



# MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK ASSOCIATION

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

March 2024

Morningside has been looking beautiful recently with blooming daffodils, tulip trees, and even cherry. As we welcome Spring, please take a moment to consider all this area means to you and [join/renew](#) now. Even better, email [volunteer@mlpa.org](mailto:volunteer@mlpa.org) to get involved, too!

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## President's Note

March madness is indeed upon us! Another month passes and still no resolution for the Cheshire Bridge Road detour and the LaVista Road closure. Had it not been for observant citizens bringing the proposed closure of Lenox Road at the railroad tracks to the attention of Councilman Wan, and his immediate action, we would have seen traffic come to a virtual stand still. I hope next month's newsletter will bring positive news and resolution to this ongoing safety issue plaguing our neighborhood.

Congratulations to the Midtown High School girls 5A basketball team who made it to the state finals for the first time ever! Our school board representative Ken Zeff shared more news, including the board's decision for no redistricting for Midtown High in the next few years.

As the weather gets warmer and the daylight stretches into the evening, it's time once again for the [Hillside Craft Crawl](#) on Saturday May 11, from 11am to 4pm at their campus on Courtenay Drive.

The glitch in the 911 calls reported last month was quickly solved by board member Michael Parkerson, so future emergency calls with any cell phone carrier will get routed to the proper address. Two of the three new license plate reading cameras have been installed and are fully operational.

The Amsterdam Walk committee has made progress and plans to present preliminary recommendations to the developer in the coming weeks. Mike Greene with Portman Holdings will be hosting open question evenings from 5pm to 7pm at Red Light Cafe on March 27, April 10, April 17 and April 24. There will be no presentation; this will be an opportunity to ask questions and show support or opposition to the proposed rezoning and redevelopment.

Morningside-Lenox Park is in full bloom in the coming weeks so get out there and enjoy this beautiful time of year!!

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



### Amsterdam Walk Follow Up

At this month's MLPA board meeting, our Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) shared a presentation which included a project summary, past feedback opportunities and high-level responses to the most frequently asked questions regarding traffic, density and environmental impacts. There was also more discussion with neighbors and a timeline for next steps (dates are

impacts. There was also more discussion with neighbors and a timeline for next steps (dates are subject to change). You can view the presentation [here](#).

As mentioned above in the President's Note, Mike Greene - Senior Vice President of Development at Portman Holdings - will host a series of open discussion hours at Red Light Cafe on the following Wednesdays from 5pm-7pm. Please take advantage of these additional opportunities to ask questions, file objections, offer ideas, etc. Mike will have all materials with him, if needed for explanations on plan details.

- March 27
- April 10
- April 17
- April 24

Many thanks again to [Red Light Cafe](#) for continuing to host these neighborhood discussions! Red Light Cafe is located at 553-1 Amsterdam Avenue.



### **Beltline Northeast Trail Update**

On March 4, Atlanta BeltLine hosted a **Northeast Study Group**. Attendees learned about the construction of Northeast Trail - Segment 1 and the latest design updates for Northeast Trail - Segment 3. Atlanta BeltLine also shared construction updates on the Ponce de Leon Avenue streetscapes project between Boulevard and Freedom Parkway and shared details on the anticipated impact construction will have on the intersection of 10th Street and Monroe Drive.

Northeast Trail – Segment 1 is 0.9-miles in length and runs from the end of the current Eastside Trail at Monroe Drive to Westminster Drive. Northeast Trail – Segment 3 will be 2.4 miles of

mainline trail from Buford Highway to Peachtree Hills with connections to MARTA Lindbergh Station.

To view the presentation, [click here](#).

To watch the recording, [click here](#).

Brittany Brewster, Community Engagement Manager for Atlanta BeltLine, said that they will host meetings for the neighborhood regarding the **Subarea 6 Master Plan** updates in upcoming months. Stay tuned!



## Comprehensive Development Plan Community Open House

[Plan A, Atlanta's Comprehensive Development Plan \(CDP\)](#), is our opportunity to help Atlanta grow stronger! It is a living, evolving citywide plan updated with the aspirations of residents every five years in the spirit of realizing a city for all.

This progress is only possible with your participation -- input and feedback on the challenges in our communities, and the changes and improvements needed to help our neighborhoods thrive - - and 'The Atlanta City Design', a vision adopted into the City Charter in 2017 for shaping the City of Atlanta into the best version of itself by manifesting Dr. King's concept of the Beloved Community.

