

# YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS November 2022

It's the holiday season! We are so very thankful to be here in Morningside with you and yours. Our continued gratitude to those who join and renew their MLPA membership. If you haven't yet, it's never too late. Click here to see our membership levels or log in to your account. Warmest wishes!

#### **OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:**

- President's Note
- Annual Meeting Recap
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#### **President's Note**

I don't know about you, but I feel ten pounds lighter after getting through the stress of midterms. Fortunately I have Thanksgiving soon to regain them!

- **1. Annual Meeting.** Thanks to the 70+ neighbors and local and state officials who attended our annual meeting virtually. See below for a recap of 2022 highlights, updates to the by-laws and a link to information if you couldn't join and want to relive the moment!
- 2. Infrastructure. Per our previous communications, you have until <u>TOMORROW (Friday, November 18)</u> to register any opportunity to fix neighborhood infrastructure such as faded signs, damaged curbs or other needs from the City. Thanks to Alex Wan's office we are collecting your information <u>here</u> and will submit to them this Friday for them to track progress.
- **3. Secure your holidays.** On Monday night Zone 2 Commander Major Mitchell joined us and indicated car break-ins and vehicle thefts are indeed on the rise although major crimes are down. In addition to the usual reminder to not keep things in plain sight in parked cars, he advised about not letting cars run unattended during the cold weather as they have recently seen two cars stolen in such cases. If you are concerned about packages during the holidays, Amazon Locker is also a great option if you are willing to be slightly inconvenienced but want absolute certainty of getting what you paid for. Don't forget your vacation patrols either!

Major Mitchell also reiterated that while Atlanta Police Department is thrilled to see their new chief come from within, they are still struggling with retention and recruiting across the department. Anytime is a great time to thank the people that serve us, but please be mindful to say it yourself if you see a police officer or other city employee during this time of year – it's greatly appreciated and helps to keep the hardworking people feeling recognized even when things are tough. The MLPA looks forward to providing its annual holiday meals to Precinct 6 and Fire Station 29 in December.

If you saw Council Member Wan's newsletter yesterday (also linked further below), you saw that on October 27 the License Review Board submitted a recommendation to the Mayor to impose a 30-day alcohol suspension and \$2,500 fine on Allure Gentlemen's Club. In our meeting Major Mitchell joined Wan in encouraging all neighbors to voice your support of this recommendation by emailing Mayor Dickens (<a href="adickens@atlantaga.gov">adickens@atlantaga.gov</a>) and Chief of Staff Odie Donald (<a href="adickens@atlantaga.gov">adickens@atlantaga.gov</a>). I personally will email him asking him to uphold his original campaign promises to be more vigilant on this front – let us know if you'd like language to include in your own email.

But now back to (family-friendly) celebrations...have a wonderful holiday season!

Ben Nemo, president@mlpa.org

# 2022 Recap: Traffic Calming

- Five projects legislated:
  - ✓ Four-way stop at Lenox Road and Wildwood Road
  - ✓ Four-way stop at Berkshire Road and E. Sussex Road
  - ✓ Three-way stop at E. Morningside and Cumberland Place
  - Pedestrian crosswalk across N. Highland Ave. at Morningside Village
  - Speed tables on Wildwood Rd between Lenox and Wellbourne
- Traffic survey with 350+ responses
- District 6 infrastructure project (see email last week!)

# **Annual Meeting Recap**

Thanks to all the neighbors who joined us on Monday evening for our annual meeting. We were fortunate to also have Council Member Alex Wan, State Representative Stacey Evans, Major Ailen Mitchell and Captain Ben Vayens from APD Zone 2, and of course our own security patrol lead Rick Vazquez. You will be happy to know Council Member Wan is dialed in to continued improvement on homelessness and alcohol licenses - both of which affect our crime levels - and is also working really proactively with MLPA to address infrastructure opportunities and coordinate key spending opportunities.

We enjoyed sharing updates from the year, notably:

- Our new patrol car and new security monitoring signs
- Several traffic calming projects legislated, many of which are already in place
- Supercharged social event calendar
- Significant improvements and repairs across parks and greenspaces
- Increased membership revenue and project commitments

But don't take our word for it – see it for yourself! You can browse through highlights and pictures here. You'll also see our acknowledgement of many of the countless volunteers across the neighborhood who work with us to make things happen.

We also voted to approve the nominated slate of directors per our communication on October 31 and update two by-laws: one to entrust the nominating committee to do its work on behalf of the neighborhood in recruiting and vetting a slate of candidates and another to formalize a recent resolution allowing our Treasurer to apply for credit as needed and approved by the Board (this essentially means getting an MLPA credit card to then immediately pay many of our bills and centralize accounts payable instead of reimbursing individuals.)

