



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK ASSOCIATION

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

April 2024

As usual in spring, there is a lot happening. To be in the know, read below! Thanks for being with us and be sure to [join/renew](#) if you're not a member. Email volunteer@mlpa.org to get involved, too!

OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:

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President's Note

A total solar eclipse, the start of the Masters in Augusta, another women's Final Four NCAA Championship for South Carolina and still no through traffic on Cheshire Bridge thanks to the continuing delays in bridge repair. The latest update puts completion near the end of May. Stay tuned! On a positive note, the City started to fine the owners of the apartment building on LaVista/Cheshire Br. and demolition started. While there is some uncertainty about when things will return to normal, at least there is progress; progress also on the Monroe Complete Streets project with community input meetings starting in May and June.

In the coming months, be on the lookout for the new and modernized logo, color scheme and dedicated icons for MLPA. Our marketing committee has worked diligently to update the branding while still respecting the traditions of our 100 year old neighborhood. You'll also notice the new look during our spring membership drive when we hope to see a nice boost in membership and engagement. As always, we can only function with a robust membership and over the first quarter of 2024, we have seen a plateau in new members. Help us turn this trend around and encourage your friends and neighbors to [join today](#).

Our membership committee is looking for a volunteer with data skills to help with reporting. Please email Membership Chair [Kristen Pollock](#) if you can help or to find out more information!

As a final reminder, please make sure nothing valuable is left in vehicles - especially guns!! We have had a slight uptick in crime in the neighborhood and it is extremely important that we remain diligent, protect our property and report any unusual behavior. While we know sometimes this can be frustrating, police presence is assigned based on incident reports and crime data so every report filed helps increase our safety.

Our events season is kicking off with several signature events in the next month so get out there and enjoy all that MLPA brings to the neighborhood!

Dr. Donald Campbell, president@mlpa.org



Burglaries in Morningside

The online Atlanta Police Department [database](#) shows 6 breaking and entering/ burglaries reported for Morningside since January 1, 2024. Two were on Piedmont at apartment complexes (one of these has multiple crime incidents of all types every month). The remainder were at residences in Morningside.

Feb 4, 700 block E Morningside

Apr 5, 700 block Wildwood

Apr 6, 1600 block Wildwood
Apr 6, 1600 N Rock Springs

It seems unlikely that there are additional incidents since losses cannot be covered by insurance without a police report. The only auto theft reported in April to date is from one of the apartment complexes.

What we know: For the 3 incidents that occurred last weekend, all three families were out of town. The thieves broke into entrances at the backs of the houses and seemingly went directly to the master bedrooms to take jewelry and high-end handbags, despite alarms sounding off.

The MLPA has been in touch several times over the last week with officers in Zone 6 and the lead for the Morningside Security Patrol. Investigations of these events by the Atlanta Police Department are in progress, and we will provide any new information in the next security report.

To be clear, these are **NOT** robberies; they are burglaries. Robberies involve taking property from a person or place by force or threat of force.



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.

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](#)

Can't make it to an Open House? You can also provide your feedback via the Citywide Survey and/or Neighborhood Survey [here](#).

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.



Amsterdam Walk Follow Up

The MLPA's planning committee, led by Canvas Planning Group Principal Aaron Fortner, has put together a list of conditions for Portman Holdings to consider for the Amsterdam Walk redevelopment. These conditions make requests that will benefit the neighborhood such as height restrictions, open space requirements, traffic mitigation measures, pedestrian and bike safety promotion, etc. The MLPA Board will review Portman's response to these conditions. After which, we will share them with the neighborhood and vote at our monthly meeting in May.

Mike Greene - Senior Vice President of Development at Portman Holdings - continues to host open discussion hours at Red Light Cafe on the following Wednesdays from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Please take advantage of these additional conversational opportunities to ask questions, file objections, offer ideas, etc. Mike will have all materials with him, if needed for explanations on plan details.

- April 17
- April 24

Many thanks again to [Red Light Cafe](#), located at 553-1 Amsterdam Avenue.

