



## YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

November 2023

Fall is officially here and Morningside-Lenox Park is bursting with color! It's also the season to be thankful, and we are certainly grateful for our beautiful neighborhood with wonderful neighbors. That's why now is a great time to [join us](#) (or renew your membership). Your support makes a difference for all of us!

### OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:

- [President's Note](#)
- [Master Plan Implementation Updates](#)
- [Zone 6 Toy Drive](#)
- [Morningside Supper Club](#)
- [Morningside's Monumental History](#)
- [Deck the Halls at Hillside](#)
- [Parks](#)
- [Meet the Board: Ashley Milam](#)
- [Zoning](#)
- [Atlanta Public Schools Updates](#)
- [Morningside Farmers' Market](#)
- [Neighborhood Meeting Schedule](#)
- [Around Town](#)
- [MLPA Sponsors](#)



## 2023 Annual Meeting at Morningside Presbyterian Church

### President's Note

Another year almost in the books and we have a lot to be proud of at MLPA!

The centennial year exceeded all expectations and cemented our neighborhood as a vibrant, diverse community with loads of civic pride, volunteerism and just good old-fashioned fun. The celebrations throughout the year ran the gamut from concerts in the park, brunches for new moms, a racquet sport competition and a 5K fun run; all of which were supported by the residents and the members of our business community.

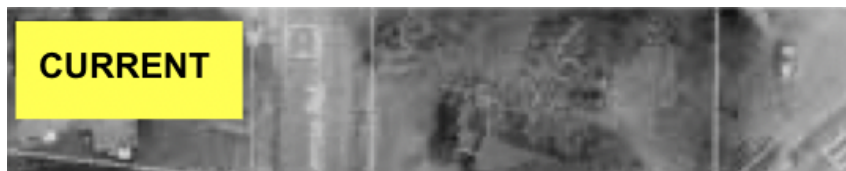
An unforgettable night at Callanwolde with hundreds of neighbors in attendance proved to be the perfect way to cap off the centennial year. Incredible food and drinks, great music and a visit from Mayor Andre Dickens highlighted the Centennial Ball and set the scene for our recognition of the Morningside Road Warriors, who rallied decades ago to save our neighborhood from devastation from I-485. Without the dedication of these five women - Mary Davis, Adele Northrup, Barbara McDaniel Ray, Virginia Taylor and Virginia Gaddis - our neighborhood would just be an exit ramp on the interstate.

The annual meeting on Monday, November 13 was a huge success bringing together, in person, one of the largest groups of MLPA members and interested residents in many years. Thank you to all who attended to hear the accomplishments and vision for the future of Morningside-Lenox Park. Not only were we happy to have so many neighbors in attendance, but we were honored to have updates from the largest group of elected officials and public service officers ever: Senator Elena Parent, Representatives Stacey Evans and Becky Evans, City Council President Doug Shipman, City Councilmembers Alex Wan and Matt Westmoreland, and at-large School Board member Tamara Jones as well as leadership from both APD Zone 2 and Zone 6 plus our own head of security at MLPA Rick Vazquez - all of whom presented insightful information and accomplishments that directly affects our community.

The new 2024 MLPA Board was elected and a few minor changes to the organization's bylaws were adopted (as shared in previous emails).

A special thanks to outgoing board member Sarah Chatel for her years of dedication as Membership Chair, along with her many community building events. We look forward to working closely with her for some exciting future projects.

Dr. Donald Campbell, [president@mlpa.org](mailto:president@mlpa.org)





## Master Plan Implementation Updates

Our Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) works hard but quietly behind the scenes, bringing to fruition important projects that are designated in our [Master Plan](#) (and some that aren't but have since proven the need for attention). This year's focus was largely on traffic calming to improve the safety of pedestrians, bike riders and drivers on our streets.

The following are some project updates:

- Status of current stop signs requests:
  - Johnson Rd & Meadowdale Ave - Installed October 2023.
  - E Sussex Rd & E Rock Springs Rd (Haygood UMC) - Installed November 2023.
  - E Sussex Rd, Berkshire Rd & Barclay PI intersection - Installed November 2023.
- Johnson/Lenox Roundabout
  - Fully funded; concept has been accepted.
  - Two phases: design 6 to 10 months likely (could be 12 months) and construction 6 to 8 months.
  - Anticipated completion in middle of 2025.
- Monroe Complete Street
  - ATLDOT has agreed to a community meeting related to Phase 2 & 3 of the Monroe Project.
  - Phase 1 (10th and Monroe) will be under construction in February 2024.
  - The current expectation is that Phase 2 (10th to 8th) and Phase 3 (10th to Armour Circle) will move into Final Design either in December of this year or January of 2024. The design period will last for twelve (12) months. ATLDOT would like for Phase 1 to get underway before meetings on the additional Phases.





