



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

July 2023

Get ready for a jam-packed lineup of events hosted by the MLPA this Fall - kicking off next month (more details below). None of these would be possible without members and volunteers. So please [join us](#) (or renew). Your support makes a difference!

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President's Note

Summer is in full swing and we have the heat and sun to remind us that we live in the south!

Good thing we are in the southeast, not Phoenix and the southwest, where temps have hovered in triple digits for weeks on end. We can continue to enjoy the amazing outdoor activities that our neighborhood has to offer, including these with updates:

- The City of Atlanta's Parks & Recreation Department is initiating a [Pickleball Pilot Program](#) to increase access to courts. In line with their plans at other proposed sites, we are recommending enhanced pickleball courts at Lenox-Wildwood Park with the south tennis court striped for two pickleball courts (instead of the current one), eliminating the need to alter the center tennis court net. Both courts will still be functional for the avid tennis players in our area, and the new stripes will give more pickleball players access to the court.
- Virginia-Highland is in the initial planning stages of a community pool near the old Inman Middle School, which would offer residents of MLP access to the facility. A full article and website link are included in this month's newsletter below.

The long-awaited street sign toppers are completed and ready for installation within the next few weeks, so be on the lookout for the added enhancements to many of our neighborhood signposts. These new additions were designed in correlation with the centennial year for MLP and will serve as a lasting reminder of the work our organization has done.

Speaking of our centennial, tickets for the much-anticipated Centennial Ball in November will go on presale August 11 to **MLPA members first**. So if you have been putting off becoming a member of MLPA, now is the time - [join today!](#) Let's not have a repeat of the Taylor Swift/Ticketmaster debacle with hundreds of Morningside neighbors posting tearful Tiktok videos about missing out on tickets to the Centennial Ball. The 5K Monster Dash is already off and running with registration open [here](#) and the New Neighbor Welcome is scheduled for August 24 (register [here](#)) - more details below and all brought to you by the hard-working members of the MLPA.

Have a safe and productive summer!

Dr. Donald Campbell, president@mlpa.org



New Neighbor Social

New to the neighborhood? If you moved to Morningside in the past 12 months, we'd like to welcome y'all with some Southern hospitality (drinks and appetizers) at **The Family Dog** in Morningside Village, on **Thursday, August 24** from **6:30-8:30pm**. Meet new neighbors and representatives of the MLPA Board at this free, family-friendly event. We are glad you're here and hope to see you there!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Battle of the Paddle Pickleball Tournament

Picklers, mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual (Better Than Ever) Battle of the Paddle! We would love to see more of our neighbors from Morningside-Lenox Park play in the tournament this year. This is a wonderful neighborhood gathering, with great pickleball and food!

Date: Saturday, September 30

Registration: Coming Soon!

Levels: All Levels (Beginners - Advanced). Women's, Men's and Mixed Doubles.

NEW THIS YEAR! If you are new to the sport of Pickleball or want to brush up on your skills, we are hosting several beginner clinics for ages 14 and up. Dates are August 2, 9, 16 and September 6 from 7:00-9:00pm in the Haygood UMC gym. Please limit two sessions per person. [Sign up and more information here.](#)

If you would like to volunteer, please contact events@mlpa.org.





Monster Dash 5K

It's not too early to get ready for a skele-ton of fun, fitness, and frights at the first-ever Monster Dash in Morningside-Lenox Park! On Saturday morning, **October 28 at 8:30am**, join us for a 5K Halloween run/walk that will have you haunting the picturesque streets of our charming neighborhood.

This event is perfect for fitness enthusiasts, families, and anyone who loves a ghoulishly fun time. Whether you prefer to run, walk or stroll, all ghosts and goblins are welcome for a morning of community, costumes, and healthy competition. And if you're feeling feisty, be sure to bring your fastest broom for this chip-timed race. There will be a Kids Dash, too, for our younger runaway pumpkins!

