

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

December 2024

If you're not already an MLPA member, please <u>join/renew</u> today! If you are a member, we very much appreciate you for supporting our neighborhood. Email <u>volunteer@mlpa.org</u> to get involved!

OVERVIEW AND QUICK LINKS:

- President's Note
- Thank You, Outgoing Board Members
- Additional Information on Recent Burglary Arrests
- Events
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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

After six fulfilling years serving on the MLPA board in various roles, my time as president has come to an end. It has been an eventful journey, and I am deeply grateful to everyone who has worked alongside me to benefit our neighborhood. From the Concerts in the Park to the Friends of the Park workdays, the Morningside Mingle, the Monster Dash, and all the other events and activities we've organized, we've strived to make Morningside Lenox Park a vibrant, community-centered neighborhood that is the envy of the city.

Over the past few months, our security team has been invaluable in advocating for and keeping

arrests have been a great relief and underscore the importance of community involvement in safeguarding our own safety. There is strength in numbers, and the more MLPA members we have, the more patrols we can support, and the louder our collective voice becomes.

I'd also like to express my sincere gratitude to our elected leaders and the APD representatives who have made our neighborhood a priority. Their ongoing support, including their regular attendance at our monthly meetings, has been instrumental in keeping us informed about the public safety and government issues that impact us daily.

I couldn't have done this job without the incredible support of the entire board, and I leave the community in their capable and dedicated hands. Marla Johnson, who has shown remarkable leadership on every project she's taken on, will step into the role of president. I have every confidence that she will lead MLPA with the same dedication and passion she has always demonstrated.

I look forward to many more years in this wonderful part of the city and hope to see you around.

Don Campbell president@mlpa.org

NEWS & UPDATES



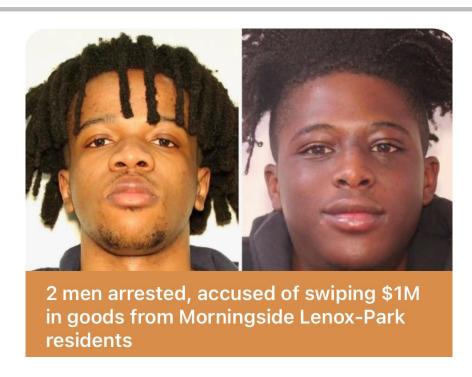
Thank You, Outgoing Board Members

On behalf of the entire neighborhood, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for dedicated service on the board to:

Don Campbell, President Rob Schuler, Vice President

Brandon Dhande, Secretary
Micah Coleman, Parks
Grant Davies, Technology
Rebekah Falkler, Zoning
Josh Kirschner, Legal
Eric Lewis, Marketing
Ryan Murphy, Events
Nick Vachon, Sponsorships

We are incredibly grateful for the time and energy they've invested. Their hard work, thoughtful leadership and commitment to our community have made a profound impact. We are lucky (and grateful!) that most will continue their involvement with the neighborhood and remain a part of the positive change they helped to create!



Additional Information on Recent Burglary Arrests

2 men arrested, accused of swiping \$1M in goods from Morningside Lenox-Park residents

The information in this article comes from interviews conducted by FOX 5 Atlanta reporter Eric Mock and his previous reporting on the subject matter from July 2024.

The Atlanta Police Department is calling the arrests of two suspects believed to be responsible for the <u>string of burglaries in the Morningside Lenox-Park neighborhood</u> a "major win."

APD released body cam video of the arrests of Aurelius Brown and Tiger Hollingsworth on Thursday.

"As a unit and as a department, it's a major win," said Lt. Damian Crowder with APD's Burglary Unit.

We first reported to you in July that burglars were targeting homes in Morningside Lenox-park.

Neighbors there shared surveillance video of a burglar going through their homes while they were on vacation, always with the same outfit and M.O.

More than a dozen homes there were hit this year.

"They took some collector cards, some safes, some handguns and some high-end watches and some high-end jewelry as well," Crowder said.

However, Crowder says they were able to recover a lot of the stolen items at the residence where they found Hollingsworth and Brown.

