

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS April 2023

It's a wonderful time to get out and stroll through our parks, enjoy a concert, or simply meet your neighbors! There are several events you'll want to check out plus other news below. And if you're reading this newsletter but not a member yet, why is that? :) Please join us (or renew). Your support makes a difference!

OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:

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President's Note

It's hard for us not to start thinking more about the outdoors when we see the thick coat of pollen covering our cars and the explosion of color from the gorgeous azaleas that blanket the neighborhood. Speaking of azaleas, several Morningside residents are beekeepers and have noticed an unfortunate decline in their hives; please be mindful of spraying pesticides and other chemicals that negatively affect our neighbors.

We have all heard of "The Bridges of Madison County," but how about we call this month "The Bridges of Fulton County?" After a long wait, the Cheshire Bridge Road bridge reopened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 11. And the much-anticipated pedestrian bridge at Lenox-Wildwood Park is well on its way to completion, thanks in part to the financial contribution from MLPA.

Thanks to our elected officials **Alex Wan** and **Stacey Evans** for their hard work at the local and state levels to make sure our voices are heard with respect to public safety, zoning, park improvements and the general quality of life in our neighborhood. Remember to reach out to them not only with concerns but also to encourage and acknowledge the work they do on our behalf.

Just like the flowers and trees around us, the <u>Centennial calendar of events</u> is blossoming! Concerts in the Park have started, so join us for the next one on April 21 and our New Moms' Brunch on April 29. The new date for the 5K Fun Run is October 28, so you have plenty of time to train.

As you spend more time outside, we hope you'll note that our parks and greenspaces are among the best in the city - thanks to the incredible volunteers who spend countless hours on upkeep, education, and planning. This year our very own **Marti Breen** was recognized with the Park Pride 2023 Inspiration Award. Congratulations!

In honor of the endless hours Marti and all other volunteers dedicate to your neighborhood, again I point out that they and we cannot do it alone. Please join us as a member and volunteer so MLPA can continue to provide the quality of life that we have come to depend on.

Dr. Donald Campbell, president@mlpa.org



Spring Concert in the Park Series

will host the second event of this series next **Friday, April 21.** We can't wait to see neighbors at **Sidney Marcus Park from 6:00 - 8:00pm** for live music, food trucks and special treats. See the lineup below:

Featured Band: The Murphs

 The Murphs are an American roots-rock band featuring Austin Coleman, Katie Coleman, and Cody Marlowe. From Blues and Folk to Rock and Country, a wide variety of genres are found in their music; all directed to the expression of true, honest rock n roll.

Food Trucks: To Be Announced on our Social Media!

• Not already following us? Now is a great time!

Facebook: @MorningsideLenoxPark

o Instagram: @mlpaorg

Special Treats: King of Pops, Haygood UMC Happy Camper, Balloon Twister and Audi!

Don't forget your picnic blanks, chairs and extra drinks! We are excited to continue this tradition, with great appreciation to **Carter Rude** for organizing them. These events are free thanks to our members and sponsors!



New Moms' Brunch

<u>ONLY 3 SPOTS LEFT!</u> Are you expecting or a new mom with a baby under one year? Join us for MLPA's New Moms' Brunch at **Whiskey Bird on April 29 at 10:30am**. We will enjoy a delicious brunch and connect with other moms and moms-to-be to discuss all things baby - during this wonderful (and sometimes trying!) stage of life. This event has limited seating, which will be outdoors on the patio.

This is an adults-only event, no children please. Open to MLPA members and non-members. Cost is \$25 to register and includes choice of entrée, shared sides, coffee & dessert. Meaningful friendships and fun playgroups have formed from past brunches! <u>Click here</u> to reserve your spot. This annual event is organized by **Jennifer Schweidel** - many thanks for her continued time and planning!





Sunken Garden Park - August 1931 From The Atlanta City Builder

Morningside's Historical Timeline

As part of our centennial year observance, we have been reaching out to long-term neighbors and friends to collect old photos and history for our **Centennial Timeline**. (Correct link below! Apologies that last month's did not work.) We are so appreciative of the knowledge and photos received to date. Be sure to click on 'Continue Reading' to see more information about each decade.

We have just added 'The 1930s' decade. 'The 1930s' shows photos of the plans for Lenox Park and the three model homes for this new development. Also included are some early photos of houses in Hylan Park, Johnson Estates and Noble Park, plus information about parks established in this decade. If you have some old photos of houses in Johnson Estates or Noble Park, please pass them along for possible inclusion on the timeline.

