheer.

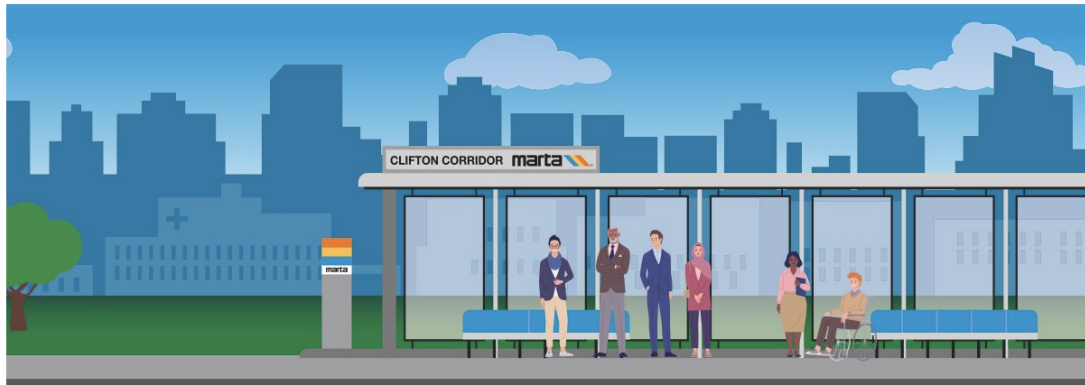
October 1, 2022

9:00am-3:00pm

Lenox-Wildwood Park

1760 Lenox Rd. NE 30306

Stay tuned for more details, including registration!



MARTA's Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative

Currently, all proposed lines of the Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative will run north of Morningside, alongside the CSX railroad tracks that cross over Lenox Rd NE - with nearby stations at Cheshire Bridge and Sage Hill/Briarcliff.

MARTA is seeking your input on the proposed [Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative](#) that would provide high-capacity transit service within the City of Atlanta, unincorporated DeKalb County, and City of Decatur. This high-capacity transit service would provide a connection between Lindbergh Center and Decatur or Avondale MARTA stations through bus rapid transit (BRT) or light rail transit (LRT) services. Key activity centers in the corridor are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Emory University, Emory University Hospital, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta – Egleston, Lindbergh Center, and Atlanta VA Medical Center.

MARTA is hosting a series of four (4) engagement opportunities, both in-person and virtually. All events will present the same information on several topics, including:

- The project history, process and timeline
- The 10 alternatives under study, including 4 bus rapid transit (BRT) and 6 light rail transit (LRT) alternatives
- The differences between BRT and LRT and how they could improve transit access and connectivity
- Opportunities to engage with MARTA staff and leadership

The in-person meetings took place last week, however you can participate virtually via Zoom this week:

Tuesday, July 19th at 11:00 a.m.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/mw5ptrff>
Dial-in Number: 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 867 3481 5771
Passcode: 152636

Wednesday, July 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrwwaxrj>
Dial-in Number: 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 878 9279 8306
Passcode: 142898



Cheshire Bridge Update

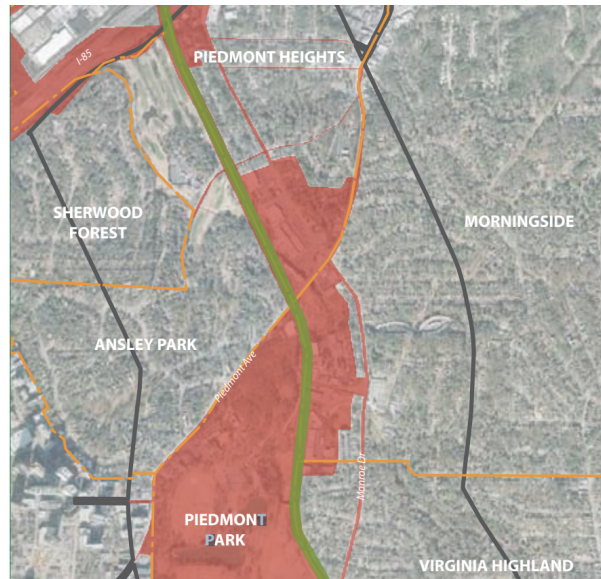
Construction activities for the rebuild of the Cheshire Bridge over South Fork Peachtree Creek are now (finally!) underway. Crews have been preparing the site and assembling equipment for the installation of concrete footings for the bridge foundation. Drilling for the footings began last week, in preparation for pouring of the concrete footings in late July or early August.