**So that the kids in our community may enjoy playing on this lovely Christmas day, give them some toys.**

**Please donate new and unwrapped toys for ages 10 and under**

<b>Accepting Donation Through</b> <b>8 DECEMBER 2023</b>	<b>ZONE 6 PRECINT</b> 2025 Hosea L. Williams Dr. NE Atlanta, GA 30317
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**For More Information :**  
**Contact Officer Stanio**  
**[rstanio@atlantaga.gov](mailto:rstanio@atlantaga.gov)**  
**(404)450-4054**



## Zone 6 Toy Drive

For the past several 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.

In December, 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... after Thanksgiving through December 8, please leave your contributions on Phyllis and Rick Wingo's porch at:**

**1220 Cumberland Road**

Many thanks for your kindness to help another family.





### Morningside Supper Club

The Morningside Supper Club is going strong! Led by our Membership Chair, Sarah Chatel, neighbors enjoy meeting each other over delicious fare while supporting local restaurants. The November group (pictured above) had a great time at Truva. The next gathering will be after the holidays on **January 11** - save the date! Please email [Sarah](#) for more information and/or to be added to the mailing list.



### Morningside's Monumental History

When **Marc Tammes** joined the MLPA Board as Treasurer, cleaning our neighborhood's monuments was not in the job description. But that didn't stop him from volunteering for this monumental task - pun intended! Marc recently cleaned four of Morningside-Lenox Park's monuments himself, which our board had been discussing would be a nice way to spruce up the neighborhood in honor of our Centennial. Their maintenance is overdue and we will be working to clean the rest. Are you interested in helping us with the remaining 11 monuments? Please email [president@mlpa.org](mailto:president@mlpa.org), if so!

The installation of these monuments were a big deal for our neighborhood, as they incorporate a piece of our community's history. Check out this article, '*A Monumental Accomplishment*' by Susan Drake, published in the Summer 2001 Issue of the MLPA Newsletter:

Have you ever noticed those handsome urn-and-column markers at the major entrances to Morningside-Lenox Park? They didn't just sprout there after a rain. Instead, the markers stand there because of the hard work of many of our neighbors. In this article we want to remember who those neighbors are and what they did for all of us.

The Monument Project started in 1989 and concluded in 1991. It was inspired by Ivey and Crook, the architects who had designed Lenox Park in the 1920s. Those founders had placed columns throughout the Lenox Park neighborhood, four of which remained in various states of disrepair. MLPA felt that placing similar markers at the street entrances to the neighborhood would establish a strong visual identity for Morningside as a whole.

The one intact column was located at 878 Plymouth Road, much overgrown. It was decided to disassemble the survivor and faithfully duplicate its air of historic authenticity. Eleven new markers would join the four refurbished ones, with a new plaque being designed by graphic artist and resident Barbara Gellner.

The Monument Committee consisted of Jon Carlsten, Rick Flynn, David Robertson, Gail Ronan, Bill Russell, and Ben Wauford. Their first step was to get indemnification from the city for legal issues because the markers are placed on private property. Helping out with the legal concerns were Atlanta City Councilmember Mary Davis, Charles Huddleston, David McAlister, Jeff Petrillo and Gail Ronan.

The next step was raising the money, seeing as new markers cost about \$4000 each and repaired ones about \$2000 each. Some fundraising was held through the newsletter but most of it was done door-to-door. Individuals and businesses donated work and materials. Major sponsors were: Kevin and Mary Brown; Barry Doss; Metzler/Muirhead, Inc. of Greystone; David Michud; and Zac Pasnanick.

MLPA fundraising surpassed wildest expectations. The new urns and crown caps were cast by Architectural Ornamental Castings of Decatur; non-violent offenders in the Federal Probations program contributed their construction skills; and the new and refurbished columns went up!

Morningside-Lenox Park was a trailblazer for neighborhoods wanting to put up markers. Today these columns unite several smaller neighborhoods into an association of over 3,000 homes. A

monumental effort, the Monument Project succeeded in its goal to create "a traditional monument that looked as though it had been in the neighborhood forever and would last forever."