Looking forward to next year we talked about many areas of focus, including:

- Continued attention to traffic calming (results of the recent neighborhood survey including 350+ responses will help shape this)
- Working to ensure upcoming T-SPLOST funds allocated to several of our parks are used on the right projects
- An MLPA website redesign to improve functionality and enhance branding
- Our Centennial and the events/ways we hope to celebrate it in 2023!

As always we are looking volunteers! We have a lot of traffic projects we want to complete, we still have many streets without street captains and the Centennial committee is looking for people to help lead some of the events in mind. Email president@mlpa.org and we'll get you to the right people.



#### Morningside Annual Toy Drive for APD Zone 6 Families

#### November 28 - December 9, 2022

For the past two years, Morningside has participated in the Atlanta Police Department (APD) Annual Toy Drive for needy families residing in the Zone 6 catchment area. Because of your incredible generosity, this activity has been very successful. Thank you so much.

MLPA is partnering with Zone 6 again this year to collect toys for needy families, and we are hoping you will join us. Officers in Zone 6 identify families in need through their connections within the community. In addition, toys are donated to the local Police Athletic League (PAL) unit. PAL is a project of Atlanta police officers to provide a safe environment for youth through sports and other programs designed to improve the quality of life for its participants.

On December 15, the Zone 6 APD at Kirkwood will host a party for these families and give out toys. Officer Russel Stanio is managing this activity; he is the Quality-of-Life Officer for Zone 6 and a really terrific guy.

All toys need to be new and unwrapped, suitable for children 10 years old and younger. So... beginning after Thanksgiving (November 28-December 9), at any time, please leave your contributions on Phyllis and Rick Wingo's porch at:

#### 1220 Cumberland Road

Many thanks for your kindness to help another family.



Help raise money for children's mental health Saturday December 3rd, 11am-4pm

-Handmade Crafts
-Live Music

-DIY Craft Lessons
-Family Photo Booth

# Presented by:

Atlanta Fine | Sotheby's Homes | INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Melanie Birchfield
c. 404.668.4318 · o. 404.874.0300
melaniahien field@attanta finehomes com

#### Morningside Craft Crawl has New Home at Hillside

MLPA is a proud sponsor of the Morningside Craft Crawl, which has found a new home in our neighborhood! Join us on <u>Hillside</u>'s beautiful 14 acre campus and support a wonderful facility that has been serving children for decades here in Morningside.

The grassy horseshoe will feature handmade crafts made by Hillside clients and neighbors, as well as a holiday family photo booth, DIY craft lessons with our Horticulture Therapy program, live music, and more. Get your holiday shopping done both early and hyper-local!

Sat, December 3, 2022, 11:00am – 4:00pm 690 Courtenay Dr. NE Atlanta, GA 30306

#### What to expect:

- This is an outdoor, cashless, family friendly event!
- Crafts for sale include art, jewelry, cards, pillows, purses, masks, soaps, lotions, home
  décor, treats, and more! Hillside will be selling crafts made by clients, with all proceeds
  going to our mental health treatment services for children.
- · Hillside will be selling chili, baked goods, and hot cider.
- New! The Atlanta Women's Chorus will be singing at the Craft Crawl at 1:00pm! Stop by to watch their holiday performance.

#### How to support Hillside:

- You can support Hillside by pre-purchasing tickets or making a donation.
- Share this event with your friends and family! The more the merrier.

For more information and to RSVP for this free, family-friendly event, <u>click here</u>. And follow them on Instagram <u>@HillsideATL</u> and <u>@CraftCrawlAtlanta</u>. Hope to see you there!



#### Winterfest

MLPA is also happy to support the second annual Virginia-Highland District's Winterfest.

- Tour of Lights: Friday, December 9 from 5:30 to 9pm Winterfest will kick off with the Tour of Lights, a ticketed event on Friday, December 9, from 5:30 pm to 9:00pm.
- Jingle Jog: Saturday, December 10 from 9 to 10am Kick-start the holiday season with a costume run for all levels! The Jingle Jog will take place on December 10, from 9 to 10am on Lanier Blvd, starting and ending at University Dr in Morningside. Runners will jog about two miles and receive Virginia Highland gear as a token for participation. Bring your bells for extra cheer! This is not a timed race.
- Holiday Parade: Saturday, December 10 from 10 to 11am It's time to deck the halls and get decked out in your favorite holiday garb! The Holiday Parade will follow the Jingle Jog on December 10, from 10 to 11am on Lanier Blvd. It will start at University Dr in Morningside and go down to Los Angeles in Virginia-Highland. Families and individuals can join in the parade for \$25, and businesses can join for \$50.
- Artist Market + Kids Corner: Saturday, December 10 from 11am to 6pm The core of Winterfest is our holiday market on December 10, with over 60 local artisanal vendors. Stock up on the best holiday gifts from the most unique local vendors in town!