Investigators say Hollingsworth is the primary suspect and Brown is another suspect in a string of burglaries that have kept neighbors in the Morningside Lenox-park neighborhood awake at night for months.

"We did recover several safes. We did recover several handguns. We did recover some cards and some collected coins, and that's just to name a few things that we actually recovered," Crowder said. "We're still going through all of the pieces that were actually taken from the location where we apprehended the suspect. But, we're thinking that it is in the ballpark of \$1,000,000-plus."

Investigators have charged Hollingsworth with four burglaries in the neighborhood so far, but they're not ruling out more.

"It is still ongoing, and there's still more that they're going to be linked to," Crowder said.

Neighbors tell FOX 5 they pushed the police department to keep up the investigation and even held community meetings with investigators.

Crowder says the cooperation from the Morningside Lenox-park neighbors was critical to these arrests.

"The Morningside community was a really, really big help. [They were] very engaged during the operation. Anything that we needed, any video that they could come up with, it was always sent to us and that was a huge part of it," Crowder said.

Lt. Crowder says this is a good reminder of how important surveillance video can be and to make sure yours is working properly.

"If you have video surveillance at your house, make sure that it's actually working, and know what type of system you have. Know if your system is a live feed and if your system is one that actually records," he said.

EVENTS



Morningside Mingle

We had a blast at the Morningside Mingle last month! What a way to kick off the holiday season - with awesome neighbors, delicious food and fun music at the coolest new event space in our neighborhood. Our goal is to maintain a safe, vibrant neighborhood through community engagement - small town in a big city feels!

Many thanks to those who brought toys for the Atlanta Police Department's Zone 6 Holiday Toy Drive. MLPA also donated \$1,000 in proceeds toward the gift collection. We appreciate our generous MLPA business sponsors (listed below!) and the following who donated yummy desserts: Casseroles, Daily Chew, Nino's, Allison O'Sullivan, John Pappas, Sejal Patel and Marc Tammes.

Lastly, we are excited to share with you the professional pictures capturing the magic of the evening. <u>Click here to view and download pictures.</u>







PARKS



Greenspace Steward Greta Woods

We are happy to introduce one of our newer neighbor-volunteers, Greta Woods, an environmental scientist and mom who has been exploring our local nature preserves and bringing her enthusiasm and expertise to Friends of Herbert Taylor Park.

Greta has spent her career in environmental consulting, most recently in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) due diligence/transaction advisory. She and her husband Spencer moved to Morningside in 2021 with their almost five-year-old future MES Dolphin.

Greta has enjoyed Herbert Taylor Park for years and grew curious about the work of the Friends group. After seeing signs advertising workdays in the park, she reached out to MLPA and has since been a regular at the workdays, gaining an appreciation for the group's hard work and dedication and learning all about the old growth forest's native flora and history as a Muscogee settlement. Her original reluctance of bringing a five- year-old park enthusiast to workday was assuaged by the Friends group's welcoming him and ability to put him to work with small tasks.

Almost as exciting as joining a Friends of Park group is graduating with the second cohort of Park Pride's Park Stewardship Academy (PSA), a twelve-week course covering all aspects of park stewardship intended to train up an army of uber-volunteers to augment Park Pride's work with local communities and greenspaces. Greta reports that her favorite PSA sessions were led by the naturalists at Mason Mill and Arabia Mountain. "While touring their parks, they told us about the various park programs they've offered through the years which really inspired me and got me thinking about ways we can engage a wider group of neighbors to enjoy our neighborhood nature preserves. I would love to help bring more environmental education opportunities to the forest, maybe work with the nearby schools for field trips, explore ways to incorporate more nature-based art, various naturalist programs, workshops with the Scouts, a botanical sketch class, a night of music in the forest, or installation of a story walk that would be updated quarterly in partnership with the library system. Lots of ideas, but most importantly I'm looking forward to engaging with neighbors to learn how they would like to use and enjoy the park." As a PSA graduate, she is entitled to a small grant with which she can help activate the park. We can't wait to see her visions become reality!

