



# MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK ASSOCIATION

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

January 2024

Hello, 2024! MLPA is excited to continue the progress following our centennial year. We hope you'll be a part of it! [Join/renew](#) now and email [volunteer@mlpa.org](mailto:volunteer@mlpa.org) to get involved.

## OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:

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*Last Thursday at D.B.A. Barbecue, we recognized neighbors who volunteered to make 2023 such an amazing year. Residents just like you, they helped us put on events, attend zoning cases, implement our Master Plan, serve as a street captain, work in our parks or assist with communications, security, traffic calming and membership. We appreciate them and their commitment to Morningside - this past year and every year!*

## President's Note

Heavy rains and frigid temps welcomed in the New Year accompanied by increased cases of Covid and the flu, so bundle up and protect yourself to ensure a safe winter season for all. Just like the movie Groundhog Day, we in Morningside Lenox Park are waking up again to an out-of-service bridge on Cheshire Bridge Road. The good news this time is that the damage to the bridge is fully repairable with closure only lasting 10 weeks (weather dependent) according to city officials who assure us that protecting vital city infrastructure is one of their top priorities after the second most unfortunate incident.

After years in the making, a tax-exempt nonprofit, 501C3 organization for Morningside Lenox Park is well on its way to being a reality. Thank you to the leadership of dedicated volunteers who have committed to serving on this new neighborhood board, which will focus on civic projects that will greatly enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood. Speaking of volunteers, our first annual volunteer appreciation night was hosted at D.B.A. Barbecue where more than 50 dedicated Morningside residents were in attendance (pictured above). 2024 offers many opportunities to participate as a volunteer in a wide range of MLPA sponsored events ([volunteer@mlpa.org](mailto:volunteer@mlpa.org)). As always, the success of our neighborhood is dependent upon volunteer participation as well as membership, so please make 2024 the year to [join](#).

Unfortunately, the original Amsterdam Walk public forum was a casualty of Covid due to the unexpected diagnosis of our consultant, Aaron Fortner, who had spent countless hours preparing to lead the discussion. A new date has been set in the very near future, so please be on the lookout for this very important announcement.

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





## Tokyo Valentino Appeal Hearing

On October 4, 2023, the City of Atlanta issued a formal zoning violation to Tokyo Valentino indicating that its operations are illegal. On October 18, the owners filed an appeal which will be reviewed on **February 8** (originally planned for January 4, 2024), in a public hearing by the Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA). The hearing will begin at 12:00pm in Council Chambers which is on the 2nd floor of City Hall (55 Trinity Street). This case is second on the docket. It is expected to be heard around 12:45pm. Although there is not an opportunity for the public to speak, presence can be impactful.

Please also consider [signing this petition](#). Adult businesses are allowed to operate, but there are parts of the City where zoning allows that. Among many factors, proximity to residential districts is a factor. The residential density in the Piedmont/Cheshire corridor has only increased in the last 10 years and continues to increase. This means that City planning should support this growth with compatible businesses. Businesses that are age restricted at all times, operate primarily during late hours and result in people wandering the streets and exposing themselves in early mornings - particularly with the elementary school bus passing by - are not compatible. A victory here will be a step in setting a new tone for this stretch of Cheshire Bridge and begin what will be a slow transition to a more positive, walkable, and property value promoting future.



## Problems With 911

This week, a neighbor fell and sustained a serious injury to his knee. He was lying on the ground outside his garage in frigid temperatures and muddy water. He called 911 from his cell phone and was on hold with Dekalb 911 for at least 20 minutes. His wife called 911 from her office and connected with Atlanta 911. Then, before she could object, she was transferred to Dekalb 911 and then back to Fulton County.