**Mayor's Office of
Constituent Services** **Community
Engagement Team**



Caitlin King, MPA

Community Affairs Manager

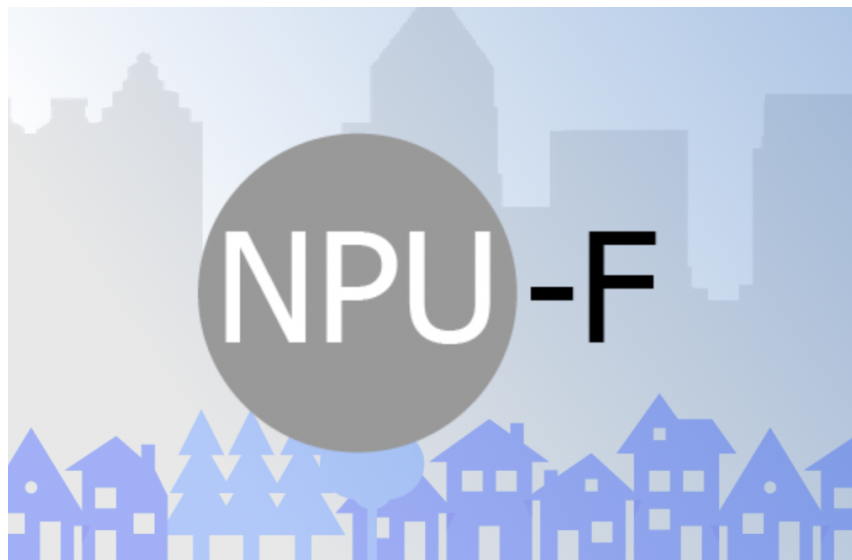
North Sector

470-692-5759

CaiKing@atlantaga.gov

Community Engagement Team

At this month's MLPA monthly board meeting, we were pleased to meet Caitlin King from the Community Engagement Team within the Mayor's Office. Caitlin is the Community Affairs Manager for the North Sector, which includes Monringside/Lenox Park. The Community Engagement and Outreach division of the Office of Constituent Services serves as a "boots on the ground" liaison. They hope to help with some of the systemic issues that are pain points for the community. We appreciate this effort to further establish relationships with the City.



NPU Registration and Voting

A Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) is a volunteer managed organization that provides input to City of Atlanta officials on matters of land use, planning (including variances & zoning), liquor licenses, and special events & festivals.

The NPU also provides a forum where city, county and state officials such as (police, fire, criminal justice, and elected officials) as well as representatives of organizations can communicate with residents and business owners.

There are 25 NPUs in the city and each is comprised of multiple neighborhoods – most represented by a civic or neighborhood association. The NPU system is the official mechanism for city officials to receive input and is specified in the city charter. Though each NPU is supported by representatives of the City of Atlanta Planning Department and is assigned a city employed planner, NPUs are not considered a department or agency of city government.

Morningside/Lenox Park is in NPU-F. Meetings are held via Zoom at 7:00pm on the third Monday of every month. All are welcome to attend, but only registered residents and business owners will be allowed to vote on matters before the NPU. Verification (required annually) is a two-step process:

1. [Complete this form](#) by 12:00 NOON on the day of the meeting to be eligible to vote.
2. Submit proof of residency (picture of driver's license, utility or tax bill, etc.; any legal document or bill that has your name and address on it) by sending an email to npuuf@npufatlanta.org with the image attached.

You do not have to register for the meetings. The Zoom Meeting ID is always listed at the top of each monthly agenda. Find the full agenda with links to applications on the NPU-F website [here](#).



Allure Due Case Update

Thanks to everyone who came out on Tuesday regarding Allure Gentlemen's Club hearing at the City.

The hearing centered around Allure's violation of Atlanta's alcohol ordinance for due cause, hours of operation and failure to supervise/procedures. This venue has had numerous occurrences over the years and has been an ongoing challenge close to our community.

The License Review Board voted to support the due cause and recommended revocation, multiple fines and suspensions. Recommendations are to run concurrently. Now it's on to the Mayor's Office to decide on the alcohol license revocation.

Events





New Parent Brunch

The sunshine wasn't the only thing warm yesterday at MLPA's annual New Parent Brunch. Held at the welcoming Whiskey Bird, 20 (!!!) new parents gathered for a heartwarming morning of connection.

Co-hosted by (and many thanks to) Halley Blythe and Ashley Heredia, the brunch buzzed with a unique energy – the shared joy and quiet camaraderie of those embarking on this incredible parenthood journey. Parents shared stories, swapped tips, and forged new friendships. A special thanks goes out to [Whiskey Bird](#) for creating such a comfortable and inviting space for this special event.

The MLPA New Parent Brunch is a beautiful testament to the spirit of community. It's a reminder that new parents aren't alone, and that within the heart of Morningside lies a network of support, encouragement and warm welcomes. Here's to many more brunches filled with laughter, connection and the joy of new parenthood!

THANK YOU TO OUR MLPA SPONSORS

Raffle Prizes: \$50 [Varuni Napoli](#) Giftcard and Free Home Deep Cleaning from [Ansley Home Cleaning](#)

Bags: Pen and Notepad from [Ansley Home Cleaning](#), Coupon for 50% off a Prenatal to Postnatal Stretch from [StretchLab Morningside](#), Free Canoli from [Varuni Napoli](#), Boutique Jenga Set from [Catherine Wilson Interiors](#)



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. Join our community Pickleball Open Play on **Sunday, April 21** at **Lenox-Wildwood Park** from **1:00 - 4:00pm**. Bring a friend or family member and enjoy this fine spring weather playing the fastest growing sport in the world.

