



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

February 2023

Already given up on (or never even attempted) your New Year's resolutions? Here's an easy one! If you are not an MLPA member or your membership has lapsed, [join us](#) now. Your membership dues support the work of our neighborhood including park improvements, events, security and more. Read below!

OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:

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President's Note

It's February, the shortest month of the year, and we have already had the MLPA board's annual planning meeting, our regular monthly meeting via Zoom, the Super Bowl, four UFOs shot out of the sky, my dad's 90th birthday ... and we are only halfway through the month.

This year, along with the normal business of helping to keep our neighborhood safe (under the watchful eye of Phyllis Wingo) with security patrols, the board will be focusing on three areas: (1) Events, (2) Membership and (3) Parks.

(1) Our centennial year of events is moving forward thanks to the hard work of Ryan Murphy, and a comprehensive sponsorship program for the year of events has been developed by John

Pappas and Sejal Patel.

(2) Sarah Chatel leads the charge on the membership front. Signs for our membership drive have been placed in street captains' yards but we can always benefit from word of mouth, so help us grow our ranks through your friends and neighbors who have not yet joined MLPA. For the success of these initiatives, we really cannot do it alone. Please consider joining us as a volunteer, and if you are reading this newsletter and are not already a member just [click this link](#). Prefer to write a check? No problem! Please email [Sarah](#).

(3) We have some very active Friends of the Park groups and are excited to see the improvements which will be made possible by the 2022 Infrastructure Bond, along with the continuing financial support from MLPA.

The long-awaited full reopening of Cheshire Bridge is scheduled for early May. The Monroe Complete Street infrastructure project, in addition to roundabout installation at Lenox/Johnson and roundabout improvements at Pelham/Rock Springs/Wildwood, are scheduled to begin in the near future. Additional thanks to Alex Wan for his continued work on alcohol code reform and short-term rental property regulations.

And a huge thank you to Betsy at [Casseroles](#) in the Morningside Village for her kindness in providing amazing food for the board during our annual planning meeting. We are lucky to have such a vibrant business community right in our backyard, so shop local and help keep Morningside the best intown neighborhood in Atlanta!

Dr. Donald Campbell, president@mlpa.org



Sidewalk Reimbursement Program

Announcing the 2023 MLPA Sidewalk Reimbursement Program

The MLPA conducted a neighborhood survey some time ago to determine the interest and need for a sidewalk renewal program and - not surprisingly - the need is high!

To help subsidize renovation costs and incentivize homeowners, we've created a program to reimburse homeowners up to \$400 for costs associated with any sidewalk repair or replacement!

Why should homeowners repair and/or replace an old sidewalk?

Homeowners often assume the City of Atlanta is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their sidewalks and, in some instances, the City of Atlanta may pay for sidewalk repairs to comply with ADA requirements.

If your sidewalk is not subject to ADA compliance, maintenance and repair are the responsibility of the homeowner and the homeowner can potentially be held liable for injury resulting from poorly maintained property in the public domain.

Maintaining our sidewalks is important for the safety of all and for maintaining the overall enjoyment and beauty of our neighborhood. In fact, walkability is often cited as a primary attribute new homeowners look for when buying a new home, and for this reason, Morningside/Lenox Park is one of Atlanta's most desirable neighborhoods in the city!

How do I get started?

Visit [this page of our website](#) for all the details necessary to initiate your sidewalk renewal project or email questions [here](#).

You must be a current MLPA member to participate. If you are not a member or need to renew your membership, please [click here](#).

To learn more about the Sidewalk Reimbursement Program as well as many other neighborhood initiatives, please join the *MLPA Master Plan Implementation Committee on Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 at The Family Dog* in Morningside Village. More details below!



Master Plan Engagement

NEW DATE: Thursday, March 9*
6:30 - 8:00pm
The Family Dog

Over the past several years, Morningside/Lenox Park has benefitted from several projects identified in our [Master Plan](#) - thanks to a small group of dedicated neighbors. However,

your input and participation are critical to its ongoing, successful execution!

Please join the Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) on **Thursday, March 9 at 6:30pm at The Family Dog*** in Morningside Village!

- Learn about our accomplishments in 2022 and our plans for 2023 and beyond.
- Hear from the MLPA Board, MPIC Leaders, and your local councilman, Alex Wan.
- Ask questions, share ideas, see old neighbors, meet some new ones and get involved!

Complimentary appetizers will be provided! [Registration](#) not required but greatly appreciated.