We do not have much material for the 1940s through the 1970s, except the substantial amount of information about the Georgia Highway Department plans to run I-485 through the middle of the neighborhood, and the extraordinary efforts by the Morningside Lenox Park Association to halt that intrusion. For the 1940s, we have the Philip Shutze design and construction of the house at 1750 W Sussex (Shutze designed the Swan House). We would be grateful to receive information about key developments and old photos for these decades. Please send your text, photos, and suggestions to Phyllis Wingo.

CORRECT LINK: https://www.mlpa.org/centennial-history-timeline/

We plan on bringing a new decade to you each month this year. We will also create a folder of the photos provided but not included on the Timeline. Stay tuned!



Sidewalk Reimbursement Program

Contrary to popular belief and according to ATL311, homeowners are responsible for the repair, maintenance and upkeep of sidewalks along their property. Even when the damage is caused by a tree in the right of way, as pictured above, "The City of Atlanta inspects sidewalks, curbing and driveway aprons in the City's right of way that are the result of tree root damage or that create imminent damage to the traveling public. The inspections are funded by the City if the damaged area is caused by tree roots in the City right of way. The repairs are funded by the citizen if sidewalk repairs are adjacent to their property."

To help subsidize renovation costs and incentivize homeowners, we will reimburse MLPA members up to \$400 for costs associated with any sidewalk repair or replacement! As residents, we know the importance of walkability - it is a major reason why Morningside is one of Atlanta's most desirable neighborhoods. Visit this page of our website for all the details necessary to initiate your sidewalk renewal project or email questions here.



Amsterdam Walk Redevelopment

Last week, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC) published Portman pursues plan to redevelop Amsterdam Walk along the Beltline. Although the project is fairly high-level and at the very beginning of the process - there is no imminent action - the MLPA looks forward to partnering with Portman Holdings.

Vice President of Development, Mike Greene, attended our monthly meeting on Monday and shared that community feedback will be important. He said that Portman will engage with our neighborhood and Virginia-Highland, listen to concerns and find solutions (similar to how Portman worked with Virginia-Highland for the Ponce & Ponce project).

As written in the AJC article, by Zachary Hansen:

Don Campbell, president of the Morningside-Lenox Park Association, said he's encouraged Portman is seeking feedback before clearing the red tape required to build the envisioned mixed-use project.

"If we say no to Portman and become such an annoyance that they wash their hands of it and go somewhere else, somebody else will come in who doesn't have the same kind of community and civic spirit," he said.

The MLPA will be forming a subcommittee for the Amsterdam Walk redevelopment to help reflect our neighborhood's character and values.



Tree Protection Ordinance Update

From the Department of City Planning

Enhanced tree protections took effect yesterday, April 13, 2023, with support from a broad coalition of City officials, concerned residents, local tree advocates, and the construction industry. The updates passed late last year and represent the 1st Phase of the improved Tree Protection Ordinance.

Phase 1 is part of an incremental approach to updating the City's tree codes with a variety of changes ranging from more tools for enforcement to enhanced tree planting standards for parking lots. For a summary of how the tree protection updates affect you, <u>visit here</u>. For the "Updates at a Glance," <u>click here</u>.



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Alex Wan, Council District 6 Matt Westmoreland, Post 2 At-Large





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MLPA Business Parters (2022-2023)







Thank you to our Centennial Premier Sponsor, <u>The Chatel Group</u>, for hosting a Mobile Shredding Truck for the neighborhood on **May 13 from 9:00am - 1:00pm** at Morningside Presbyterian Church, from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Get a jump on spring cleaning!



Atlanta Public Schools Updates

APS At-Large BOE Meeting

The Atlanta Board of Education At-Large Representatives are excited for the opportunity for families and stakeholders to engage directly with their At-Large Representatives. Join Tamara Jones (At-Large Seat 7), Cynthia Briscoe Brown (At-Large Seat 8) and Jessica Johnson (At-Large Seat 7) on **Tuesday, April 18 - 6:30 - 8pm - at Bantam & Biddy** (1544 Piedmont Ave). We hope you are able to attend and get to know our At-Large Representatives more. Register here.

Midtown High School Capacity Issues

We want to thank all of the students, staff, families, and community members who shared their feedback and asked questions this past month about our Annual Facilities Review Process and proposed scenarios. We heard from hundreds of stakeholders through community meetings, Let's Talk, and several additional engagements.