Court 1 Beginners- Beginner instruction for about half an hour and then play. (These sessions have reached capacity and the Sign Up is full!)

Court 2 - 3.0 and above – (must have experience playing) No sign up necessary. Paddle stacking and rotation. Will line 4 courts with tape and portable nets. Bring balls.

NO RAIN DATE. Parking could be an issue so plan on walking, carpooling, or biking. Bring your own water bottle. Support our local business, **I Play Tennis** at Ansley Mall and many thanks to them for donating a Pickleball net!

Questions? Contact [Gigi Schwartz](#).



Dine-Out at Varuni Napoli

Support the MLPA by enjoying a delicious dinner at [Varuni Napoli](#) Midtown!

Wednesday, May 8

5:00-8:00pm

Must dine-in at the restaurant.

Be sure to mention MLPA!

10% of proceeds will support our MLPA events!

Join us for a night of family fun and delicious pizza! Varuni is located at 1540 Monroe Dr NE.



Concerts in the Park

Join the MLPA and your neighbors for the start of another series of live music, food trucks, treats and fun times!

Sidney Marcus Park

Friday, May 17

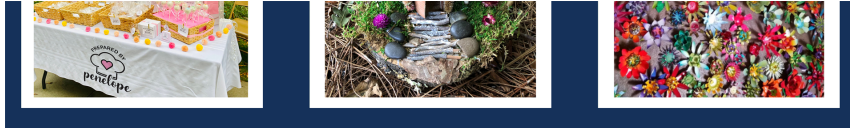
6:00 - 8:00pm

[Jitterbug Funk](#) (A group of high school juniors and seniors from Decatur playing acoustic covers with strings attached - and who recently won a battle of the bands competition!)

Save the dates for the following Fridays: **August 30, September 20**. Stay tuned for more details!

Craft Crawl @HILLSIDE®
Saturday May 11th 11am-4pm





Craft Crawl at Hillside

[Craft Crawl at Hillside](#) is back! Stop by Hillside on **Saturday, May 11th** between **11am-4pm** for the Craft Crawl! This FREE event will be hosted on Hillside's campus in the Morningside neighborhood (690 Courtenay Dr). Shop handmade crafts made by local crafters, take a family photo in our Spring photobooth, build your own fairy home or bird house with Hillside's Horticulture Therapy team, listen to the live band, and more!

All proceeds from the event support Hillside's mental health services for young people. Follow us @HillsideATL to stay up-to-date on event details! To learn more about Hillside, visit us online at hside.org.

Parks



www.trailsatl.comATLANTA
DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS &
RECREATIONPATH
FOUNDATION

Trails ATL

From the BeltLine to the Lionel Hampton Trail and from the Southtowne Trail to PATH400, Atlanta's budding network of multi-use trails stitch together our beautifully diverse city. In recent surveys, Atlantans have clearly stated they want more trails. The Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) hears you and has contracted with the PATH Foundation to create a city-wide trail plan called [Trails ATL](#).

Get involved! DPR has opened public engagement regarding a citywide trails plan. Popup workshops are underway at NPU meetings (in conjunction with Department of City Planning's Plan A engagement). At the engagements, DPR will both share an overview of its goals and seek feedback about the challenges and opportunities you see in your neighborhoods. In addition to the popup engagements and focus groups, there are a number of public meetings on the calendar, including one approaching next week at Northwest Library and a Virtual Meeting. Subsequent public meetings are included on the [Trails ATL website](#).



Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson


Fundraising Plant Sale at Morningside Farmers' Market

Newsletter readers have heard the virtues of native species. They:

- nourish our native wildlife, from the smallest insects to larger animals.
- provide meals for migrating birds.
- are adapted to our weather
- do not require watering once they are established.

But did you know that Georgia agriculture depends on native species to attract and sustain pollinators that grow crops? Now Friends of HTDJ are making it easy to add attractive and valuable native plants to your own yard.

On **Saturday, April 20, 8:00-11:30 AM** volunteers will be at the Morningside Farmers’ Market (1411 N. Morningside Rd. in the Morningside Presbyterian parking lot) with a varied selection of flowers and small plants for sale. Whether your yard has sun, part sun, part shade or shade, you will find the perfect plant. All plants are locally sourced and should outperform some larger plants you may see at the big box stores.



New Zoning Meeting #1

Monday, May 20
6:30pm

This meeting will be an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed new Zoning Districts and Use standards. We will also update you on the other zoning modules that are coming soon.