*This is a new date; the original meeting was inadvertently scheduled during Atlanta Public Schools' Winter Break next week.



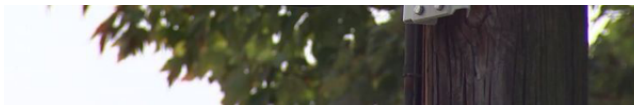
Membership Drive

Have you seen our membership signs throughout the neighborhood recently? It's that time of year! (Well, it is always that time of year because it's never too late to join.) We'd like to thank our Street Captains for helping us spread the word and for all that they do to inform and strengthen our community.

Your membership supports safety and security, parks and infrastructure improvement projects, neighborhood events, planning services to protect the character of Morningside/Lenox Park and communications (like this newsletter!) - just to name a few!

Don't see a sign on your street? You might be without a Street Captain. If you're interested in volunteering for this essential role, please [email us](#) to learn more.





Clarification to the Article “Do You Want Security Cameras On Your Street?”

Commentary from readers suggested that the article about license plate reader (LPR) cameras in the February 1 Morningside Security Report needed clarification. The questions posed in the article were intended for neighbors who were considering the rental or purchase of cameras for installation on their block or street*. There are numerous camera models with different capabilities on the market. The purchase or rental, installation, maintenance, and location of these cameras would be at the discretion of the neighbors, without input from the Atlanta Police Department (APD).

In contrast, over the past several years, the MLPA worked with the APD to locate eight LPRs on through streets and entrance streets in the neighborhood. These locations were all approved by the APD and are placed where they will have maximal utility as part of the City-wide network of cameras. As such, these cameras are maintained by the City.

*These are not cameras installed by the front door of their house.



Morningside Book Club

Join the Morningside Book Club for our next meeting on **March 21 at 7:00 pm**. We will be discussing *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath. The club meets every other month. In May, we'll discuss *Erotic Stories for Punjabi Widows*. In July, we'll discuss *Crying in HMart*. To join, please contact [Jill Cobb](#).





Above: Timeline to address overcrowding issues at the high school level. Midtown High is overcrowded.

Atlanta Public Schools Updates

New Pre-K Site at Future Virginia-Highland Elementary

One pre-kindergarten classroom, with a capacity for 22 students, will open at the new Virginia-Highland Elementary school next year. A list of all APS pre-kindergarten sites can be found [here](#). The Pre-K lottery application for the 2023-2024 school year will be available from **January 16 at 9:00am through March 12 at 11:59pm**. The lottery drawing will be held on March 27, 2023. For more information, [click here](#).

High School Overcapacity Issues

APS has kicked off a new annual process to review school capacity, with a focus on overcrowded schools at the high school level. View this [short video](#) to learn where APS has been and where APS is going in the high school capacity conversation. You can also view the slide deck [here](#).

Important Takeaways:

- Established a guarantee: No rezoning in the 2023-24 school year
- Implemented a new transparent and clear annual review process which includes administrative and district considerations at every level; not just rezoning
- Regarded ideas from the focus groups that were broader than just capacity, departments continued exploration and identification of actions aligned to our equity commitments and other strategic priorities (examples: expanded access to rigor, extracurriculars, etc.)


The district's first annual capacity review process meeting took place on Wednesday, February 15:

- [Recording: Annual Review Process Kickoff Meeting](#)
- [Presentation: Annual Review Process Presentation](#)

Future information, including redistricting if necessary, will be shared [here](#).

The next engagement to discuss soon-to-be-created scenarios addressing capacity at Midtown High will be held on **March 9 at noon (virtual) and at 6:00pm (Morningside @ Inman Auditorium, 774 Virginia Ave.)**

As always, the [Let's Talk](#) platform is a good place to present your questions and seek clarification on topics.



Clifton Corridor Forums in February!

Your feedback is important as we prepare to share the recommended high-capacity transit alternative for MARTA's Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative.

➔ Visit connectclifton.com to register.

Contact clifton@itsmarta.com or 404-848-5299 for project information and updates.

MARTA Clifton Corridor Update

MARTA is advancing bus rapid transit (BRT) - instead of light rail transit (LRT) - for the Clifton Corridor to connect the Lindbergh and Avondale Estates rail stations. This line will run just north alongside Morningside/Lenox Park with proposed stops on Cheshire Bridge Rd and at Sage Hill/Briarcliff.