Asked what changes she would like to see in Morningside parks, "My hope is that more people will fall in love with our neighborhood's parks. I hope the forest will serve more people as a place of peace, wonder, and beauty. I hope more neighbors will be inspired by the nature preserve to do what they can in their own yards to support wildlife such as landscaping with a variety of plants native to our region, leaving the leaves instead of removing them, and not using pesticides. We can all take small actions to help keep Atlanta not only A City in the Forest, but a forest that is alive and well."





Smith Park Cleans Up Nicely

Smith Park - at the corner of Piedmont and Monroe - is an unofficial entryway to the neighborhood, thus demanding a presentable appearance for our visitors. In 2024, we continued to clean up this classic gem. Pressure washing, plant cleanup and new plantings have brought life to this highly visible park.

The secret to working with the City often lies in diligence and repeated communications (harassment?), which finally culminated in the removal of our last two dead trees and approval by the Parks Design Committee for the native plantings.

In November we completed the second round of putting native plants from Beech Hollow Farms into the ground, thanks to a Community Improvement Grant through NPU-F. This installment included a dozen species, specifically swamp azalea, spicebush, native strawberry, and blue-eyed grass. This fall's mini-drought didn't help conditions, but we will keep this native garden alive in the following years, for the joy of all pollinators and passersby.





As we continue working with realtor-of-the-people Ken Price to make improvements in Smith Park, we welcome neighbor involvement and ideas. Want a new fountain? Benches? A Hawk crossing from Sherwood? Send a note to parks@mlpa.org anytime with your thoughts and admiration.



From left to right: Susie Cavender, Amy Loach, John Hults, Jan Hogan, Kim McGinnis, Dana Miron. Not shown: Cathy & Mike Bannick, Larry Hogan, Boone Bennett and family.

Friends of Sidney Marcus Park

We are Not Done Yet!

Hello from Friends of Sidney Marcus Park. By now you have seen the progress of our Moving Atlanta Forward bond from 2022. It may look like it is finished, but our contractor is taking a break as they wait on a several items.

New Picnic Area on the Knoll

We have named the hill at the park the "Knoll" and as part of this renovation, we are establishing

match the ones we added next to the playscape. They are on order and should be here soon. You will also see the unfortunate accident that knocked down the light post next to the new picnic area. It will be replaced once our contractor can find the right replacement.

New Entrance at Cumberland Circle

While it is not a stately entrance at the park, this new entrance will bring visitors into the park from Cumberland Circle and for the first time, we have a new path into the park through the knoll area. What you don't see yet is a new park sign that will be added at the new entrance.

The Playscape

A big part of this renovation is the repair of the playscape surface and a new drainage system that will eliminate the mud and pond that collects at the bottom of the playscape. This work is yet to be done.

New Bike Rack

We have had many requests for a bike rack and we will be finally adding one at the Cumberland Road entrance.

New Water Connection at the Sherwood Entrance

FSMP is working to keep the lower area green through aeration, seeding and watering. We have had a temporary watering system for the lower level, but we are adding a water connection near the Sherwood Road entrance. From there, FSMP will be building out a more permanent and efficient irrigation system for the lower area.

Surprise Tribute Swing to be Installed at the Park

Thanks to a longtime neighbor and donor, we will be adding a swing that will match the one that was added during the lower park area renovation from 2021. It will be installed on the knoll facing the playscape. We will have more details about this terrific new addition to the park as we get closer to building it. We gained approval from the city for this addition and will be working to get it added while we are in this construction phase at the park. And we will highlight our terrific park neighbor and benefactor.

New Artist at the Park

In 2024 we launched an Art at the Park program to use our beautiful information kiosk to showcase Morningside artists. Our first artist was Mike Phillips and his Morningside Art (morningsideartatl.com) studio. In October, we launched our second artist showcase and display with Mical Liske. Please check her work out at the information kiosk at the Cumberland Road entrance.

As always, please send FSMP your comments, suggestions and feedback to friendsofsmp@amail.com.



