



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

February 2024

Already given up on (or never even attempted) your New Year's resolutions? Here's an easy one! [Join/renew](#) now and email volunteer@mlpa.org to get involved.

OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:

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President's Note

The shortest month of the year is packed: Valentine's Day, Black History Month, Super Bowl Sunday to name a few highlights. Oh wait, speaking of packed, how about Lenox Rd, N. Morningside Dr and Highland Ave? But if all goes according to plan, the traffic nightmare should be over once the bridge on Cheshire Bridge Rd reopens after repairs are completed, around the first of April. City officials assure us that the underlying causes of these incidents are being seriously addressed with increased social services, more patrol presence and regular maintenance oversight.

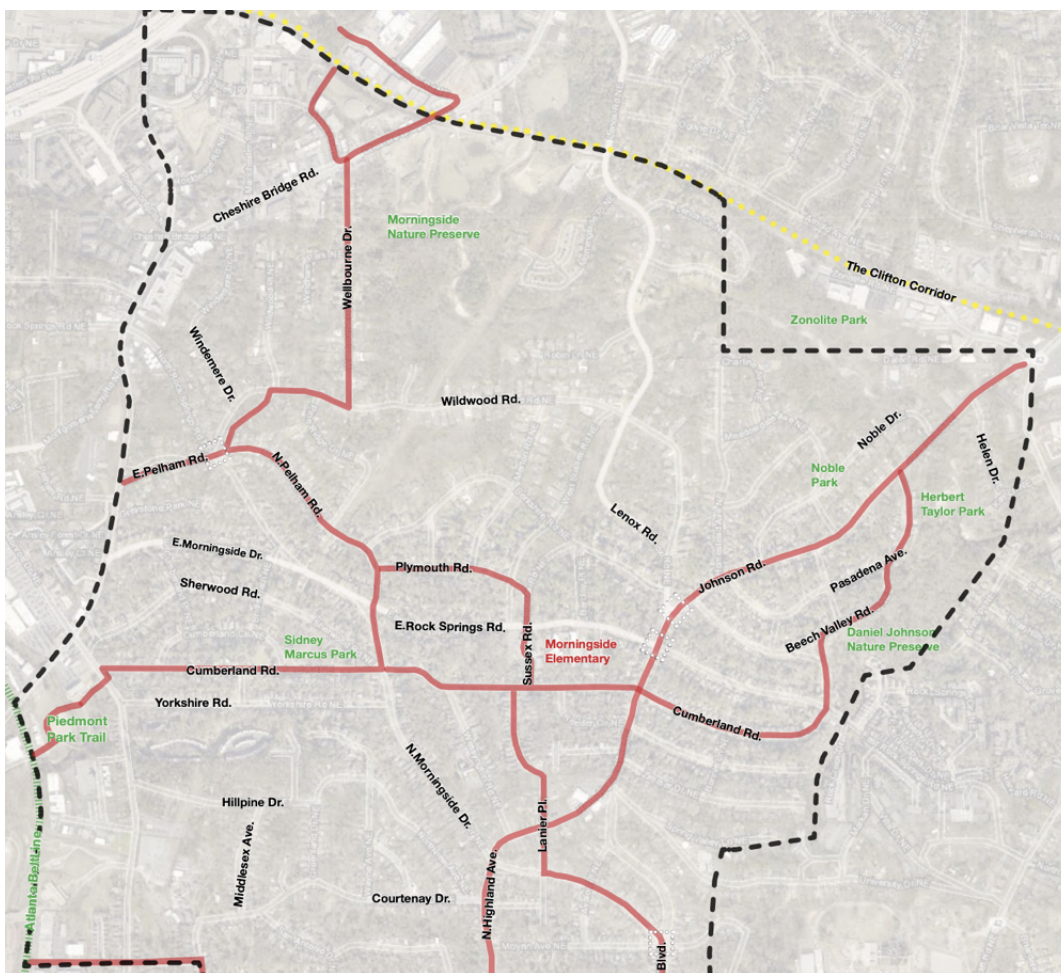
While crime is down overall in the city, a slight uptick in car break-ins serves as a reminder by police to make sure nothing of value is left in your car, especially guns! [Connect Atlanta](#) remains a valuable tool to link your home security camera to the citywide network. APD is hosting [an event](#) at Greenbriar Mall sponsored by Hyundai to help fix issues that are making car thefts

easier. Following some serious issues with 911 calls from cell phones in the DeKalb County portion of our neighborhood, we have a board member who is focused on helping resolve this problem.