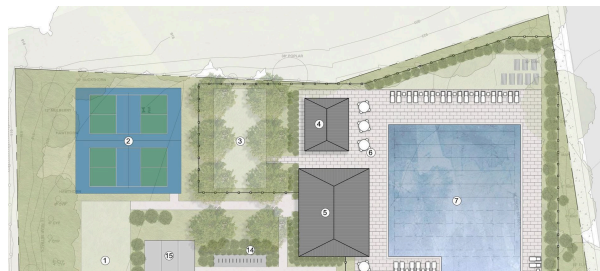
Don't miss your chance to celebrate our neighborhood's centennial and support the MLPA. Dress up in your favorite costume and show off your netherworld spirit. This is not your average 5k - it's a Halloween smash. So mark your calendar for the Morningside Monster Dash! All proceeds support MLPA parks.

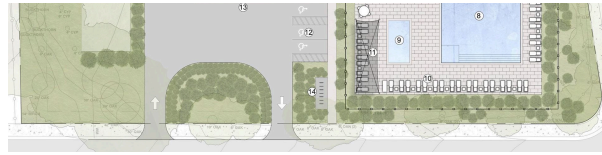
[REGISTER HERE](#)



Amsterdam Walk Redevelopment

As shared in previous newsletters, Portman Holdings is beginning the process to potentially redevelop Amsterdam Walk. On May 16, Portman hosted a virtual meeting for neighbors in Morningside and Virginia-Highland. [Here is the video recording](#) of that presentation for those who are interested but could not attend. The MLPA appreciates the opportunity to work with Portman because unlike many other developers, we have seen them engage with the community, listen to concerns and work to find solutions.





Virginia-Highland Pool Proposal

The newly formed Virginia-Highland (VaHi) Pool Association is excited to share a proposal with nearby neighborhoods to develop a community pool!

The proposed location for the pool is the “Field of Dreams” located at the corner of Ponce De Leon Place and Virginia Ave, kitty-corner from the new Virginia-Highland Elementary (previously the temporary home of Morningside Elementary and former Inman Middle). The Field is owned by Atlanta Public Schools (APS) but is considered excess property and is not expected to be utilized by Virginia-Highland Elementary.

The pool would operate year-round, benefiting both the community and APS students. During the summer it will be a community pool with a mix of member and non-member hours, swim lessons and a swim team. During the winter it would be covered with a temporary structure and utilized by APS swim and water polo teams, as well as for swim lessons and community lap swimming.

To learn more about the pool, view a potential site plan, provide input, and learn how you can support/get involved visit vahipool.org. Any questions about the project can be directed to info@vahipool.org.

Members of the VaHi Pool Association will be presenting at the next MLPA meeting on Monday, August 14 at 7:00pm. Attend the meeting to learn more and get involved. ([Join Zoom Meeting](#) Meeting ID: 841 3250 9005 Passcode: 797155)



Updates from City Councilmember Alex Wan

I am excited to announce the publication of the new Atlanta Council District 6 website. The website is designed to provide easily accessible information about City Departments and contact information for the twelve (12) D6 civic associations. Visitors will also find a repository of past D6 newsletters and a map of the district. If you have a moment, please visit the site at ATLDistrict6.com.

Parks



Congratulations to MLPA Parks Chair, Micah Coleman

We are so proud of our very own Parks Chair, Micah Coleman, for being selected as one of 12 residents to hone their leadership skills through Park Pride's new Park Stewardship Academy (PSA). "The nonprofit just selected the inaugural cohort that will undergo a three-month educational and skill-building program to learn how to better activate their respective parks through community events, programs and volunteer opportunities." Read more about the program, its goals, and participants in [this Saporta Report article](#) by Hannah Jones.



Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson (HTDJ) Parks

Thanks to the great group of volunteers who helped in the parks in June. As the pictures above show, we had a great time - just look at those happy faces! And we removed several bags of Japanese chaff flower. Come see the progress and help us on the second Saturday of each

month.

That means our next workday will be **Saturday, August 12. NOTE - we will try to beat the heat by starting an hour early, at 8:00-11:00am.** Bring your own garden gloves and tools or borrow ours. Bring water to drink, sunscreen, and bug spray. Wear long sleeves, pants and close-toed shoes—poison ivy has been seen. Meet at the kiosk at 1343 Pasadena Ave for a short introduction & safety briefing. Please note our new email for questions or more information: friendsofhtdj@gmail.com. And follow us on our new Facebook page [here](#).



Volunteer of the Month at HTDJ Parks

We have all been inspired by the tireless dedication of one of our Anita Place neighbors, Richard Hopkins. His home borders the park and besides Saturday workdays (when he is not traveling/skydiving), he's often working in Herbert Taylor Park anytime the weather permits.