Your valuable input will help write the vision for an Atlanta you want to live, work, and play in. We welcome your input on topics including affordable housing, transportation, zoning, growth, preservation, and others at any time during the planning process.

An in-person meeting for residents to share their vision for Atlanta's future and ideas to update Plan A will be held for the NPU in our neighborhood:

**April 15, 2024 4:00pm – 7:30pm**

**Morningside Presbyterian Church**  
**1411 N Morningside Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30306**

[RSVP HERE](#)

All additional information for Plan A can be found on the Department of City Planning's [website here](#).



## **Morningside Impacted by Legislative Redistricting**

By Saira Draper

*Saira Draper is an attorney, voting rights expert, and the State Representative for Georgia House District 90.*

Late last year, a federal judge found Georgia had violated the federal Voting Rights Act and ordered the Georgia Legislature to redraw its state house, senate, and congressional lines.

This resulted in significant changes to the political maps, including changes for the DeKalb County residents of Morningside-Lenox Park. Neighbors in the Johnson Estates Voting Precinct – those to the east of Homestead Road – will be moved into House District 90 in 2025, the district I currently represent.

Welcome to [House District 90](#)

Welcome to [House District 90](#).

The rest of Morningside-Lenox Park will continue in House District 57, represented by my friend and colleague Rep. Stacey Evans.

As for the senate districts, there were no major changes to the boundaries within Morningside, however, the Legislature opted to renumber one district; the district represented by Elena Parent was changed from Senate District 42 to Senate District 44. But even that minor change may not hold as there is legislation pending to renumber six Senate districts, including restoring the designation of Senator Parent's district to Senate District 42.

Your voice in Washington continues to be Congresswoman Nikema Williams of the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

If you have any questions about the new maps, I am happy to help you. The best way to get in touch is through the contact me page on [my website](#).

To stay up to date with my work in the legislature, [please sign up for my newsletter, attend a town hall, or follow me on social media](#).

It's an honor to serve the residents of House District 90.



## Dealing With Urban Coyotes

There have been a lot of coyote sightings around the neighborhood. Please be reminded of the following, from [Summit Wildlife Control](#):

Urban coyotes are present in practically every city across the United States. For homeowners and residents of urban areas, it is essential to learn about coyote behavior and how to deal with coyotes in an urban setting. Only when we understand the “do’s and don’ts” of dealing with urban coyotes will we be able to coexist in relative peace.

**Never Run Away From a Coyote!** Turning your back and running from a coyote will trigger his predatory instincts. He may see you as prey, pursue, and attack.

**Don't Feed An Urban Coyote.** In most recorded attacks by coyote on humans, it was found that the coyote was being fed by people. This, as with feeding other wildlife species, will cause the coyote to lose his natural fear of humans.

**Don't Attempt to Save Your Dog or Cat.** If your dog or cat is attacked by a coyote, do not try to jump into the fight and save your pet. The coyote may consider you a competitor for the “food” and turn his aggression on you. In addition, urban coyotes do often hunt in loose groups. One coyote attacking you can very easily turn into a group of them attacking you.

**Don't Treat Coyotes as a Danger.** They are a wild animal, as with any other wild animal. Learn to respect them, and teach them to respect your property boundaries with [behavioral modification](#) techniques. Coyotes will—under normal circumstances—keep their distance if you keep yours.

**Do Carry Pepper Spray or an Airhorn When Walking Your Dog in Wooded Areas.** If a coyote decides your small dog is on the menu, both pepper spray and a loud noisemaker (such as an airhorn) are effective at changing its mind. If you carry a walking stick, wave it aggressively while yelling at the coyote. Do not turn your back on the animal to walk away. Force the coyote to retreat, instead. Once it does, leave the area with your dog immediately.

**Do Haze A Coyote On Your Property.** The simplest method of hazing a coyote involves being loud and appearing large. Yell “GO AWAY COYOTE!” as you raise your arms above your head and wave them aggressively. Take steps towards the coyote if necessary, but don't get so close as to corner the animal. Repeat this every time the coyote enters your property and it will help to modify its behavior. Eventually, it will learn that your property is a “no go” area.