A big thank you to all the Morningside and Virginia-Highland residents who attended the joint neighborhood meeting regarding the Amsterdam Walk project. We had amazing feedback and a team is working diligently on crafting a proposal to the developer addressing the concerns and recommendations highlighted at that meeting and the monthly MLPA board meeting. The results of this work will be shared with the entire neighborhood as soon as a concrete plan is available.

MLPA is finalizing our 2024 budget and events calendar. We look to membership and sponsorships when developing our vision for each year and rely on community engagement and support to continue working to make Morningside-Lenox Park the best place to live, work and play. With so many pressing issues and challenges facing our neighborhood, NOW is the time we need you more than ever. Our goal for this year is to grow our membership by 10% as we have remained stalled at around 28% of the households for a few years now. In honor of the start of our SECOND 100 years, let's make this one a year to remember!

Dr. Donald Campbell, president@mlpa.org





MLPAWay Volunteers Needed

Want to make our neighborhood more biking- and walking-friendly? Join the effort to build out the MLPWay bike / pedestrian network! MLPWay (part of the MLPA Master Plan) is a planned greenway route through Morningside-Lenox Park that incorporates traffic calming and connects to adjacent neighborhoods and the BeltLine. Email [Andrew Gorang](mailto:Andrew.Gorang@mlpa.org) for more information.



Illegal Parking and Cars Running Flashing Red Lights

Two traffic-related concerns have been reported to the MLPA:

First, several residents on Wellbourne have reached out regarding cars running the flashing red light at the intersection with Cheshire Bridge. It's like drivers do not understand that you must come to a full stop at a flashing red light; it's the law! Perhaps because Cheshire Bridge is a busy through street, they think they do not need to stop. To address this problem, we have reached out to Alex Wan's office to request that the flashing red light be changed back to a full-working stop light. We have also alerted the police in Zones 2 and 6 (Cheshire Bridge is the border for the Zones) to patrol the area and watch for this problem. In the meantime, be very careful out there.

Second, cars are parking too close to the intersection of E Sussex and Cumberland. As a result, it is very difficult for the school bus drivers to make turns there. Please note, it is against the law to park within 30 feet of a stop sign. To address this ongoing challenge, we have asked the MLPA Master Plan Implementation Committee to consider a request that the City install signage that discourages parking near the intersection.



Tokyo Valentino Appeal Hearing Follow Up

Last week, the Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA) denied Tokyo Valentino's appeal of the City's formal zoning violation issuance, indicating that its operations are illegal. Thank you to Morningside resident Ryan Howard and all neighbors who signed the petition, which was shared with the BZA. Although it's possible that Tokyo Valentino will appeal again and the road ahead could be long, this denial is a positive step forward in setting precedent for those establishments that were grandfathered into current zoning but are not abiding by the ordinance. The MLPA is also grateful to City Council Member Alex Wan for his continued guidance and State Representative Stacey Evans, who will lead counsel for the City.



Amsterdam Walk Follow Up

We appreciate all community members from Morningside-Lenox Park and Virginia-Highland who attended our joint neighborhood meeting to learn about and discuss Portman Holdings' redevelopment plans for Amsterdam Walk. Led by Aaron Fortner from Canvas Planning Group on January 31, you can find his presentation [here](#) and/or watch a recording of the meeting [here](#) (please note that the meeting starts around the 30-minute mark).

At our Monthly Board Meeting this week on February 12, we had another robust conversation with neighbors. Our Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) will meet with Aaron and Virginia-Highland representatives to engage on the project. Responses to the feedback form previously sent in our communications were shared with Aaron, as well.