For more information and to purchase tickets for the Tour of Lights, Jingle Jog and Parade, <u>click</u> <u>here</u>. Looking forward to it!











#### Fall Concert Series - That's a wrap!

The most thanks to Morningside resident **Carter Rude**, who successfully planned another fantastic Concert in the Park series this fall season at Sidney Marcus Park. As a pilot, Carter even managed to make some arrangements - food trucks, kids' activities, booking bands, portable potties and more - from other continents! We are so grateful to him for continuing this neighborhood gathering that always draws a great crowd and provides a fun time.

Thanks also to another generous neighbor, MLPA Board Member and Sponsor <u>Sarah Chatel</u>, for hosting the last concert of the series and providing so many additional opportunities for kids and adults to enjoy. They put us in the festive October spirit, for sure!











On Saturday, November 12 at Lenox-Wildwood Park, around 100 picklers participated in MLPA's Inaugural Battle of the Paddle. And many more supporters and curious neighbors came to watch the women's, mixed doubles and men's matches, as well! This tournament was organized by two passionate and persistent pickleball players. Kudos to Morningside residents **Gigi Schwartz** and **Lori Zwecker** (pictured above, center) for planning a wonderful event complete with t-shirts, food trucks, King of Pops, StretchLab, our friends at Hillside, cornhole and more. We already can't wait for next year's event!



# **Morningside Book Club**

Curl up with a good book! Winter is the perfect time to join a book club and there is one here in Morningside! Both men and women are welcome, readers, writers, you name it - they are all a part of our group. We meet every other month so there's plenty of time to get and read the books. Contact Jill Cobb (jillacobb@gmail.com) for info about our meetings in 2023.

**Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative** 



# Public Updates on Route & Vehicle Analysis



### **MARTA's Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative Updates**

The <u>Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative</u> is MARTA's proposed new high-capacity transit service that would provide a connection between two existing heavy rail lines through a major employment and institutional corridor in the Atlanta region. 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 evaluated 10 alternatives in the Screen 1 process, including 4 bus rapid transit (BRT) and 6 light rail transit (LRT) alternatives. BRT is a transit service that provides premium, rail-like service that operates primarily in dedicated running ways. LRT is a transit service that operates on embedded tracks in dedicated lanes and exclusive guideway. MARTA has completed the Screen 1 evaluation and identified three route and vehicle options to carry into the next phase of study. Click the links below to learn more.

- Screen 1 Evaluation and Outreach Results
- Screen 2 Evaluation Page

MARTA invites you to join them for an update on the route and vehicle analysis of the Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative **TONIGHT**, **Thursday November 17 at 6:30pm via Zoom**.

Over the summer we asked for your input on different route and vehicle options that will provide more frequent and direct transit service. Now we have an update on those options to share before you get to weigh in on the final choice next year.

In this meeting you will be presented the results of the Screen I Analysis, how it informed the three alternatives under study, and how they could improve transit access and connectivity to the corridor. Attending the meeting will provide more opportunities to:

- · Weigh in on the 3 alternatives under study through visual aids
- · Share your questions and comments with MARTA leadership and subject matter experts

**REGISTER HERE FOR THE VIRTUAL MEETING** 



# What to do with your "Boos" and Other Yard Signs

Whether you have yard signs from Halloween or the recent elections, do you know what to do with them when you're done? If not, Morningside Elementary's Sustainability Community (SWAG) has the answer for you! On November 1st, the SWAG committee began collecting yard signs for recycling - just in time to keep CHOA Boos and all other corrugated plastic yard signs out of the landfill. Collection bins will remain under the awning to the left of the main entrance at MES @ Inman - 774 Virginia Ave - until APS Winter Break (December 16).

\*\*\*Plastic tops must be separated from the metal base and each should be placed in the appropriate bin.\*\*\*

Please note: Yard signs placed in Atlanta's curbside recycling bins are considered contamination and are sent to a landfill, so please use this new recycling option instead!