We heard one major theme across all clusters: Our communities do not want us to rezone, especially if we have not exhausted all other options. Therefore, APS plans to develop and implement the non-rezoning scenario (Scenario #1) to address overcrowding at Midtown HS. For more information, click here. On March 24, more than 200 Midtown HS students walked out during the school day in protest of the proposed rezoning.

Support Midtown Cluster's Hope-Hill Elementary

The Old Fourth Ward 5K will return on **Saturday, May 13, 2023**. This race benefits Hope-Hill Elementary, which is in our Midtown Cluster. If you have a current student attending one of our Midtown Cluster schools, there is a discount code for your registration. There will also be a kids' fun run with the 5K. Discount codes are as follows: Howard- HOWARD, Midtown High School-MIDTOWNHS, Mary Lin- MARYLIN, Springdale- SPARK, Morningside- MORNINGSIDE.

Parks



Marti Breen Wins Park Pride's 2023 Inspiration Award

We are so proud of our very own Marti Breen, who is a Park Pride 2023 Inspiration Award Winner for all of her hard and dedicated work to Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks. Park Pride's Annual Inspiration Awards honor leaders who nurture the bond between parks and communities; whose efforts are invaluable to our collective intention to make all parks great parks, and to make them accessible to all Atlanta residents and visitors.

As shared here, Marti has been active in the outdoors for most of her life and became involved with her Friends group in 2018. Leveraging her background in communications, Marti has successfully hosted monthly board meetings, applied for grants, recruited over 400 volunteers to participate at regular volunteer days, and has helped her neighbors discover this amazing greenspace. Her passion and energy are endless, especially when it comes to removing invasive species, which she can be found doing in the park with her husband several times a week. You can't visit the park with Marti without learning something new!

Here's what some neighborhood volunteers and park-goers have to say about Marti:

- "Under Marti's stewardship (and with lots of help from her husband Cal), thousands of invasive plants have been removed from our Herbert Taylor/Daniel Johnson Parks. Marti has applied for and administered numerous grants (with co-chair Will Hazleton) in support of that, and in support of improvements to increase access within the parks. Volunteers regularly participate in workdays, energized by Marti to be part of the effort. Ephemeral plants emerged once invasive undergrowth was removed and many, many native plants have been planted. Thanks to Team Marti, a true park transformation has begun!" ~Anne Christopher
- "Marti's enthusiasm for improving the park makes us all want to share the vision. Plus we
 are able to share her amazing joy with native plants. I'll never pass Beech Valley without
 enjoying the azaleas she and husband Cal brought from Callaway Gardens. And the
 Johnson Road entrance she scoured of non-native invasives." ~Sally Sears

Can't get enough of Marti? We can't either! So check out this Inspiration Award video of her. And if you see Marti pulling ivy in the parks, please say hello - and thank you!





Sidney Marcus Park

Make Way for a Lighter, Greener Sidney Marcus Park Thanks to Boutte Tree Service!

We received approval from Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and hired <u>Boutte Tree Service</u> to work in the park March 28-31. We are sure many of you have used Boutte Tree and they are a terrific partner for our neighbors and the park. They offered a heavily discounted proposal to work with DPR to remove lower limbs, dead limbs and remove two dead trees from the park.

With this effort, we will raise the tree canopy and increase sunlight and air flow in the park. This will be a strong step to establishing more ground cover at the park and as we all know, it is sorely needed. Huge thanks to the Boutte Tree team!

May Quarterly Food Drive

We got off to a great start in February with a haul of 546 pounds of food and personal hygiene products. But given the need in the community, a quarter of a ton of food really doesn't go that far. Let's keep it going with our next Food Drive in May.

- > Friday, May 5 from 9:00 11:00am
- > Saturday, May 6 from 9:00 to 11:00am

As usual, drop off what you can at the Cumberland Road park entrance. Canned proteins, fruits, peanut butter, vegetables, cereals, and pasta are items most requested. Personal hygiene products, too! You can find out the latest guidance from the Food Bank at Intowncm.org.



Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks

Spring has sprung and there is a lot to do and see in the parks. This **Saturday, April 15**, we will be working 9:00am - 12:00pm to make the habitat even more inviting for migrating birds and other animals.

Join us at the Herbert Taylor Park kiosk (1343 Pasadena Ave.) for introductions, a short safety briefing, and to break into work groups. We will continue to remove kudzu, English ivy, and wintercreeper so that native plants can get the sun, water, and nutrients needed to thrive.