Although a Senior Project Manager from Atlanta BeltLine attended on Monday, she was not available for the Amsterdam Walk discussion which took place later in the meeting. As such, neighbors can attend upcoming public Northside Study Groups to ask questions about the Northeast Trail in our Subarea 6. [Click here](#) to register for the virtual Northwest Public Study Group meeting on February 22 (6:00-8:00pm) or [click here](#) to register for the Westside Public Study Group on February 26 (6:30-8:00pm). You can also reach out directly to Brittany Brewster, Community Engagement Director, at bbrewster@atlbelpline.org or 404-477-3645.

Parks



**ATL
PARKS
& REC**

City of Atlanta Department of Parks And Recreation
wants *YOUR* feedback on the
Pickleball Pilot Program
to help us plan next stages of the rollout. Love it?
Hate it? Let us know by completing our survey
accessible through the QR code below.

Pickleball Pilot Survey

The City of Atlanta's Department of Parks & Recreation is seeking feedback on the Pickleball Pilot Program that is currently underway. More information on the pilot is [here](#).

We'd love to get input from Atlantans on what they like, what they don't, and what could be done differently to enhance pickleball offerings and access in the city. To that end, we've put together a survey where people can share their thoughts and feedback via [this link](#).

The survey will close on March 1.



Trees Atlanta 4-0-Forest in Morningside

Conserve the 4-0-Forest! This project in Morningside Nature Preserve is part of Trees Atlanta [4-0-Forest celebration](#). We're working in greenspaces in Atlanta and Decatur to celebrate our community partners and the greenspaces we love! Morningside Nature preserve is one of our longest-standing forest restoration partnerships. With the help of Friends of Morningside Nature Preserve and the Morningside-Lenox Place Association, Trees Atlanta has been working to restore this beautiful greenspace for almost 20 year. Your work will improve habitat for humans who use the greenspace for recreation and wildlife that call it home. Activities include hand-pulling and cutting invasive plants such as Chinese privet 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 HERE](#)





Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson (HTDJ) Parks

January Sets Record Number of Volunteers

On Monday, January 15, 2024, our partnerships with Hands on Atlanta and Weed Wrangle really paid off as 96 volunteers came out to work on what turned out to be the perfect January workday.

Hands on Atlanta recruited groups from Rollins, Southern Company, Buckhead Hotels, SAP, Georgia Tech, and Avanos, along with a number of families. The day was also the second annual Weed Wrangle in Herbert Taylor Park and was a huge success. We had great swag for our volunteers including Weed Wrangle gloves, lip balm, and information on invasive species removal. Weed Wrangle's organizers helped bring out our friends from Georgia Native Plant Society and local garden clubs. All told, we had 96 volunteers working on Monday!

The weekend was a big win for the trees, plants, and wildlife in the park along with its visitors. Thanks to all for the work—we hope to see you again soon.



Thanks COA Parks Staff

Winter's long nights seem to bring out the dumps—literally. Right after the holidays we noticed a sectional sofa in the park on “Trill Hill”. Alert Friends of HTDJ and neighbors called City of Atlanta Parks Customer Service to arrange removal and the installation of new signage.

The COA team was able to remove the sofa and came out shortly after to install new “No Dumping” signs along Beech Valley Road. We appreciate the work of the maintenance team pictured in the center, l-r, Andre Scott, Tristan Woods, and Lakunta Jenkins.



Live Staking Project Along Rock Creek

Tuesday, January, 24 a group set out in the drizzle to wade into Rock Creek and install 100 black willow stakes to slow the flow and help with erosion. Georgia Forestry Commission Community Forester, David Long, led the project, showing volunteers where and how to dig holes and position the stakes.

Live staking uses dormant branches from trees that should quickly root in moist areas and stabilize slopes. As Long reminded us, “It’s a numbers game.” In other words, you put in a lot of stakes in hopes that some will take root and grow. Volunteers will keep an eye out to see how this first installment does. Thanks to our creek neighbors at Zonolite Park for lending us rubber boots, waders, and mallets to aid in the project.