📍 Habitat for Humanity
824 Memorial Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30316

Zoning

Atlanta Zoning 2.0

Did you know? A key part of creating the ATL 2.0 Zoning Ordinance involves converting existing zoning districts to the new format, as well as creating new zoning districts for future use. Together, these districts are key tools for implementing the community vision that will emerge from the ongoing Comprehensive Development Plan.

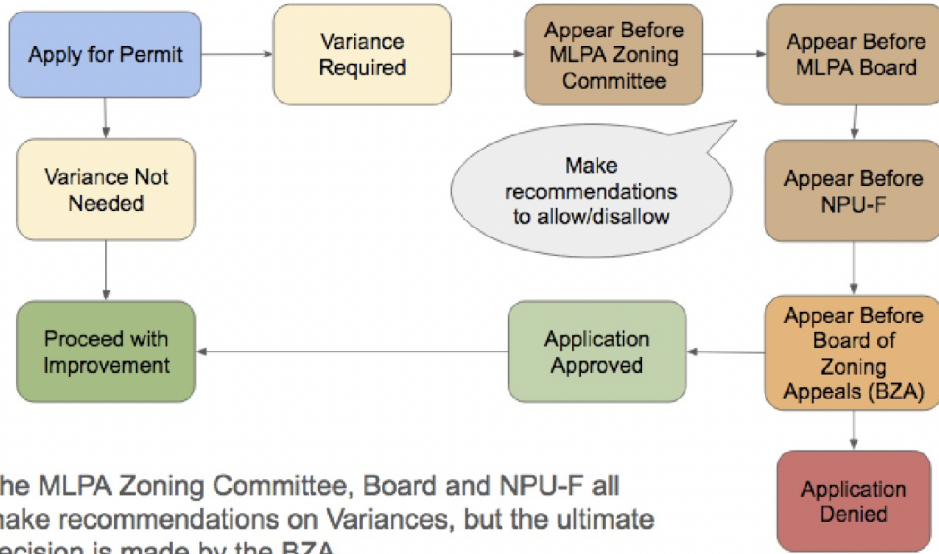
Thanks to your feedback, over the past year, the City’s Zoning Rewrite Consultant team has been busy converting Atlanta’s existing Zoning Ordinance into the new ATL 2.0 Zoning Ordinance “Discussion Draft.” This process has been guided by the Atlanta Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Diagnostic Report, public comments received in the 2022 and 2023 Idea Labs and

Focused workshps, and other City initiatives. The work has also been coordinated with the City’s ongoing Comprehensive Development Plan update, which you can learn more about at atlantaforall.com. The new Zoning Ordinance will be released as a series of modules.

Please join us on Monday, May 20th at Habitat for Humanity for the first of several meetings to review and discuss.

In-person registration at [this link](#).

Virtual (Zoom) registration at [this link](#).



ATLANTA
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Atlanta Public Schools Updates

By Martha Dalton, for The AJC:

After announcing Tuesday that it will extend its superintendent search due to an information breach, the Atlanta Board of Education also voted to extend interim Superintendent Danielle Battle’s contract through the end of the year.

Battle’s contract was set to end June 30. She came out of retirement to serve in the role after the

Dattie's contract was set to end June 30. She came out of retirement to serve in the role after the school board decided last June not to extend then-Superintendent Lisa Herring's contract.

The board's original timeline planned to announce a sole finalist for superintendent in April or May, with an official start date of July 1.

The school board has said it plans to continue the superintendent search with the firm it chose in October, Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, and will release details at a later date.

For additional information, [read this article](#).

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

Morningside Farmers' Market Special Updates



Don't forget the fundraising Native Plant Sale for the Friends of Herbert Taylor Park on Saturday, April 20 from 8:00-11:30am.

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



Make the Right Call - ATL 311 Day

On 311 Day (March 11), the City of Atlanta launched its Make the Right Call Campaign. The purpose of the campaign was to emphasize the responsible use of calling 911 versus utilizing 311.

Some of the most common non-emergency calls to 911 include issues involving landlord-tenant disputes, barking dogs, noise complaints, illegally parked cars and lost and found property. While these concerns are important, the City encourages residents to recognize that 911 should be strictly reserved for genuine emergencies, involving immediate threats to health, safety, property, house fires, vehicle accidents or ongoing criminal activities.

By making the right call, our E911 system is able to address true emergencies and create a safer Atlanta for residents and visitors.



Upcoming Election

Don't forget to vote in the General Primary/Nonpartisan Election on May 21.
Advance voting dates: April 29 - May 17

2024 MLPA SPONSORS

PRESENTING





PREMIER

ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMEMBERS



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

ENGEL & VÖLKERS[®]
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BENEFACTOR

[Alscan](#)

[Ansley Home Cleaning](#)

[Catherine Wilson Interiors](#)

[Copper Sky Design & Remodel](#)

[Savi Provisions](#)

[Stretch Lab Morningside](#)

[Varuni Napoli](#)

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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