Like all of us, he is learning the best ways to restore the habitat in this gorgeous urban forest. Shown above is the before and after of the area right behind his home. On the top he is removing privet and ivy in the winter when it is easy to spot as they are green and growing. The bottom photo shows the same area with the exotic species removed. Note that sunlight is able to reach the soil on the floor of the forest. Then in the early summer, the fringed loosestrife (*Lysimachia ciliata*) put on quite a show!





Sidney Marcus Park

It is hot out, but our cool new sign for our entrance on Sherwood Rd (pictured above) will be worth the walk!

Friends of Sidney Marcus Park has won and completed four Park Pride grants and thanks to our Neighborhood Planning Unit ([NPU-F](#)), we were awarded our 5th grant in late 2022. This is Sidney Marcus Park's first NPU-F grant, and it has enabled us to purchase a new sign for the park. Thank you NPU-F for this finishing touch at the park.

Once again, we capitalized on volunteers to pick it up and install it. Thanks to Jan and Larry Hogan, along with John Pappas, for making it happen.

Save the Date: Fall Quarterly Food Drive

The heat also won't deter Friends of Sidney Marcus Park from being at the park on **August 11 and 12 from 9:00 - 11:00am** for our next quarterly Food Drive.

In May, we collected 628 pounds of food and personal hygiene products, the most we have collected since 2021. August is our next chance to deliver more food than ever before and truly help our community by supporting Intown Cares. With food prices staying persistently high, the need continues to be great. Let's show that Morningside is the caring community that we know it is! See you in August!

Zoning

Any neighbors interested in zoning variance outcomes should come to the Committee's 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.

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, [Ashley Milam](#).



Meet the Board: Micah Coleman

Check out this Q&A with board member, Parks Chair Micah Coleman!

How long have you lived in Morningside? *We moved in New Year's Day, 2014.*

Where are you from originally? *Ormond Beach, FL*

Where did you go to school? *Go Gators!!*

Tell us about your family. *Hiro and I have been married 19 years. A dental hygienist and supermom, she is my rock and best friend. Six-year-old Yoshi can't wait for first grade at the original MES campus after an amazing summer of visiting Japan, swimming, playing with family, and catching his first Redfish.*

How many years have you served on the board? *Six years. I enjoyed stints as Events Chair and Communications Chair before joining Parks. I was on hiatus last year during a Navy Reserve mobilization for Operation Inherent Resolve.*

How do you spend your time when you're not volunteering to serve our neighborhood? *I'm a Research Scientist at Georgia Tech. In my off time, Yoshi and I enjoy fishing and tubing Peachtree Creek, biking the Beltline, and exploring metro Atlanta parks and creeks.*

I love working with all the neighbors working hard to maintain Morningside's amazing greenspaces and recreational parks. I also enjoy learning from Atlanta's other Friends of Park groups, and I'm honored and excited to be a part of the inaugural cohort of Park Pride's Park Stewardship program this fall.

What do you enjoy most about living in Morningside? *Walking our beautiful nature trails and biking with Yoshi and Hiro, bumping into new and old friends along the way.*

Do you know all the MLPA events happening this year to celebrate our Centennial?

[Click Here](#)



ATLANTA
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Atlanta Public Schools Updates

The first day of the 2023-24 school year is Tuesday, August 1. Please drive mindfully as those yellow buses return to the roads and children are walking/biking to school!



Sponsor Special: Varuni Napoli

Pizza and wine lovers are invited to visit [Varuni Napoli](#)'s Morningside location every Tuesday and Wednesday for its weekly wine specials. With the purchase of an artisan pizza on Tuesdays, Varuni Napoli offers half-priced bottles of Montepulciano, and with the purchase of an artisan pizza 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 (and for a great price)! Plus, don't forget, Varuni Napoli offers a different mouthwatering pizza special each week. Don't miss out on your chance to try a tasty new pie and enjoy a half-priced bottle of wine at Varuni Napoli!