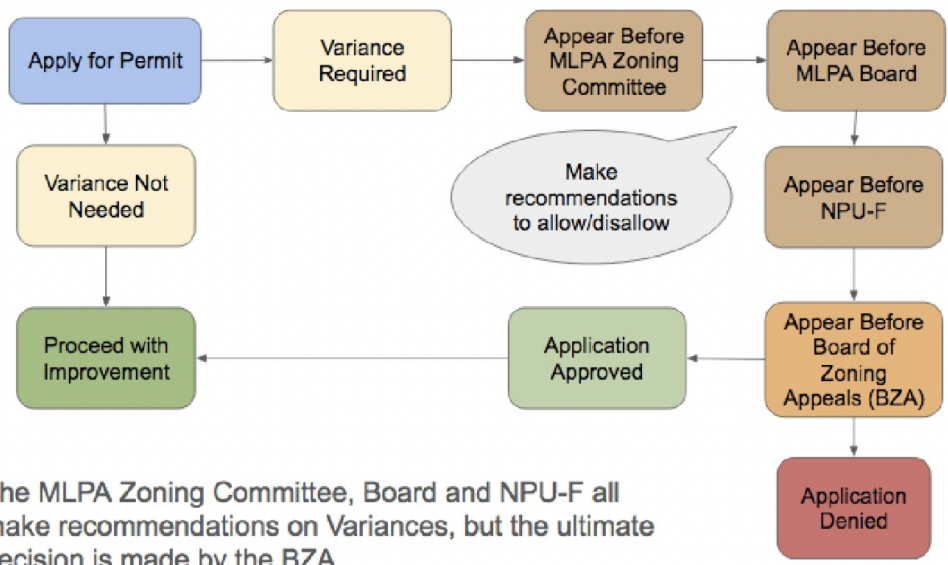




Save the Dates:

- Tuesday, Feb. 20, 10 AM - NOON, Weekday Restoration
- Monday, March 4, 2024, 7:00 PM, Friends of HTDJ Meeting
- Saturday, March 9, 9 AM - NOON, Friends of Herbert Taylor Park & DJ Park

Email friendsofhtdj@gmail.com for more information.



Zoning

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

- [V-24-003](#) 1438 N Morningside
 - Zoning Committee Recommendation for Approval
 - MLPA Board Recommendation for Approval
- [V-24-004](#) 1400 Wessynton
 - Zoning Committee Recommendation for Approval
 - MLPA Board Recommendation for Approval
- [V-24-010](#) 1500 N. Highland
 - Zoning Committee Recommendation for Approval
 - MLPA Board Recommendation for Deferral

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.



Updates From City Council Member Alex Wan

If you are not already receiving monthly newsletters and special announcements from City Council Member Alex Wan, [sign up here](#).

In the February issue:

- Cheshire Bridge Update
- Monroe Complete Streets
- Amsterdam Walk
- Sharon Lester Tennis Center Grand Opening
- Love Your Park at Herbert Taylor Park

To read this month's newsletter and those from previous months, [click here](#).





Atlanta Public Schools Updates

Superintendent Search

- Now that the application deadline has passed, the Board will begin to review applications to find the next District leader.

Pre-K Lottery Open

- Looking to jumpstart your child's educational journey? The Pre-K lottery application window for the **2024-2025** school year opens on **February 1st at 9 a.m. through March 1st**. The lottery drawing will take place on **March 15th**. For more information on the application process, eligibility, and required documents, visit the [APS Early Learning](#) website.

Kindergarten (+ Future Student) Round-Up

- Sign up for school tours at Morningside Elementary [here](#).
- Sign up for school tours at Virginia-Highland Elementary [here](#).
- Not sure which school you're zoned to attend? [Click here](#).