# **Cheshire Bridge Update**

On Monday, October 31, 2022, the Atlanta Department of Transportation opened two lanes - one northbound and one southbound - for the partial reopening of Cheshire Bridge over South Fork Peachtree Creek. C. W. Matthews construction crews performed work both daily and nightly to help accomplish the reopening as scheduled. The remaining lanes will be reopened in Spring 2023 following the completion of ongoing utility relocation work.

- The westside pedestrian sidewalk has reopened.
- Utility relocation work will continue throughout the remainder of this project. This work may include temporary lane shifts at times.
- No full road closures are anticipated during this final phase of construction.
- All lanes and utility relocations are expected to be completed in Spring 2023.
- Information about this project is available on the ATLDOT website.
- Stay engaged with ATLDOT on our Twitter feed @ATLDOT, ATLDOT Facebook page, Instagram channel @ATL.DOT, and Nextdoor pages.



# **Atlanta Public Schools Updates**

#### **New Midtown Cluster Elementary School**

Superintendent Dr. Lisa Herring recommended the direct appointment of Terry Harness as the next principal of the new Midtown (K-5) elementary school. This appointment became effective on October 26, 2022. Mr. Harness has served as Principal at Springdale Park Elementary for the last six years and is a successful APS leader with a wealth of knowledge and the skill set to open our new Midtown school with success. <u>Click here</u> for updates from Mr. Harness.

- Renaming
  - At their November 10 meeting, the Naming Committee deliberated names that
    were put forward by the community. The committee voted to recommend "VirginiaHighland Elementary School" to the APS Board. The Board will take this up when
    they meet next on December 5. In the meantime, APS is continuing to accept
    feedback in advance of that meeting. If you wish to share your thoughts/opinions,
    please go to APS Let's Talk here.
- Legacy (Grandfathering) Information Virtual Q&A
  - Are you interested in learning more about the legacy (grandfathering) process to remain at your current school? Learn more <a href="here">here</a>.
  - You can also learn more tonight, November 17th (5pm) at a virtual Q&A.
     Register here.
- PTA/PTO Formation
  - The new PTA is already being formed in order to support the preparations for the school! If you are interested in joining this PTA, you can do so via <a href="this google form">this google form</a>, with a minimum required \$5 contribution.
  - The initial board will have eleven positions, who will serve from November 2022 through August 2023 when the full student body can hold an official election. All of these details can be found on the APS website for the new school PTA here.
- Receive Updates Directly
  - APS is creating a distribution list for families about the New Midtown
     Elementary including recaps from past meetings which you can sign up for <a href="here">here</a>.

<u>Click here</u> for the new Midtown Cluster Elementary School's website to view materials from previous community meetings, to submit questions and feedback related to the new school, and to learn more about the overall process, the naming committee, and the new attendance zones.



# **Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park**

<u>Emory Cares Alumni and Hands On Atlanta Volunteers at Herbert Taylor Park & Daniel Johnson Park (HTDJ) Workday in November</u>

On November 12, more than 30 volunteers planted native flora in areas of HTDJ where invasive plants had been removed over the past year. Neighborhood volunteers were joined by groups from Emory Cares Alumni Association and Hands On Atlanta through their partnership with Park Pride.

The group installed ninety plants ranging from ferns to flowering plants that will attract native insects, birds, and wildlife adding to our parks' diversity. Prior to the planting, the areas were prepared by removing invasive plants and spreading an entire truckload of mulch!

As the saying goes, many hands make light work. We certainly proved that on Saturday when what looked like an impossible undertaking was easily accomplished "with a little help from our friends".

Friends of HTDJ invite you to join our regular workdays, the second Saturday of each month. We meet at the kiosk at 1343 Pasadena Av. at 9:00am for introductions and a short orientation. Then we set off to remove invasive plants that threaten the tree canopy and plant native species to support the park's wildlife. Bring water to drink and your favorite gardening tools, or borrow some of ours!





# **Sidney Marcus Park**

Hello Friends,

Our quarterly food drive at the park was another success. We think we have found the right pace for these drives and for this drive, we collected 579 pounds of donations! This was just a little off our last two drives that came in over 600 pounds. All in all, a good solid drive from the neighborhood. After all, food has gone up for everyone.

Thank you for your kind donations and rest assured that we are helping those in our local community with direct support.

Best regards, Friends of Sidney Marcus Park

#### **MEET OUR SPONSORS**



<u>Varuni Napoli</u> is an authentic, award-winning Neapolitan pizzeria from veteran maestro pizzaiuolo Luca Varuni. Born and raised in Naples, Italy, Chef Luca Varuni trained under maestro pizzaioulo Enzo Coccia of La Notizia – the first-ever Michelin-rated pizzeria in the world. After later studying Neapolitan cooking techniques in Sorrento, Italy, and working at restaurants in New York and Philadelphia, Chef Luca moved to Atlanta with his wife in 2009.