### Deck the Halls at Hillside

Join our neighbors at **Hillside** for **Deck the Halls!** On **Saturday, December 2nd**, Hillside's Horticulture Therapy program will host 2 crafting sessions where you and your family can create and design beautiful holiday displays. Certified Horticulture Therapists will guide you on designing festive wreaths or captivating centerpieces in Hillside's cozy Dining Hall. Your support will help Hillside's adolescent clients struggling with mental health challenges.

**Neighbors get 10% off at check out!** Use promo code "**MLPA23**". Have a group and want to do a "crafting party"? Reach out to [gmarvin@hside.org](mailto:gmarvin@hside.org) for special pricing!

Saturday, December 2nd  
 2 sessions: 10-12pm, 1-3pm  
 \$60 per project (wreath or centerpiece)  
 Great for ages 6+

Get your tix here: <https://DecktheHallswithHillside.eventbrite.com>



Since 1888, [Hillside](#) has cared for children in need. Those needs and the challenges of meeting them have continually evolved, but for more than 130 years Hillside has adapted to help each child flourish - right here in Morningside. Their education program is part of the Atlanta Public Schools system.



## Parks



## Sidney Marcus Park

Our Quarterly Food Drive delivered 343 pounds of shelf-stable food to the Intown Cares food pantry. Thank you all that stopped by and dropped off a donation.

In parallel, our aeration and seeding project on the lower area got off to a great start. Thanks to Mitchell Hogan, Jan Hogan, John Hults and John Pappas, we donated time and equipment to preparing the lower area, and getting new grass seed down. Mitchell Hogan organized the project and executed it within a weekend parameter. He is an amazing young man, and once again, the Hogans and Friends of Sidney Marcus Park (FSMP) have delivered for the park! FSMP spent \$3,500 for this project from your donations, for seed, fertilizer and straw.

BUT, when we were finally spreading straw, we realized it was very time consuming. Amazingly, park visitors, friends walking by, and children jumped in and helped us get the job done. This centennial year for Morningside has truly brought our community together.

Not only at Sidney Marcus Park, we see so much volunteerism across the neighborhood. And as Morningside expands with many, many new residents in Morningside, our community movement is growing.



### **Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson (HTDJ) Parks**

#### **Park Fire**

We are sad to share that sometime on Friday night, November 3, a fire occurred at the Bottomlands Trail and South Fork of Peachtree Creek. It appears that a fire was either deliberately or accidentally set and quickly got out of control, as we had not had measurable rain for several weeks. One of our neighbors heard an explosion around 10 o'clock.

Fortunately whoever was responsible managed to put it out before it spread, but it could have quickly become quite dangerous for the park and the homes surrounding it! Smoking open flames, alcohol/substance use, and fireworks are prohibited in all City of Atlanta Parks—if you see violations, please call 911.

Above is a picture of the damaged area. The fire was reported to the Atlanta Fire Department and the City of Atlanta Department of Parks & Recreation.. Please make sure that everyone you know is familiar with the rules and follows them (including teenagers).

### Park Planting

Need to work off those extra turkey pounds? Join us **Wednesday, Nov. 29th at 9:00am** at the kiosk. We will bring the weed wrenches and continue removing exotic species. We will also have some extra native plants to install so come work off all those calories.

### Park Design

As part of our efforts to secure a new Park Pride grant, we met with the City of Atlanta, Parks and Recreation Design team in October. Along with our partner, Patrick Hand of Integrated Landscape Design, we presented plans to add bike racks, an art project, additional signs, and undertake a restoration project with Trees Atlanta.

Keep your fingers crossed that the grant application is approved. Once it is, check the kiosk for the plans and instructions on how you can help.

Ever wonder how these plans originate? Most come from suggestions heard from park users and friends. All are discussed at our regularly scheduled Friends of HTDJ meetings (normally the first Monday of odd numbered months unless rescheduling is required). All meetings are posted on the kiosk and covered in our separate newsletter—join us if you can.





### Thanks City of Atlanta Maintenance

This summer's storms have been especially hard on the tree canopy. We have seen several downed trees in Herbert Taylor Park & Daniel Johnson Park. You may even have seen the one that fell during an August storm that blocked Beech Valley.

Fortunately, other than the trees, there have been no fatalities. Still, walking through the park has been more difficult for the past couple of months as stepping over large logs blocking the trails was required. Thanks to the City of Atlanta, Dept. of Parks and Recreation Maintenance team, the logs have been cut and moved! Call 311 to report issues as they will be addressed in time.