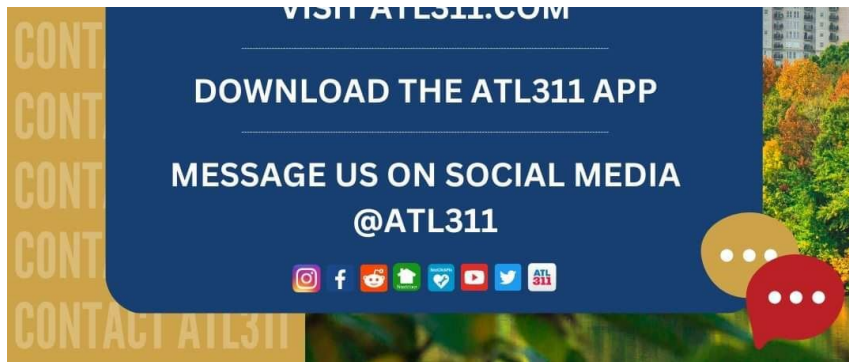
Charter Schools Applications

- The deadline for the 2024-25 school year is **February 29, 2024** and the application is [here](#).

District 3 APS Board Member Ken Zeff

- Get the latest updates by [signing up](#) for his newsletter!
- Don't hesitate to reach out: kenneth.zeff@apsk12.org





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

[Morningside Farmers' Market](#) (MFM) was awarded \$5K from [AgSouth Farm Credit](#) through the [Growing Our Communities Grant Program](#) to launch the next phase of our customer loyalty program. The program was seeded as a pilot in spring 2023 with outreach, loyalty cards and incentives and successfully recruited 335 existing and new customers to the program. In the next year, MFM will expand the program to build community, recruit new customers and increase sales for farmers.

What this means for you:

- New picnic tables to eat breakfast at with family and friends,
- A tent to gather under on those rainy market days,
- Rewards tokens to spend at our farmers' booths.

Sign up at the orange information booth, if you're not already a member!

Recognizing our most loyal members of 2023:

Adrienne Bruce, Ahmed Moinuddin, Alex Edquist, Amy Rupert Secol and Brandon Peterson, Becky Stroebel, Bill and Sanda Means, Bhatia Family, Gayle McMahon, Janet Walley, Jessica and Doug Lavandier-Young, Kim Sun and Melanie Uhde, Nancy Cunningham, Stephanie Grossman, Veronika Zarnitsyna

Congratulate these Morningside members on completing a whole card (20 stamps) when you see them!

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.





Don't forget to stamp your card at the information booth 😊!

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

BSA Scouting Pine Straw Fundraiser

Scout Troop 455 in Atlanta, GA

Haygood United Methodist Church

1015 E. Rock Springs NE, Atlanta, GA 30306



Premium Long Leaf Pine Straw - Full Sized bales

Saturday, March 16th

10 BALES MINIMUM PER ADDRESS TO GUARANTEE DELIVERY OF YOUR PREPAID ORDER

MUST BE RECEIVED BY Friday, March 8th (Get your order in early as supply is limited)

Support Boy Scouts Troop 455

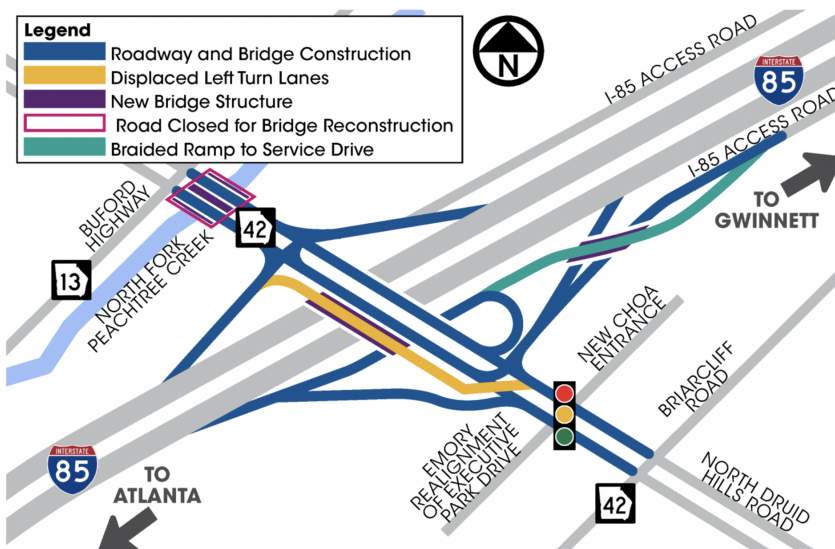
Pine Straw Sale! Boy Scouts Troop 455 chartered out of Haygood United Methodist Church is sponsoring a Pine Straw Fundraiser. This funds scout activities and helps purchase any required gear that may be needed.