There are several problems with this scenario. First, both callers were immediately directed to Dekalb 911, even though they are residents of Atlanta. Their calls should have gone to Atlanta

Dekalb 911 even though they are residents of Atlanta. Their calls should have gone to Atlanta 911, and the Atlanta 911 operators should have sent assistance. Second, there are clear training needs for the 911 operators in the City and in Dekalb County to recognize that callers from persons living in Dekalb **in the City of Atlanta** get their emergency services from Atlanta. Third, there is an ongoing problem with select cell phone carrier services. Calls placed by some Morningside residents through these service providers are being sent to Dekalb. This is a problem for the cell phone services and individuals to fix. Individuals may need to turn on location services on their phone if not already preset by the company. The new 911 system in Atlanta requires that the cell phone companies turn on certain features in order to work correctly. The City of Atlanta and Dekalb County are aware of the problem and are working with these carriers to resolve the issue.

We are also in contact with Council Member Alex Wan to investigate these situations.

#### Action Steps:

- 1) If you call 911 and are on hold too long (say 20 minutes or more), or if you get directed to Dekalb, or if you get bounced around, call 404 658 6666. This is the Atlanta Police Department non-emergency number but it can get you to 911.
- 2) If you call 911 and are on hold too long, there are several other numbers you can try; see below. A neighbor recently reached out to the Morningside Security Patrol when another neighbor fell in her garage and was on hold, again with Dekalb 911, for too long. The Morningside Security Patrol showed up and contacted officers at the Virginia-Highland fire station who came to help.
- 3) If you are a resident of Atlanta and your 911 call goes to Dekalb, notify us at [security@mlpa.org](mailto:security@mlpa.org). Please provide your name, address, name of carrier, and phone number. Major Webster, Commander Zone 6, has specifically asked us to report these occurrences. She is working with Atlanta and Dekalb 911 to address this problem.

#### Key Phone Numbers If 911 Does Not Respond in a Timely Manner

Call 911 first; do not hang up and try again; this only puts you at the end of the line.

Atlanta Police Department non-emergency: 404 658 6666

Morningside Security Patrol Number: 404 308 2304 (if an officer is on duty, he will respond.)

Virginia-Highland Fire Station: 404 546 7000

Monroe Drive Fire Station: 404 853 3410



## Dogs Off Leash

### Do You Walk Your Dog Off Leash?

We continue to get complaints about dogs off leash in the parks in the Morningside Lenox Park neighborhood. All dogs must be on a leash when in City of Atlanta parks, trails and public spaces that are not designated dog parks. Families walking with small children in the parks encounter dogs off leash all too frequently. AND... responses from dog owners who are reminded to keep their dogs on leash are sometimes hostile. Not okay, folks! On some level, the 'friendliness' of your off-leash pet can be traumatizing for small people and is a selfish abuse of this common ground.

If you are a dog owner who likes to use our parks, please be part of the solution and keep your dog leashed. To date, we have not involved the Atlanta Police Department to address this problem but will consider doing so in the future. If you encounter an off-leash dog in our parks and feel unsafe or threatened, please take photos and call 911.

### [Laws for Paws](#)

The City of Atlanta offers over 402 parks and green spaces, and we are working to make sure that they can be enjoyed by everyone. Please know that there are LAWS for PAWS!

If you are caught with your dog off a leash, Atlanta Police Officers will cite you.

- All dogs must be on a leash when in City of Atlanta parks, trails and public spaces that are not designated dog parks.
- If you are caught with your dog off a leash, Atlanta Police Officers will cite you.
- Persons with pets must clean up after the pet.
- Owners are responsible for the actions of their dogs. Each dog must be kept within sight of her/his owner and under voice control.
- Please take advantage of our wonderful city dog parks.



### Morningside Supper Club

The Morningside Supper Club is kicking off 2024 with dinner **this Thursday, January 18** at Bangkok Thai in the Ansley Square Shopping Center (1492 Piedmont Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30309) at 6:30pm. If interested in joining, please RSVP by email to [Sarah Chatel](mailto:sarah.chatel@mlpa.org).