### Park Restoration

Join us at our monthly volunteer workday on the second Saturday of each month - this time on December 9 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Meet at the kiosk at 1343 Pasadena Av NE, ATL, 30306. Bring water & wear long sleeves/pants. We will have tools/gloves to borrow or bring your favs.

If you would like to be involved or have questions, contact [friendsofhtdj@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhtdj@gmail.com).



### **Meet the Board: Ashley Milam**

Check out this Q&A with board member, Licensing Chair **Ashley Milam**. Ashley keeps an eye on business applications for alcohol permits in the neighborhood and their potential impacts, if any.

**How long have you lived in Morningside?** The long answer :) ...my husband has owned our home since 2011 and then I joined the neighborhood when we got married in 2021.

**Where are you from originally?** Just south of the city in Jonesboro, GA.

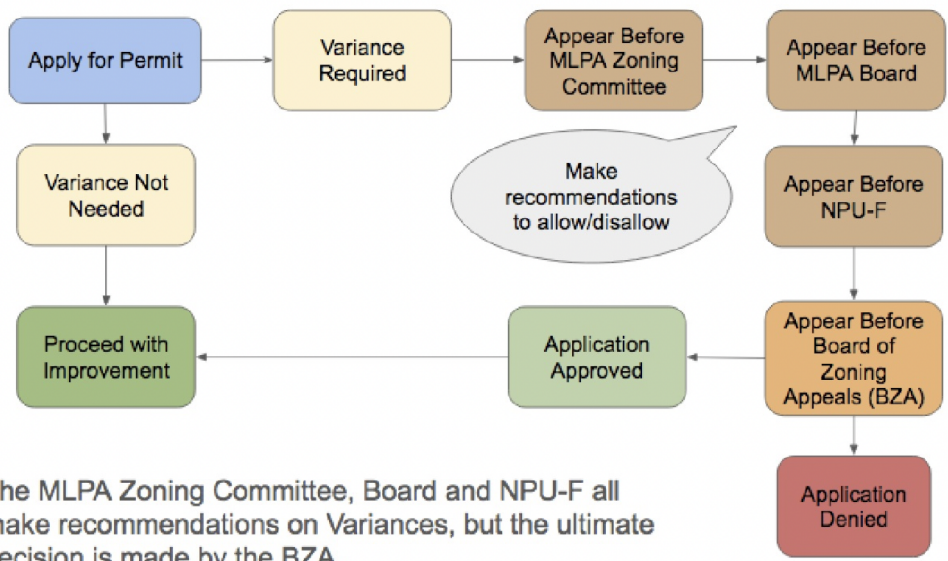
**Where did you go to school?** GA State and Mercer University.

**Tell us about your family.** My husband, Mark and I have been married for two years. We both are in the mortgage industry and combined we have three children. Two are freshman at Auburn University (War Eagle!) and one is a senior at The Paideia School. We also have a fluffy 2-year-old goldendoodle, Aubie.

**How many years have you served on the board?** Two years.

**How do you spend your time when you're not volunteering to serve our neighborhood?** I'm a mortgage banker at Highland Mortgage located in Poncey Highlands. When not working, Mark and I enjoy cheering for Atlanta United and Auburn!

**What do you enjoy most about living in Morningside?** The walkability, beautiful streets/homes and small town feel of Morningside Village.



## Zoning

One zoning cases was heard this month by the MLPA Zoning Committee and Board.

- [1359 Northview Ave](#)
  - MLPA Recommendation for Denial
  - NPU Recommendation for Approval

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](mailto:zoning@mlpa.org).



## Atlanta Public Schools Updates

Thank you to those who voted for the school board election! Results are below and more information can be found [here](#) on Atlanta Civic Circle's website.

### District 1

Katie Howard (unopposed): 100% / 4,266 votes

### District 3

Ken Zeff: 63% / 4,917 votes

Michelle Olympiadis (incumbent): 37% / 2,891 votes

### District 5

Erika Y. Mitchell (incumbent): 70% / 3,012 votes

Raynard Johnson: 30% / 1,289 votes

### District 7 At-Large\*

Tamara Jones (incumbent): 48.2% / 12,996 votes

Alfred 'Shivy' Brooks: 47.3% / 12,764 votes

William Sardin: 4.5% / 1,214 votes

**\* There will be a runoff election on Dec. 5 for Jones and Brooks, since neither candidate received 50% plus 1 vote.**

### District 9 At-Large

Jessica Johnson (incumbent): 54.5% / 14,441 votes

Nkoyo Effiong Lewis: 45.5% / 12,075

The following surveys are open to neighbors and community members, regardless of whether or not you have children currently in the schools. Like school board elections, these are important opportunities for engagement as we are all affected by the strength of our public school system.