They are selling full-sized bales of premium long leaf pine straw (the good stuff!) for Delivery to your home or Pick Up at Haygood UM church on Sat. March 16 for \$6.00 per bale.

You must purchase a minimum of 10 bales for Delivery. Delivery is free if you purchase 30 or more bales. Submit your order by March 8.

For more information and to submit an order, please go to <http://troop-455.square.site>.

Contact fundraising@troop455.net with any questions. THANK YOU!



GDOT: North Druid Hills Road bridge project ramping up, 90 day closure planned

By Dan Wisenhunt for Decaturish

The Georgia Department of Transportation says there are major changes in store for the North Druid Hills Road bridge that crosses North Fork Peachtree Creek.

GDOT contractors will begin structure work at the site the week of Feb. 5.

“Drivers can expect nightly construction lane closures next month, while the contractor, North Tarrant Infrastructure, completes required activities ahead of a planned 90-day full bridge closure,” a press release from GDOT says.

The bridge was built in 1962 and needs to be reconstructed, GDOT says. The roadway is between Buford Highway and West Druid Hills Drive.

“During the three-month period, motorists will utilize the provided five-mile detour route,” the press release from GDOT says. “Drivers will still have open access from the Interstate 85 interchange (Exit 89) and properties adjacent to the bridge work zone during this time.”

The bridge project is part of a larger project to upgrade Interstate 85 at the North Druid Hills Road interchange.

“The new bridge structure will be wider and safer for increasing traffic levels in the area, as well as benefit pedestrians with larger sidewalks and ADA-compliant ramps at crosswalks,” the press release from GDOT says. “The posted detour route will follow I-85 northbound to Exit 91, SR 155/Clairmont Road, and then turn onto SR 13/Buford Highway. This detour is approximately five miles long.”

Drivers should expect delays and be careful while traveling through the work zones, GDOT says. For more project information, click [here](#) and [here](#).



Upcoming State Representative Town Halls

- Becky Evans and El-Mahdi Holly will host a legislative town hall meeting and listening session on **Saturday, February 24, 2024, from 9 – 11 a.m.**, at the First Baptist Church Gresham in Atlanta. Breakfast will be served from 9 – 9:30 a.m. The town hall meeting and listening session will follow breakfast from 9:30 – 11 a.m. MARTA will be a guest presenter. Please submit questions for Reps. Evans and Holly and RSVP for the event [here](#). A livestream will be offered for those unable to attend in person. Sign up [here](#) to register for the livestream.
- Rep Saira Draper is having a town hall at Callanwolde on **March 6** with Rep Evans, Council Member Wan and School Board Member Zeff. You can register for that [here](#).
- Rep Stacey Evans and State Sen. Sonya Halpern will host a virtual town hall meeting on **March 7** at 7:00pm. Register for the meeting [here](#) and you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting. You can also sign up for newsletter updates [here](#).



Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs and ATL-DOT

The City of Atlanta ATL-DOT and the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) is seeking a team to submit qualifications to paint concrete barriers which will be installed along 10th Street & Piedmont Park between a bike lane and general traffic in Midtown Atlanta.

- **WHAT:** Community engaged mural project, designing, planning, promoting, hosting, teaching, and executing multiple paint days to install a mural on 300

concrete barriers (18”h x 9’10 1/8”w) totaling 9500 sq. ft.

- **WHEN:** Qualification packets due by **5PM EST, Thursday, March 14th**
- **BUDGET:** Up to **\$98,000.00**

QUESTIONS? Please email Emily Fisher at EMFisher@AtlantaGA.gov.

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:

- [Ken Zeff](#), APS Board of Education, District 3
- [Council Member Alex Wan](#), 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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