Morningside Farmers' Market Special Updates

Check out just some of what's happening at [Morningside Farmers Market](#):

- What's in Season? blueberries, basil, carrots, cucumbers, cut flowers, corn, fennel, garlic, herbs, kale, lettuce, microgreens, peaches, summer squash, spinach, tomatoes, turnips, watermelons and more!
- Josh of [Bake-N-Jam](#) will make you a GIANT bagel sandwich to eat at market or take home and enjoy. Why not treat the family to fresh bagels for breakfast tomorrow? Take home packs always available.
- Jake's pies originated in New Zealand, but they've added a whole heap of flavor, while keeping some traditional Kiwi classics. Everything [Heaps](#) makes is handmade from scratch, kept simple. Try a sweet or savory breakfast pie on Saturday :)
- [The Buttery ATL](#) is a warm and welcoming bakery and shop, offering freshly baked bread, pastries and southern classics. The Buttery is brought to you by Gina and Chef Linton Hopkins, and a passionate group of food and beverage professionals.
- Simone and Sharon of [Elise Organic Ice Cream](#) will let you sample their flavors made with organic ingredients: coffee, chocolate, mint chocolate chip, *NEW FLAVOR ~ PEACH, strawberry, & vanilla bean. Homemade ice cream goes well with peach or blueberry toppings!

Morningside Farmers Market has been offering certified organic produce, local meats, breads, and goods since 1995, every Saturday morning. Visit all of the vendors at their year-round home 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 from 8:00-11:30am.

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** - Typically 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



A map of the area for the planned expansion of Piedmont Park, as shown in Fulton County property records. The property outlined in blue is a shopping center bought by the City for the plan. The property outlined in yellow was recently bought by the Atlanta Botanical Garden. The two properties on the corner, outlined in red, remain in the hands of private commercial owners. Piedmont Avenue is the street at left and Monroe Drive is the street at right. [Credit [Rough Draft Atlanta](#).]

New and long-term leases suggest Piedmont Park expansion plan is not coming soon

From [Rough Draft Atlanta](#), by John Ruch: "The City of Atlanta's secretive plan to expand Piedmont Park appears to not be coming soon, according to details of leases and negotiations in a crucial shopping center." [Continue reading ...](#)





Atlanta Beltline: Northeast Trail and Ponce de Leon Ave Streetscapes Project Updates

July 27, 2023 from 6:30-8:00pm

To pre-register or join the Zoom meeting already in progress please click [HERE](#).

Online details at beltline.org/meetings

Phone Number to call in: 929-205-6099

Webinar ID: 841 8232 2537

Learn about the construction of Northeast Trail - Segments 1 & 2 and the Ponce De Leon Avenue Streetscapes between Boulevard and John Lewis Freedom Parkway. We will also share design updates for Northeast Trail - Segment 3.

[Northeast Trail - Segment 1](#) is 0.9-miles in length from the end of the current Eastside Trail at Monroe Drive to Westminster Drive. [Northeast Trail - Segment 2](#) is 1.2 miles in length and runs from Westminster Drive (in Piedmont Park) to Mayson Street/Plasters Avenue. [Segment 3](#) will be 2.4 miles of mainline trail from Buford-Spring Connector to Peachtree Hills with connections to MARTA Lindbergh Station.

[Atlanta BeltLine was recently awarded a \\$25 million RAISE grant](#) from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the construction of 2.2 miles of the Northeast Trail and connector trails, which will connect the Atlanta BeltLine to a MARTA station for the first time (at Lindbergh).

Puzzle Party and Puzzle Swap
Fourth Wednesday of every month | 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Joan P. Garner Library at Ponce
980 Ponce de Leon Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30306
Come by the library and exchange a complete, gently loved puzzle for a different one.
You can also join us as we spend the afternoon puzzling! Invite a friend or make some new friends over the puzzling table.
This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ponce Library.
Interested in supporting programs like this? Join the Friends!

FULTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
/fulcolibrary

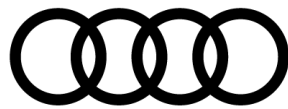
Puzzle Party and Puzzle Swap

Join Friends of the Ponce Library on the fourth Wednesday of each month, from 1:00-4:00pm, as they spend the afternoon puzzling! Invite a friend or make some new ones over the puzzling table. You can also swing by to exchange a complete, gently loved puzzle for a different one. The Joan P. Garner Library at Ponce is located at 980 Ponce de Leon Ave NE 30306.



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ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMEMBERS



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



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MLPA Business Parters (2022-2023)



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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