**Do Give A Coyote Space To Leave.** When you find yourself in a starring contest with a coyote, do not take any actions that make the coyote feel cornered. This may cause the animal to feel forced to attack. Give it all the room it needs to leave the area.

Finally, keep in mind that if you walk up to and startle a coyote, and it turns aggressive, you may have just walked up to a coyote with its young nearby. When walking through parks and nature preserves stick to the marked trails, and make your presence known as you walk.

Although hazing can teach coyotes to keep their distance, there are situations when the best choice is to do nothing. If a coyote is off in the distance, and not bothering you or your pets, leave it be. Just appreciate it as part of nature. The coyote is a natural and resilient survivor, and odds are it is here to stay. We need to adapt to their presence, not the other way around.

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## Events





**New Parent Brunch**

If you're expecting or have a baby under 18 months, join MLPA on Saturday, April 13 at 10:30am at [Whiskey Bird](#) for this community building brunch for new parents in the neighborhood!

Cohorts in years past have continued to keep in touch! They have shared everything from baby milestone updates to hand-me-downs to preschool recommendations.

Come ready to relax! No babies or children, please.

LGBTQ+ friendly. Second- and third- (and more-) time parents also welcome to attend.

Attire is snappy-casual; "at least I made it out of the house."

Questions? Reach out to [Halley Blythe](#).

Register Here







## Pickleball Round Robin

After two successful Battle of the Paddle pickleball tournaments, MLPA is switching it up this year with a more casual neighborhood Round Robin. Pickleball players, block off the afternoon of **Sunday, April 21** in your calendars. More details to follow! Questions? Contact [Gigi Schwartz](#).



## Concerts in the Park

Join the MLPA for another series of live music, food trucks, treats and fun with neighbors in one of our neighborhood's great parks. Please note that due to upcoming renovations at Sidney Marcus Park, the usual spot, this year's concerts will be hosted in **Sunken Garden Park** (1000 E. Rock Springs Rd). Save the dates for the following Fridays: **May 17, August 30** and **September 20**. Stay tuned for more details!



## Craft Crawl at Hillside

[Craft Crawl at Hillside](#) is back! On **Saturday May 11** from 11am-4pm, crafters, neighbors and supporters are invited to shop the hand-made craft market on Hillside's beautiful campus at 690 Courtenay Dr - right here in Morningside!

The event is FREE to attend and will also feature a family photobooth, DIY craft projects for the family, live music and more. Plan to stop by with your family to support Hillside's mental health services for children!

Know any crafters or sponsors who want to get involved? Reach out to [gmarvin@hside.org](mailto:gmarvin@hside.org) for more information.

## Parks



## Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Parks Receive Grant from Park Pride

## Funding to Continue Improvements to Trails and Habitat

Atlanta, GA – February 29, 2024 – [Park Pride](#) recently announced that Friends of Herbert Taylor Park & Daniel Johnson Park (Friends of HTDJ) have been awarded a matching grant of \$35,000 to continue improving trails and restoring the habitat in this valuable urban forest. The Friends of HTDJ formed in 2018 and has organized over 50 workdays attracting almost 1,000 volunteers to improve the parks. The latest grant confirms a close relationship between the group and Park Pride that began with a Small Change grant in 2019, grew over the years since, and culminates in this latest award.

“Our partnership with Park Pride has been integral to our success,” commented Will Hazleton, a founding member of the Friends group. “They helped us establish relationships with other non-profits like Hands On Atlanta and the Atlanta ToolBank. Their help with fundraising and community engagement has improved this park for people as well as the wildlife which depend on it for sustenance.”

Park Pride engages more than 100 Friends of the Park groups across the City of Atlanta, unincorporated DeKalb County, and Brookhaven. Park Pride’s Grantmaking Program awards funding to community groups seeking to revitalize their neighborhood greenspaces. It was established with support from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation and The Home Depot Foundation, with additional funders including Georgia Power, the City of Atlanta, and others through the Parks for All Campaign.

“We are happy to aid in the restoration of this beautiful oasis, right in the middle of Atlanta,” said Kayla Altland, Director of Park Pride’s Grantmaking Program. “The work of the Friends of Herbert Taylor Park & Daniel Johnson Park has made this invaluable urban forest an inviting park for all to enjoy.”