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### Parks





## Friends of Sidney Marcus Park

### Food Drive

We were a bit down in our food collections at our last Food Drive in November. We had awful weather on Friday, but thanks to your spirit of giving and volunteerism, we still managed to deliver 325 pounds of food and personal hygiene products. Thank you all.

But we can do better. Just in time for Valentine's Day, our next food drive will be:

- **Friday, February 9, from 9:00 - 11:00am and**
- **Saturday, February 10, from 9:00 - 11:00am**

As expected, our collection team will be at the park entrance on Cumberland to make it super easy for you to donate. Please keep an eye out for specials and deals at the grocery store and start building your donation bag now.

We continue to work with our terrific partner and food pantry, [intowncares.org](http://intowncares.org), to make sure the items you donate make it to those in need.

We hope to see you in February and please check out [intowncares.org](http://intowncares.org) for the latest on what is most needed.



## Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson (HTDJ) Parks

### Love Your Park at Herbert Taylor in Morningside

Atlanta Department of Parks & Recreation is kicking off a city-wide event for the month of February, Love Your Park. There are 12 sites across the city that have been chosen for this inaugural event and Herbert Taylor is one of them! We hope to build engagement across our community by working in the park on **Saturday, February 10, 9:00am-12:00pm**. Our city council representative, Alex Wan, is planning to join us so come out and meet your neighbors. Contact Friends of Herbert Taylor Park, [friendsofhtdj@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhtdj@gmail.com) for details.

### Creek Bank Restoration

Upstream development and intensifying storms are causing erosion along both Rock & South Fork Peachtree Creek. The Friends of HTDJ will experiment with live stakes to slow the velocity of the creeks—our downstream friends at Zonolite Park have shared their experience and we will benefit from their tests.

David Long, Georgia Forestry Commission, is coming to help us with the project. We will place live stakes of black willow and elderberry along our creeks in hopes they will take root and slow the flow. Bring your boots or waders to keep your feet dry.

Join us on **Wednesday, January 24 from 10:00am - Noon**.

We'll meet at the kiosk (1343 Pasadena Av., NE) for introductions and instructions before setting out to restore the park. Bring water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and wear layers for changing weather. If you have a favorite garden tool or pair of gloves, bring them, but we'll have plenty you can borrow. Weed wrenches will be awaiting you—come learn how addictive uprooting invasive species can be.