BRT will provide a high-capacity transit connection between two existing heavy rail lines. The project could connect the Lindbergh Center Station to the Decatur or Avondale Stations along a rapidly developing residential, institutional, and mixed-use corridor. Key destinations include Emory University, Emory University Hospital, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Children's Healthcare of Atlanta - Egleston, and Atlanta VA Medical Center. For more information, [click here](#).

[Register](#) for a Virtual Forum on Thursday, February 16 at 6:30pm and/or an Open House on Saturday, February 18 from 10:00am - 2:00pm.

Parks





Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood Parks

Lenox-Wildwood Workday

If you're available, please join us **this Saturday, February 18 - from 9:00am to noon** - for a winter workday. Several neighbors have been tackling invasive plants and cleaning the park on their own. Let's reunite! Meet us at the new kiosk between the parking lot and tennis courts. Please bring your own tools such as gloves, pruners, loppers and trowels. There is a job for everyone - no matter the age or skill level.

Kiosks

Many thanks to Girl Scout Amalia (pictured above) and her mother Amber Ackerman, from Troop 15182, for beautifying and protecting our newly installed kiosks with a stain and sealant. We look forward to the community using these kiosks to share information about our linear park system and communicate about neighborhood events.

Lenox-Wildwood Bridge

The new bridge installation that will connect both meadows in the northern section of the park, link the Morningside Nature Trail across Berkshire Rd and provide a safe, level path between the playground and the tennis courts has been approved by the city's Zoning, Buildings, Structural and Arborist departments. As the final permit is acquired from Site Development to complete the necessary approvals, we'll be ready to proceed. We are hopeful that installation will be completed in March (or April). Thanks again for your patience!

Sunken Garden Visioning

We are excited to receive a vision plan for park improvement projects at Sunken Garden and look forward to sharing that with you soon. This plan coincides with the allocation of \$300,000 to Sunken Garden from the Infrastructure Bond that was passed last year. Much appreciation to Ben Nemo for taking the lead on this effort!





Sidney Marcus Park

Once again, we came through having collected 546 pounds of food and personal products during our drive last Friday and Saturday. Food donations to our partner, Intown Collaborative Ministries, are down overall due to food prices and labor shortages. This continues to be an important mission for Morningside. Our neighborhood continues to find generosity and deliver much-needed items to those serving our community.



Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks

Record Setting January Kicks off New Year in the Parks

Wow! After winds canceled the regular workday, more than 50 volunteers came out for MLK Jr. Day of Service! Thanks to all the neighbors, David Long (Georgia Forestry Commission), and Emory Cares for a splendid way to have fun and help our community.

Georgia Native Plant Society (GNPS) Restoration

GNPS Restoration training will hold a session on **February 24, 1:30- 4:00pm**, with volunteers from the Atlanta area Georgia Native Plant Society chapters. All our friends and neighbors are invited to come learn invasive removal and habitat restoration from the experts!

Monthly Workdays

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!

Mark Your Calendars

GNPS Intown Restoration Day in HTDJ, Friday, February 24, 1:30 - 4:00pm

Friends of HTDJ Workday, Saturday, March 18, 9:00am - Noon

Wildflower Walk, Sunday, March 19, 4:00pm

Audubon Bird Walk, Saturday, March 25, 8:00am

THANK YOU TO OUR MLPA BUSINESS PARTNERS

**WHISKEY
BIRD**

Artichoke Dinner Club



Zoning

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

The next zoning meeting will be held on March 7 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.



Help the Department of City Planning write a new code for “ATL Zoning 2.0!” Join the conversation on **February 28 at 6:30pm at the Buckhead Library** for Focused Workshop #3 and share your ideas to help shape Atlanta’s Zoning Ordinance. This is a Citywide conversation, and all Atlanta stakeholders are encouraged to participate. Pre-register [here](#).

Alcohol License Permitting

The following alcohol license permit applications were on the agenda for this month's NPU-F meeting. Not all of these are in our neighborhood, but they are nearby if not. Establishments are not required to come before nor seek approval from neighborhood associations before they seek approval at the NPU. The NPU makes a recommendation on the application to the License Review Board (LRB), and then the LRB makes a recommendation to the Mayor (who has final say).