The current grant will augment the work being done by the City of Atlanta Department of Parks & Recreation. This money will be used for wayfinding signage for trails to keep visitors from wandering onto private property that surrounds the parks. In addition, an art exhibit by local photographer, Diane Kirkland, “What’s Underfoot” will enlighten visitors to the unique role of mosses, lichen, fungi, and mold spores in the ecology of the parks.

We are honored to have received a \$10,000 matching donation from the Morningside Lenox Park Association (MLPA). Park Pride’s matching grant will kickstart our fundraising effort since every dollar raised will be matched 1-for-1.

“These parks have been a valuable refuge for our neighborhood. During the pandemic, they were a welcome respite from our homes and a great place for our kids to learn about nature. MLPA supports the work that the Friends group is doing to improve them,” said Donald Campbell, MLPA President.

For more information and to help with their work, please contact [friendsofhtdj@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhtdj@gmail.com).

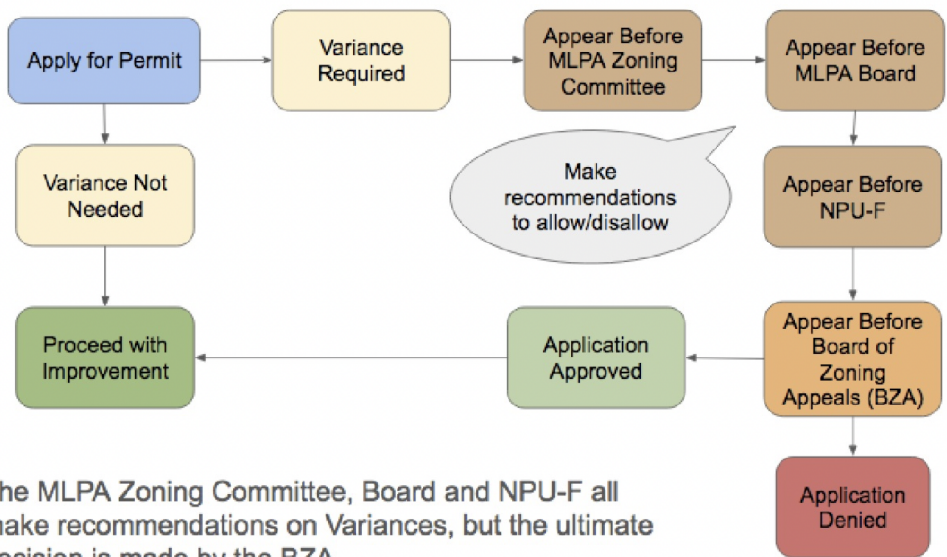
## Zoning

There were no zoning cases heard this month by the MLPA Zoning Committee and Board.

One Alcohol License Application was reviewed:

- [Circle K](#) 1896 Piedmont Rd NE, Change of Ownership
  - Recommendation to approve but discuss security with NPU. Application notes cameras and other security measures. Location will be open 24/7.

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).



The MLPA Zoning Committee, Board and NPU-F all make recommendations on Variances, but the ultimate decision is made by the BZA.



## 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 March issue:

- [Cheshire Bridge Update](#)
- [Tokyo Valentino Update](#)
- [MARTA Airport Station Closure 4/8 - 5/19](#)
- [Invest Atlanta To Aid Businesses On Cheshire Bridge](#)
- [Plan A - Comprehensive Development Plan](#)
- [Park Pride District 6 Grants](#)

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



## Atlanta Public Schools Updates

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](mailto:kenneth.zeff@apsk12.org)

## Morningside Farmers' Market Special Updates

**Save the Date: 4/13 for our Annual Spring Bash!**



**GREENS,  
EGGS  
& JAM**

**Saturday, April 13  
8:00 - 11:30 am**

**@ Morningside Presbyterian Church**

LIVE MUSIC, KIDS' MUSICIAN + BOUNCE HOUSE  
LOVE IS LOVE FARM PLANT SALE

*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



### MARTA's Riders' Advisory Council

Your voice matters! Join MARTA's Riders' Advisory Council (RAC) and help shape the future of transit while getting exclusive behind-the-scenes access to MARTA!. We're seeking passionate individuals to provide valuable feedback and insights. As a member, you'll gain insights into the transit system, take part in facility tours, receive briefings on proposed initiatives, attend special events, and more. Apply [here](#) by March 29.

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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:**

- [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](mailto:communications@mlpa.org).

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