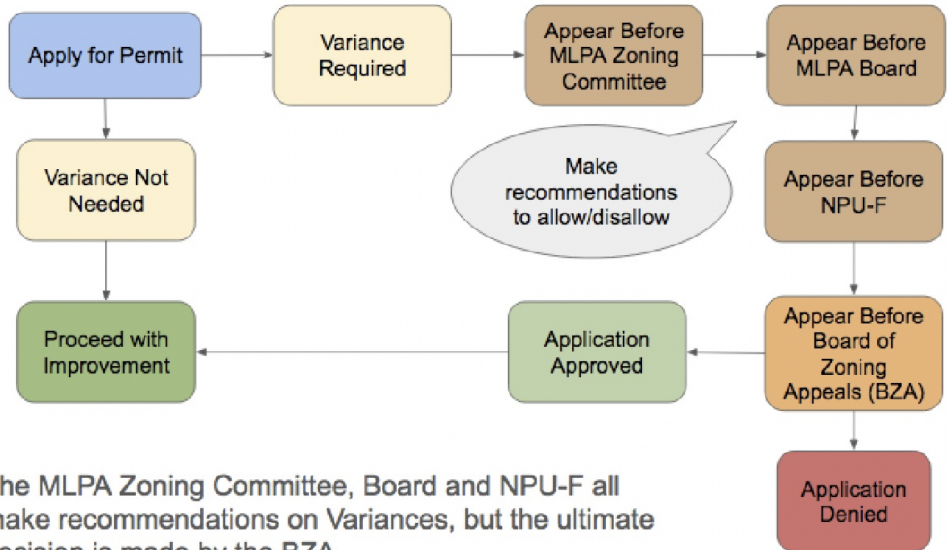


### Meet the Board: Kristen Pollock

We welcome Kristen Pollock back to the MLPA Board as our new Membership Chair this year! Kristen is a longtime Morningside-Lenox Park neighbor. She lives on Lanier Boulevard with her husband, Lee, and two children, both currently at Midtown High School. Kristen is a Realtor with Engel & Völkers Atlanta, in the heart of Morningside Village. She loves helping neighborhood families navigate the important milestones of home sales or new home purchases.

Kristen has previously served on the MLPA board as Education Chair and Social Media Chair and is excited to return to this new role to increase awareness of MLPA and grow our neighborhood’s member base. She is also a proud sponsor of Morningside Elementary, where both of her children went to school, and Virginia Highland Elementary – our neighborhood’s newest school.

When not working or volunteering, Kristen loves to travel, cook, and read. You’ll often see her walking her dog, Rey, in the neighborhood.



## Zoning

Three zoning cases were heard this month by the MLPA Zoning Committee and Board.

- **[V-23-148 1687 North Pelham](#)**
  - MLPA Recommendation for Approval
- **[V-23-198 877 Berkshire Rd.](#)**
  - MLPA Recommendation for Approval
- **[V-23-208 837 Kings Ct](#)**
  - MLPA 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).

**CONTACT ATL311**

**HOW TO SUBMIT A REQUEST:**

**CALL 311 OR (404-546-0311)**  
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 7:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M.

**FAX 404-221-9518**

**EMAIL [ATL311@ATLANTAGA.GOV](mailto:ATL311@ATLANTAGA.GOV)**

**VISIT [ATL311.COM](http://ATL311.COM)**

**DOWNLOAD THE ATL311 APP**

**MESSAGE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**  
**@ATL311**

## ATL311 Task Force

Help us help you! We are creating an MLPA ATL311 Task Force to monitor infrastructure issues in our neighborhood. Thanks to our friends in Piedmont Heights for sharing their expertise!

Public Right-of-Way Issues to Report

- Road repaving and restriping, potholes, and sinkholes.
- Downed streetlights, street signs, and traffic lights.
- Damaged water drains, drain covers, and fire hydrants.
- Graffiti on bridges, road signs, and abandoned buildings.
- Overflowing trash and dumping.
- Broken/dangerous sidewalks and street obstructions.

What to Include in Your Report:

- Photo of issue
- Exact location: address, intersection or photo of pin on the map
- Description of the issue and impact.

Two Ways to Report:

1. Submit an issue directly to ATL311, then [email us](#) the information and case number.
2. [Email us](#) the issue and we'll report it.



## Morningside Farmers' Market Special Updates

We are so lucky to start another year with a neighborhood farmers' market. Thanks to our whole [Morningside Farmers' Market](#) community that works hard to bring us delicious food and handmade items every Saturday!

Our farmers often get up at 3:00 - 4:00am to load up vans and drive to market. They seed, water, and harvest crops in the heat of summer and cold of winter. They tend animals and make sure they are raised in a humane environment. What's in season? Arugula, beets, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cilantro, collards, dill, fennel, kale, lettuce, microgreens, radish, scallions, spinach, sweet potatoes, turnips and more!

Our makers and chefs work hard to use ingredients from local and organic sources to create the healthiest products for your family and home. Be sure to visit often in 2024!

*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



### **Ansley Mall's bridge to Atlanta BeltLine suddenly exists**

Just don't try to access the new bridge yet. Selig reps tell Urbanize Atlanta it won't be open to the public until "later in 2024." Addition of restaurant spaces facing new Northeast Trail segment also planned. [Click here to read the entire article from Urbanize Atlanta.](#)

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**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](mailto:communications@mlpa.org).

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