Sunken Garden Park

Thanks to the infrastructure bond that was passed in 2022 for Renew Atlanta, Sunken Garden Park also received funds to install some much-needed capital improvement projects. Patrick Hand, from Integrated Land Design, submitted the plans with input from the Friends of the Park group, and Lichty Construction is the approved vendor for the work. The focus of efforts is to improve safety, access and drainage:

- New "landing pad" on Plymouth to create point of entry/detract from entering via hightraffic E Rock Springs
- New ADA ramp will improve access + create more visibility when that brush is all cleaned up
- The steep rocky stairs in the middle of W Sussex will be removed
- Access stairs at E Rock Springs/E Sussex and alongside the vehicle ramp will get handrails to improve safety and be cleaned up generally
- Expanded raised mulch pads for playground equipment will improve drainage and provide more space for future installments
- Some of the lower brush along E Rock Springs will be cleaned up for visibility
- There will be some funds for landscaping, new benches, power-washing the playground equipment, etc.

We look forward to the anticipated progress!

Friends of Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson





If you have visited the beach at Herbert Taylor Park where Rock Creek flows into South Fork Peachtree Creek, you may have noticed that there's more light getting to the ground and new plants have been placed.

This, and all the other improvements you may see, are thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who have made a difference in our parks this year. In November, our partnerships with Hands on Atlanta and Emory Cares paid dividends as a number of new volunteers worked with us. Thanks to Georgia Tech's Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE) and the Emory alumni/post grads. They helped us plant blueberries (*Vaccinium arboreum, V. corymbosum, and V. elliotti*), ferns (*Polystichum arcrostichoides*), grasses (*Juncus effusius*), and big leaf magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*). These plants were acquired with a grant from the City of Atlanta Planning Dept. disbursed by NPU-F. In the next few months, you will spot a number of new plantings—please make sure your animals are on leash and that you stay on the trails to give them a chance to grow. Our intent is to promote a 'food forest for wildlife' that will replace the privet, ivy, and other invasives our volunteers have removed.

Working in the park is a great way to learn about plants and wildlife, work up some sweat, and make new friends.

MLK Days of Service January Opportunities:

- Saturday, January 11, 9am 12pm, Second Saturday Workday & MLK Day of Service
- Monday, January 20, 9am 12pm, MLK Day of Service and Weed Wrangle at Herbert Taylor Park

Both days are led by park volunteers, the experts in restoration, so no experience is required. Either or both dates are an excellent chance to earn service hours for students, scouting, or just to have some fun outside. There will be snacks and other treats for volunteers.

Wear long sleeves, pants, and close toed shoes for protection. Bring your favorite gardening gloves and tools or borrow some of ours. Come learn to use a weed wrench for a real power trip!

Meet at the kiosk at 1343 Pasadena Ave. For questions or more information, email the Friends of the Park group here.



Morningside Nature Preserve

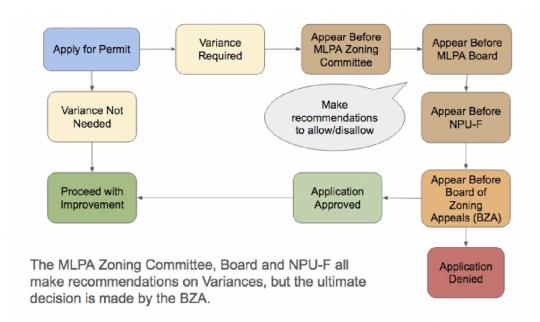
We continue to be grateful to Trees Atlanta for their efforts to maintain and restore the Morningside Nature Preserve. On the third Saturday of each month, they host volunteers for Forest Restoration from 9:00am-12:00pm.



You can join them, as well, to promote a healthy plant community and a sustainable forest in the Morningside Nature Preserve. 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 English ivy, Chinese privet, and kudzu in a densely wooded area off trail. For more information and to register for upcoming opportunities, click the button below.

Register Here

ZONING



Shape Atlanta's Future

The draft to Plan A for public review and comment is on our website. Thank you for your continued interest in the planning process. Round 3 Community Meetings have been well-attended. We hope to see you at our next one featuring the Transportation Planning Chapter on Monday, December 16 at Plywood Place, 933 Lee St SW b1, Atlanta, GA 30310. Doors open at 5:30PM with the panel starting around 6:15PM.

Below are highlights of upcoming milestones in the planning process.

January 10 – Post Draft #3 with the draft Community Work Program and Report of Accomplishments, and intermediate revisions based on recently collected public input.