We hope to see you there--wear long sleeves/pants/closed toed shoes, sunscreen/insect repellent, and water to drink. Bring your favorite gardening gloves and tools or borrow some of ours.

Save the Date:

> Archaeology Talk -- Saturday, April 22, 9:00 AM (rain date 4/29)

Please note our new email for questions or more information: friendsofhtdj@gmail.com. And follow us on our new Facebook page here.



Lenox-Wildwood Park

Installation of the new pedestrian bridge that will connect both meadows in the northern section of the park is over halfway complete! After some rain delays, we saw the installation of steel beams this week. The final material has been ordered to complete the cedar bridge, which should be delivered next week, and carpenters are scheduled to begin once material is onsite. We are excited that this bridge will also link the Morningside Nature Trail across Berkshire Rd and provide a clear, safe and level path between Lenox-Wildwood and Sunken Garden!



Morningside Nature Preserve

Help promote a healthy plant community and a sustainable forest in Morningside Nature Preserve. Your work will improve habitat for humans who use the greenspace for recreation and wildlife that call it home. Trees Atlanta is resuming their monthly volunteer workdays, **now on the third Saturday of each month**. Activities include hand-pulling and cutting invasive plants such as English ivy, Chinese privet, and kudzu in a densely wooded area off trail. Physical activity such as bending, pulling, lifting, and kneeling is required. Forest restoration can be physically strenuous - be ready to break a sweat and get dirty and learn a lot while doing it! Register to volunteer for future months here.

Zoning

One zoning case was heard this month by the Zoning Committee and MLPA Board:

V-23-045 1050 Wildwood Rd

- Applicant seeks a variance to 1) allow a 7.5 foot fence in the required western side yard setback and 2) allow a 9.83 foot fence in the required eastern side yard setback for a single-family dwelling.
- MLPA voted to recommend approval at the NPU.

The next zoning meeting will be held on May 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 our MLPA Zoning Chair (Rebekah Falkler) at zoning@mlpa.org.



From the Department of City Planning

The Department of City Planning has an IMPROVED Permitting Process! In early 2020, the department revised permitting in the City of Atlanta by establishing an online portal and collaborating with customers and external partners to simplify the process. The improved process will reduce the overall timeline, provide dedicated support to guide customers through the process, and improve accountability.

- 1. All customers will use the redesigned and improved Accela portal for direct submissions. Multifamily development customers will no longer submit materials using the SagesGov portal.
- 2. Simplified file naming structures and plan upload requirements. Applicants will be able to upload the file packages matching the drawing package, i.e. Architectural Plan, Civil Plan, Survey, etc.
- 3. A digital plan review process for all agencies eliminating printing costs and time spent on driving to submit plans for review.

Other scheduled improvements such as introduction of a Development Services Team, simplified and clear communications, and automated issuance of trade permits will be implemented in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more! Learn more here">here.

Alcohol License Permitting

There were no alcohol license permit applications discussed at this month's MLPA meeting.

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). Questions? Please contact our Licensing Chair, <u>Ashley Milam</u>.



Meet the Board: Brandon Dhande

Brandon Dhande is the Secretary for MLPA. Brandon lives on East Morningside with his wife Casey and their daughter. They love how convenient the neighborhood is to parks, the Beltline, favorite restaurants, and other walkable amenities. Brandon works as an attorney for an industrial technology company. Casey manages compliance for an Atlanta-based Investment and Wealth Advisory firm. If you see them at Sidney Marcus Park on the weekends, please say hello!

Do you know what MLPA events are happening this year to celebrate our Centennial?

Click Here



Morningside Farmers' Market Special Updates

Please Note

- This **Saturday**, **April 15 only**, the Market will be in the small parking lot accessed off of Wessyngton Rd NE. Easter Egg Hunt on front lawn of MPC ~ all families welcome!
- On Saturday, April 22 only, the Market will be located at Haygood Memorial United Methodist Church (1015 E Rock Springs Rd NE).*

On **April 29 from 8:00 – 11:30 am**, Morningside Farmers Market will celebrate the spring season with "Greens, Eggs & Jam," a fun filled event celebrating spring vegetables and delicious foods made on the spot. The event will feature organic produce, kids' activities, music and more! Morningside Farmers Market, known as "Atlanta's Organic Market," has been offering certified organic produce, local meats, breads, and goods since 1995, every Saturday morning year-round.