**1. Student Calendars for School Years 2025-2026, SY 2026-2027, and SY 2027-2028 (Survey closes Dec.5<sup>th</sup>, 2023)**

Share your priorities regarding the student calendar.

[Survey Link](#)

**2. Superintendent Search Survey**

Contribute to developing the profile of the next superintendent.

[Survey Link](#)



**Morningside Farmers' Market Special Updates**

*From Aubrey Cyphert, Market Manager*

We love our loyal customers at Morningside Farmers Market! Some have been creating community with their neighbors and friends for 28 years. As Market Manger, I can count on one hand (maybe two hands) the number of folks who say they've been coming since 1995. I love

hand (maybe two hands) the number of folks who say they've been coming since 1995. I love seeing families visiting weekly to shop, eat breakfast, and relax together!

This year, in January, we started a new loyalty program. Members stamp a mini-heart on their loyalty card each time they stop by the information booth. Gifts are given out, such as \$5 tokens to spend with our producers and branded tote bags. In 10 months we've enrolled 323 loyal members!

We heard great news last week from AgSouth Farm Credit, that our market will receive \$5,000 in grant funds to expand our loyalty program to enroll new members and support our GA farmers. Funding will go towards mailed flyers, member gifts, and infrastructure for gathering: new picnic tables and a tent. We cannot wait to see our community grow in 2024!

Sign up for our loyalty program any Saturday, 8 to 11:30 am at the orange information tent. We'd love to greet you on Saturday when you stop by! (The market will be closed on November 25 for Thanksgiving.)

*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.*

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## 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](#)

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## Around Town







### **Virginia-Highland District's Winterfest**

#### **Jingle Jog**

December 9 from 9:00-10:00 am

2.2 mile fun run

Starting line is at the intersection of University Drive and Lanier Blvd

[TICKETS HERE](#)

Tis the season, runners! Jingle Jog is back! Join us for a merry 2.2-mile fun run that will take you from Morningside Village down Lanier Blvd to Virginia Highland and back.

Before you hit the pavement, join us at 8:30 am for a complimentary pre-run stretch session hosted by Pure Barre. Hurry, because ticket prices will rise to \$25 on Monday, December 4. And don't forget, kids under 12 can join the fun for free! Plus, with each ticket you get one free drink ticket to redeem at the Winterfest bars for either an alcoholic or a non-alcoholic beverage of choice! Get ready for a day of holiday cheer and unforgettable memories. See you at the starting line!

#### **Holiday Parade**

December 9, 10:00-11:00 am

Starts at the intersection of University Dr and Lanier Blvd

[REGISTRATION HERE](#)

Show off your VaHi holiday spirit by participating in our beloved Winterfest Holiday Parade! On December 9, we'll be warming up Lanier Blvd with holiday cheer from 10 to 11 am with a flurry of floats, festive music, and costumes galore. The parade concludes where the Gift Market begins, so that we can all enjoy some holly-jolly shopping.

so that we can all enjoy some merry jolly shopping.

- Families and Residents: \$50
- Businesses: \$100

More information and all details for Winterfest can be found [here](#).



**Atlanta Citizen Review Board**

The Atlanta Citizen Review Board (ACRB) was established by [City Ordinance](#) in 2007 ([Amended May 2010](#) and May 2016). The purpose of the legislation is to ensure that city departments directly responsible for public safety, particularly the Police Department and the Department of Corrections have the proper support of the government and its various agencies. It is designed to provide citizen oversight of misconduct accusations against sworn members of the police and corrections departments in the City of Atlanta. [Click here](#) for their Fall Newsletter and to learn more.



## THANK YOU TO OUR MLPA SPONSORS

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ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMEMBERS



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



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[Marc Tammes & Michel Lopez](#)

[Natural Body Spa](#)

[Selig Enterprises](#)

[StretchLab Morningside](#)

**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

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Please send questions, ideas and photos to [communications@mlpa.org](mailto:communications@mlpa.org).

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