- Beam installations will begin once the concrete foundation is set.
- Designs have been completed for sewer line replacements to be installed later this summer.
- Projected substantial completion remains by October 31.

From Alex Wan:

Driven in part by my frustration with the Cheshire Bridge rebuild contracting process, last month I co-sponsored legislation with nearly all of my colleagues to establish an external task force to evaluate the efficacy of the City's entire procurement process (Legislative Reference No. [22-R-3712](#)). My hope is that the group can bring forward best practices to help increase the number of qualified bidders for each contract opportunity and shorten the length of time it takes between solicitation and execution of contract/notice to proceed, while maintaining the integrity of the process. If you have experience and interest in serving on this task force, please let me know (awan@atlantaga.gov/404-330-6049).

Concurrently, the administration has announced its appointment (subject to council approval) for the Chief Procurement Officer position. Mr. Jaideep Majumdar brings 25 years of global experience in procurement and supply-based strategy to this role and has worked for a wide range of companies including General Electric and Delta Air Lines. The recommendations of the task force are intended to complement Mr. Majumdar's reform efforts in that department.



Beltline Subarea 6 Public Meeting

[Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.](#) (ABI) continues its process of updating the BeltLine Subarea 6 (SA6) Master Plan with their second round of engagement. If interested, please mark your calendar for their next public meeting on **August 18 at 6:00pm** (virtually; subject to change, potentially in-person).

As a reminder or for those unaware, the Northeast Trail and Morningside are located within SA6. The Beltline Master Plans focus on recommendations related to transit oriented development, land use and design (e.g. building heights, new private roads), mobility (e.g. transit stops, pedestrian safety, connections to bike lanes), greenspace (e.g. parks, public access), affordable housing, historic preservation and public art & culture. The redevelopment of Amsterdam Walk is also highly likely and will directly impact Morningside.

To ensure our neighborhood is informed, represented and supported in this process, the MLPA Board voted in May to contract the consulting services of Aaron Fortner from Canvas Planning Group. (Aaron has significant experience in planning and urban design, including with the City of Atlanta. He also worked on the development of the [MLP Master Plan](#), so he knows our neighborhood's background and vision for future growth.) We encourage you to participate, as well.

Parks



Above left is a load of debris a good Samaritan pulled from the creek--thanks to Parks maintenance for removing it! At right is a turtle nest that has been protected from predators (and clumsy footed hikers).

Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park

Although rain canceled the July volunteer workday, there is still plenty of work to be done. Join the Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Park for their next regular workday, on the second Saturday of every month - that's **August 13**. For the summer, we've moved our work time up to beat the heat. Meet at the Herbert Taylor Park kiosk (1343 Pasadena Ave) at **8:00am** for instructions and then set off to work until 11:00am.

Come help us cut and dig out the kudzu and Japanese chaff flower before they can damage our old growth trees! This is a great opportunity for kids of all ages to enjoy time in the outdoors and improve our neighborhood - plus it's a great way to meet new and old friends.

Jobs for any age and skill level. No experience needed! What you should bring:

- Work or gardening gloves
- Rain gear
- Long sleeves and pants recommended as there is poison ivy (a native vine)
- Drinking water, sunscreen bug repellent
- Gardening tools like pruners, loppers, hand trowels & shovels (but we'll have extras you can borrow)



Morningside Nature Preserve

Last month, we shared this exciting news: We have a [Friends of Morningside Nature Preserve](#) forming! Friends of the Park groups actively work to maintain, improve and transform a local greenspace. Want to get involved? Contact morningsidenaturepreserve@gmail.com.



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.



Exploring the History and Trees of Morningside

This tour will 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 our neighborhood has worked together to keep green areas by the stopping of interstate 485 in the 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.

Tour Dates: **August 20 and September 17, 9:00-10:30am**

Free. More info and RSVP via "Ticket" through our website Calendar of Events: [August 20](#) or [September 17](#)

Register to receive confirmation of meeting location and any last minute updates from tour guide.