- [Six Feet Under Restaurant](#) at 1824 Cheshire Bridge Road (former Roxx location)
 - MLPA recommended to approve
 - NPU-F recommended to approve
- [Toranj Restaurant](#) at 1620 Piedmont Road (former Atmosphere location)
 - NPU-F recommend to approve
- [Go Puff Retail Package](#) at 2233 Faulkner Road
 - NPU-F recommended to defer
- [Club Platinum Nightclub](#) at 1905 Piedmont Road
 - MLPA recommended to deny
 - NPU-F recommended to deny
- [Atlanta Eagle Restaurant](#) at 1492 Piedmont Avenue NE
 - NPU-F recommended to approve
- [KRA Haus Restaurant](#) at 442 Plasters Ave NE
 - NPU-F recommended to defer

Questions? Please contact our Licensing Chair, [Ashley Milam](#).



Meet the MLPA Board - Vice President

Rob Schuler and his family moved to Morningside in 2020. In need of more space after the arrival of their second child, they sold their Beltline townhome and bought a beautifully restored 1929 bungalow on N Morningside Drive. Originally from Florida, Rob moved to Atlanta to attend Georgia Tech where he graduated with a degree in Industrial Engineering.

After graduating from Georgia Tech, Rob moved to Chicago for work and quickly learned his blood wasn't thick enough for the winters. He moved back to Atlanta after three years in the Windy City and went to work for a Dutch company. In 2000 Rob was expatriated to the Netherlands for 4 years. During his time in the Netherlands, Rob had the chance to travel extensively across Europe and Asia. He has visited over 40 countries.

Avid runners, Rob and his wife Mary met in 2010 at a Piedmont Park running group. Rob holds the family "PR" in the Mile, 5K and 10k while Mary holds the family "PR" in the Half Marathon and Marathon. Married in 2014, they have two boys - Teddy 4 and Charlie 2.5 - and now they do a different type of running by chasing their boys throughout the neighborhood.

When not working, Rob and his family love to spend time enjoying the parks and playgrounds in and around Morningside/Lenox Park. In addition to the MLPA, Rob is a member of the Morningside Elementary Go Team and Next Generation Men and Women Board of Directors.



MLPA Centennial Events and Sponsorships

Get ready to celebrate! Check out the lineup in the graphic above to see which, if not all, events you'll be attending this year! If you have questions or would like to help with any of these centennial celebrations, please contact our Events/Social Chair, [Ryan Murphy](#).

The MLPA is also offering sponsorships for all 11 events and the opportunity to be a part of our history. If you are interested in engaging and supporting the community through the marketing and social presence of these events - by aligning your business with one of Atlanta's iconic neighborhoods - let's discuss this colossal year. Be part of it! Please contact [John Pappas](#), 404-664-4048, to find a sponsorship that works for you.

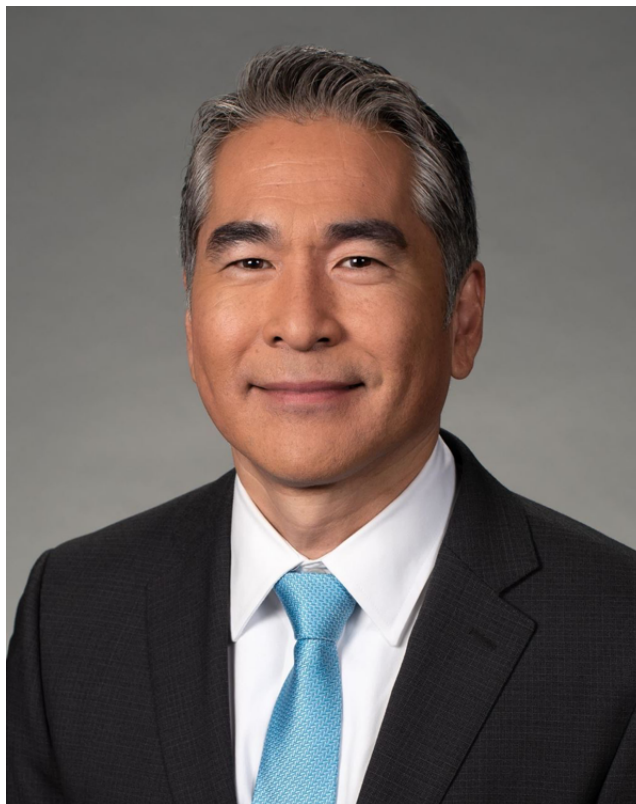


Morningside Farmers' Market Special Updates

Here are just some of the happenings this week at [Morningside Farmers Market](#):

- Ukulele player and puppeteer **Aviva** will be performing for us this Saturday. Starting around 9am, she'll be with us for a variety of kid and adult musical acts. Bring the kiddos and circle around for her show!
- Spike of **Sweet Hone Atlanta** will be joining us to professionally sharpen your knives, scissors, and gardening tools, just \$10 and 10 minutes a pop! Get your knives sharpened while you shop!
- Visit Zac and Natalie of **Casa Cardoza** to get your breakfast empanadas or frozen take-home packs! Empanadas are delicious, warming pastries that come in so many different shapes, styles, flavors and sizes. Theirs are mostly done the way southern South American countries make them; think Argentina, Uruguay or Chile.