As the temperatures rise and the days get longer, you'll find more veggies on the farmers' tables, as well as other goodies. Listen to music from Guitar Shed bands while selecting vibrant produce from Diamond Hill and Row by Rowe Farms and eggs and meats from Riverview Farms and Grateful Pastures. Sip on San Francisco coffee and munch on a breakfast empanadas from Casa Cardoza. Let the kids craft with Morningside Presbyterian Preschool and jump in the bounce house brought by sponsors, Evolution X Martial Arts and Fitness. Lunchtime is nearing, so why not grab sandwiches made to order from Chef Linton Hopkins with The Buttery ATL? Relax knowing that dinner is planned for tomorrow with a casserole from Dandelion Food & Goods.

Mark your calendar and join us for fun and good eating at the Morningside Farmers Market!

Morningside Farmers Market's year-round home is in the Morningside Presbyterian Church parking lot (1411 N. Morningside Drive NE). The market's location offers a spacious, tree-lined setting for neighbors to hang out.

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



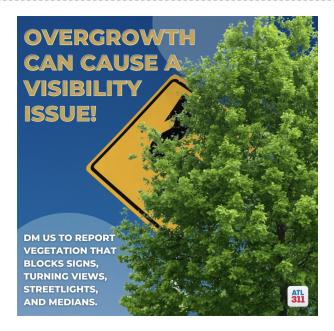
The Atlanta Dogwood Festival is this weekend, April 14-16. Everything you need to know here.



NPU Virtual Listening Sessions on Homelessness Partners for HOME and the Atlanta Continuum of Care (CoC) are conducting listening sessions with NPU leaders and members to gather input and feedback regarding homelessness in the City of Atlanta. Partners for HOME, in conjunction with the Strategic Planning Committee to End Homelessness, is working on the next five-year strategic plan for ending homelessness in the City of Atlanta. We welcome NPU leaders and members to join us at one or more of our listening sessions on April 17, 29, 24, and 26. Meetings will be recorded and will be made available on the Partners for HOME website. We look forward to collaborating with you and learning more about homelessness within your neighborhood during these listening sessions.



City of Atlanta Watershed Management is offering multiple workshops: <u>Rain Barrels for Collecting Rainwater from Gutters</u> & <u>Composting</u>.



From ATL311's Instagram Page (@atl311): Did you know you can report overgrown vegetation if it's blocking the right of way or a sign? We all know some trees and shrubs can get in the way when we're trying to make a turn. Contact <u>ATL311</u> and let us know!



More from ATL311 The City of Atlanta has launched a new artificial intelligent (AI) chatbot to the

ATL311 website, mobile app, and 311 call system. When visiting the website or mobile app, simply click on the chat icon in the lower right-hand corner and begin to chat. To download the ATL311 Mobile App, search ATL311 in your Google Play or App Store. You can also access ATL311's chatbot by dialing 404-546-0311 and following the prompts.

MARTA 2040

ATLANTA

TRANSFORMING TRANSIT

The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) and City of Atlanta will host three public updates to share information and take questions and comments about the More MARTA Program. Two in-person updates will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, and Thursday, April 20, 2023. A virtual update will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19.

These sessions will provide a history of the Program and detail the recent updated sequencing done in partnership with the City that aims to deliver a first tier of projects by 2028. No projects from the original Program were removed and the minor resequencing adjustment was based on current project scopes and market conditions. The projects included in the first tier are:

- Summerhill bus rapid transit (BRT)
- Cleveland Ave. arterial rapid transit (ART)
- · Metropolitan Ave. ART
- Bankhead Station platform extension
- · Streetcar East extension
- Five Points Station transformation
- Campbellton Rd. BRT
- Greenbriar Transit Center
- Clifton Corridor BRT
- Enhanced bus service citywide (already implemented)

All three meetings will have the same content. The in-person meetings are convenient to MARTA service and light refreshments will be served. More information and registration here.

Quick Links:

- MLPA Morningside Lenox Park Association website
- NPU-F Neighborhood Planning Unit F website
- APD Atlanta Police website
- PEDS A quick link to report pedestrian hazards to city
- City of Atlanta City's website
- 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:

- Morningside Elementary School
- Virginia-Highland Elementary School
- David T Howard Middle School
- Midtown High School
- Atlanta Public Schools



Join MLPA or Renew Membership

Please send questions, ideas and photos to communications@mlpa.org.

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