In 2014, Chef Luca went on to open the first Varuni Napoli in Midtown. The eatery serves traditional southern Italian pizzas, desserts, and antipasti, as well as a selection of premium Italian wine, local and Italian beers, and Italian-inspired cocktails. Varuni Napoli also offers an open kitchen that allows guests to become a part of the pizza-making experience and enjoy the world-renowned Italian hospitality of Chef Luca and his team. Following the success of the Midtown location, Chef Luca opened another Varuni Napoli in Krog Street Market in 2017.

Pizza and wine lovers are invited to visit Varuni Napoli every Tuesday and Wednesday for its weekly wine specials. With the purchase of an Artisan pizza, on Tuesdays, the pizzeria offers half-priced bottles of Montepulciano, and on Wednesdays, the restaurant offers half-priced bottles of Pinot Grigio. Everyone knows pizza and wine make the best pairing, and you can enjoy them both at Varuni Napoli every week!

#### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS





# **Artichoke Dinner Club**

# THISKET











# **Zoning**

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

The next zoning meeting will be held on December 6 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.





# **Updates from City Councilman Alex Wan**

<u>Click here</u> for the November 2022 edition of the Atlanta City Council District 6 eNewsletter. In this issue:

- School Renaming
- Cheshire Bridge
- Homelessness
- The Girls Galore, Inc. (d/b/a Allure Gentlemen's Club)
- · Georgia State Runoff
- Neighborhood Infrastructure Repair Project
- Cocoa in the Park: McClatchey Park

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



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

Dreading going into a "big box store" to shop for the holidays? Not looking forward to scrolling the internet for that perfect gift? Why not shop for loved ones at your friendly neighborhood market?

On Saturdays, December 3rd and 17th, <u>Morningside Farmers Market</u> will host artists and makers. They'll have a selection of goods, such as pottery, jewelry, wall art, and more!

Why not enjoy the music, grab your groceries for the week, and pick up a gift or two from local artisans to surprise your loved ones this holiday season?

What: Artisans Market at Morningside Farmers Market

When: Saturdays, December 3 and December 17 from 8 - 11:30AM Where: Morningside Presbyterian Church (1411 N. Morningside Dr. NE)

Morningside Farmers Market has been offering certified organic produce, local meats, breads, and goods since 1995, every Saturday morning year-round. Visit all of the vendors at their year-round home in the Morningside Presbyterian Church parking lot (1411 N. Morningside Drive NE) from 8:00-11:30am.

## **Market Hours Update:**

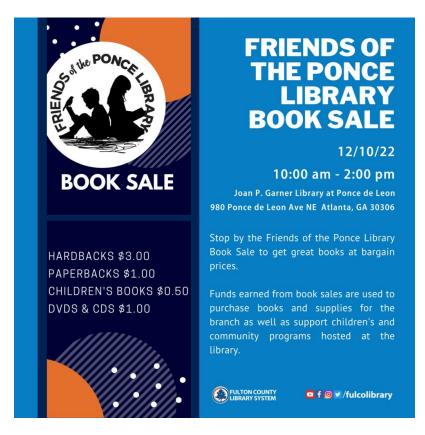
CLOSED on 11/26/22 Open on 12/24/22 and 12/31/22

## **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**



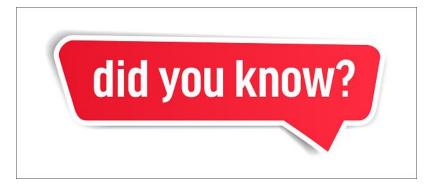
**Friends of Ponce Library Book Sale.** Stop by the Friends of Ponce Library Book Sale on December 10, from 10:00am - 2:00pm, to get great books at bargain prices. Funds earned are used to purchase books and supplies for the branch as well as support children's and community programs hosted at the library.





**Trees for Tuition.** Trees for Tuition will be back again this holiday, supporting Howard Middle School through our Christmas tree fundraiser! Thanks to your support, their scholarship fund was able to award over \$13,000 to Atlanta students last year. This year, their goal is to raise \$15,000!

You can pre-order and schedule your Christmas tree delivery now.



- San Francisco Coffee Celebrates 30 Years
- Nakato Celebrates 50 Years
- Tara Theater Closes After 50 Years
- Ansley Mall Beltline Bridge Announced
- Atlanta Botanical Garden Buys Property in Virginia-Highland

#### **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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