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.



Updates from Alex Wan

Check out what's in [Alex Wan's February 2023 edition of the Atlanta City Council District 6 eNewsletter](#). You will find some helpful information about issues in our District and City.

- Operation Shield: Connect Atlanta
- MARTA Public Forum on Clifton Corridor Transit
- City of Atlanta Tennis Requests Your Input
- Encampment Closure Process
- Smart City Kiosk Planned for Virginia-Highland
- City of Atlanta Reaches Record High Fund Balance in Fiscal Year 2022

As always, Alex encourages your feedback and comments. Please contact him at (404) 330-6049 or awan@atlantaga.gov if he can be of assistance.

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](#)
 - [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 841 3250 9005
Passcode: 797155

- **MLPA Zoning Meetings** - 1st/2nd Tuesday of every month (see Zoning above), 7:00pm [Contact](#)
- **NPU-F Meetings** - 3rd Wednesday of every month, 7:00pm, [Online via Zoom](#)

Around Town



From Virginia-Highland Civic Association's The Voice, Lisl Huber. Hello and thank you to all who were able to participate in the Station 19 firehouse reopening event over the holidays. Our community is thrilled to welcome our firefighters back to their station after a much needed structural renovation was completed.

While it's wonderful the fire station is now structurally sound, we noticed the interior is lacking important items to ensure our firefighters are able to take care of themselves and relax while they are on the clock. This includes simple things like pots and pans, sheets and towels, bath mats and storage!

We've created a wish list to support the firefighters who serve our community every single day. We hope you'll consider a donation to Station 19. [See the wish list here.](#)



Volunteer at Zonolite Park. If you're looking for a drop-in volunteer opportunity during the week and want to help a nearby local park, Zonolite Park's bimonthly workdays to remove privet are scheduled the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9:30 am to 11:30 am (weather

scheduled the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9:30 am to 11:30 am (weather permitting). Zoo Atlanta picks up the cut privet to feed the giraffes and other animals!

- Meet at the pavilion in the Community Garden.
- Bring your work gloves. All other tools will be provided.
- Dress in long pants and sturdy shoes.
- Bring your EpiPen if you have allergies.
- Coffee is provided. Bring your coffee cup.

For more info, email [Coleen Boyle](mailto:Coleen.Boyle).

ATL311 IS CLOSED ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS

03:11
Saturday, 14 January 2023

After Hours and Weekend Help Lines ×

Watershed Emergency: 404-546-0311

Emergency Traffic Light, Sign, or Pole Repair: 404-290-7058

For all other emergency requests, dial 911.

Policing Alternatives & Diversion Initiative (PAD)

WHEN CAN YOU CALL PAD?

PAD referrals must be made via phone by calling ATL311 Supportive Services at 404-546-0311 and selecting 0 to speak to a live agent.

- ✓ Disturbances
- ✓ Public Indecency
- ✓ Welfare
- ✓ Mental Health
- ✓ Substance Use
- ✓ Basic Needs + Public Health

ATL 311

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
- [NextDoor](#) - Neighborhood List Serve (not affiliated with MLPA)

Contact Our Elected Officials:

- [Council Member Alex Wan \(D\)](#), Atlanta City Council, District 6
- [State Rep. Becky Evans \(D\)](#), District 83, Serving MLP residents in DeKalb County
- [State Sen. Elena Parent \(D\)](#), District 42, Serving MLP residents in DeKalb County
- [State Rep. Stacey Evans \(D\)](#), District 57, Serving MLP residents in Fulton County
- [State Sen. Nan Orrock \(D\)](#), District 36, Serving MLP residents in Fulton County

Neighborhood Schools:

- [Atlanta Public Schools](#)
- [Morningside Elementary School](#)
- [Virginia-Highland Elementary School](#)
- [David T Howard Middle School](#)
- [Midtown High School](#)



Join MLPA or Renew Membership

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

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