Meet Our Sponsors



Five years ago, we opened [Whiskey Bird](#) with the idea of creating a yakitori-inspired small plates restaurant in Morningside. We came to the neighborhood not wanting to be the same restaurant you'd have previously found in Morningside or Virginia-Highland. We wanted to be something fun, different and exciting, and we always wanted to be actively involved in the community from the beginning. Our concept has changed and matured since then; we have switched away from only offering small plates, added brunch, and added [Little Bird To Go](#). But in the past five years, I feel like we've grown into the neighborhood and settled into the DNA of what Whiskey Bird is supposed to be - a great neighborhood restaurant offering classic cocktails, Asian fusion-inspired dishes, and a lively brunch. We are thrilled to be located in such an amazing, historical, and supportive neighborhood. We are grateful to be involved with the community via the MLPA and MES PTA. So whether you are looking for a casual patio dinner with friends or family, an intimate date night, or an easy takeout dinner at home, Whiskey Bird & Little Bird To Go are here for all your dining needs. We look forward to seeing you around Morningside!

~ Anthony, Chad, Kaiti, Nicole & the Whiskey Bird Team



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Atlanta Fine Homes | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Artichoke Dinner Club



Zoning

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

The next zoning meeting will be held on August 2 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.



Atlanta Gay Center, 931 Ponce de Leon Ave, Atlanta, GA, January 1981. Photo courtesy: GSU

LGBTQ+ Historic Research Project by City of Atlanta and Historic Atlanta

The City of Atlanta and Historic Atlanta, Inc. are seeking your input, stories, and comments on the City's LGBTQ+ history. We are beginning a research project to document the City of Atlanta's LGBTQ+ history, as well as the places and spaces connected in the City of Atlanta to that history. The research project will be going on until the end of 2022, with follow up action by the City of Atlanta beginning soon thereafter. If you would like to contribute to this research, please let the project team know. You can fill in the details of the City's LGBTQ+ history that might not otherwise be found in archives or general publications, share a story about a special LGBTQ+ place in the City of Atlanta, pass along materials or documents related to the City's LGBTQ+ history, or let us know about what our research should focus on.

To learn more about the project, please go to www.atlfutureplaces.com/lgbtq-grant. Please contact the project team at lgbtqcontext@historicalatlanta.org to help with this important project.

This project has been partially financed by the National Park Service through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or DCA, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products or consultants constitute endorsement or recommendation by these agencies.



Morningside Farmers' Market Special Updates

Check out these upcoming guests:

- Spike of [Sweet Hone Atlanta](#) will be joining us on Saturday (July 23) to professionally sharpen your knives, just \$10 and 10 minutes a pop! Bring all your dull kitchen knives and he'll get you fixed up in a jiffy! *Currently only accepting cash or check.*
- Help us support learners at Dobbs Elementary, Nicholas House, and Memorial Drive ministries. Drop off your donations at the Information Booth (Market Manager will transfer to the church collection bin) or use the [Amazon Wishlist](#) and deliver directly to the church. The drive lasts through July 24, so hurry to support this great cause!

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!

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





Help feed Zoo Atlanta giraffes at nearby Zonolite Park. Zonolite Park is a beautiful 13-acre intown natural park. The Friends group at Zonolite cuts invasive privet every other Tuesday morning from 8:30 am to 10:30 am and welcomes volunteers. Coffee is offered and sometimes other treats! The cut privet is picked up by Zoo Atlanta to feed the giraffes and other animals.

The next workday is next Tuesday, July 19th at 8:30 a.m. This activity is not for young children, but kids over 16 can help if accompanied by adults. If you can help next Tuesday just meet at the pavilion in the Community Garden at 8:30 a.m. and bring your own gloves. All other tools will be provided. Dress in long pants and sturdy shoes. You might want to wear boots if it has rained the night before. The address for Zonolite Park is 1164 Zonolite Place NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. Zonolite was once a brownfield site and [this link](#) tells the more about the history.



Pollinator Picnic! The Intown Chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society will be on site at various locations around town to partner with The Georgia University Extension Program's 2022 Great Georgia Pollinator Census count. Join us at Zonolite Park on August 20 from 10:00am-12:00pm and help count the pollinators that are so vital to life on earth. There will be experts on site to help ID the native plants and insects. Counters of all ages are encouraged to come out. You can find details about the Census at <https://ggapc.org/>. Come out for the count and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy when you've finished counting. More details to come on the [GNPS website](#).



MARTA Bus Network Redesign Survey. Thank you for taking the time to [help improve our bus services](#). The 5 minute survey will help us design the new bus network. In this survey, we want to ask you about your goals and priorities for MARTA's bus service. We can't add more service, so we have to make some hard decisions about what's most important. This survey is for everyone who lives or works in the MARTA service area (Fulton, Clayton, and DeKalb Counties). Whether you ride transit or not, your taxes help pay for bus service, so we want everyone's opinion.

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)

Join MLPA or Renew Membership

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

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