January 31 – Close Review and Comment on the draft Development Pattern Map.

February 6 – Final Community Meeting.

February 28 – Close Review and Comment on the draft Chapters.

February 28 – Final day to have a *Conversation with Planners*.

Late-March - Submit Draft #4 to the State and Atlanta Regional Commission.

March to June – Present at NPU Monthly meetings and NPUs vote.

Early July - Adopt Final Draft based on State, ARC, NPU, and Council input.

Thank you again for your leadership and participation. Your continued encouragement of your neighbors to participate is greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate with emailing your questions to PlanA@AtlantaGA.Gov.

Plan A is the update to the City's Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) required every five years under state law. It sets forth the vision, goals, policies, and actions for future physical growth and development in Atlanta. Public input is critical to updating the plan.

Community Meeting Schedule

#	Round 3 Community Meetings	Date	Time	Location (7 Study Areas)
1	Open House All Chapters	Thursday,	5:30-8PM	Bank of America Building, 600 Peachtree St NE
		October 10		NPU-M, CD-2 (Northeast Study Area)
2	Atlanta's Future – Plan A Vision and Goals	Monday,	5:30-8PM	E. Rivers Elementary, 8 Peachtree Battle Ave NW
		October 21		NPU-C, CD-8 (Northside Study Area)
3	Urban Design Chapter	Wednesday,	5:30-8PM	Fanplex, 768 Hank Aaron Dr. SE
		October 23		NPU-V, CD-1 (Intown South Study Area)
4	Economic Development Chapter	Tuesday,	5:30-8PM	Carver High School, 55 McDonough Blvd SE
		October 29		NPU-Y, CD-1 (Southside Study Area)
5	Historic Preservation Chapter	Monday,	5:30-8PM	Atlanta Preservation Center, 327 St Paul Ave SE
		November 18		NPU-W, CD-1 (Eastside Study Area)
6	Transportation Chapter	Monday,	5:30-8PM	Plywood Place, 933 Lee St SW
		December 16		NPU-T, CD-4 (Intown South Study Area)
7	Housing Chapter	Wednesday,	5:30-8PM	John Lewis Invictus Academy, 1890 D.L. Hollowell Pkwy NW
		January 29		NPU-J, CD-9 (Northwest Study Area)
8	Climate Resilience Chapter	Thursday,	5:30-8PM	Vicars Community Center, 838 Cascade Ave SW
		January 30		NPU-S, CD-4 (Intown South Study Area) (TBD)
9	Open House All Chapters	Thursday,	5:30-8PM	City Hall, 55 Trinity Ave SW
		February 6		NPU-M, CD-4 (Northeast Study Area)

The Plan A update is happening simultaneously with the Zoning 2.0 Ordinance Rewrite, which is a separate initiative that will create the tools to implement Plan A.

ALCOHOL LICENSES

Alcohol License Applications

The MLPA Board heard one alcohol license application this month:

Name of Business: <u>Colonnade</u> Type of Business: Restaurant Applicant: Lewis M. Jeffries

Property Address: 1879 Cheshire Bridge Rd NE

Request: Change of Ownership

MLPA voted to approve the application.

AROUND TOWN



Morningside Farmers Market

Our market continues to grow and evolve, and with its historic roots, it remains a beloved source of good food and community in the neighborhood. This year, we've hit some impressive milestones. We average 300 shoppers each Saturday and have 2,600 e-newsletter subscribers (an 8 percent increase over the year) and 4,615 Instagram followers (13 percent uptick). Your support has been crucial to our success, and we're immensely grateful!

What's in Season?

apples, arugula, bell peppers, bok choy, butternut squash, carrots, cherry tomatoes, delicata squash, flowers, garlic, hakurei turnips, heirloom tomatoes, herbs, melons, microgreens, okra, radish, seminole squash, shishito peppers, spicy peppers, sweet potatoes, watermelon and more!

Morningside Farmers Market has been offering organically grown produce, local meats, breads, and goods since 1995. The market is open every Saturday morning year-round at Morningside Presbyterian Church's parking lot (1411 N. Morningside Drive NE). SNAP/EBT (food stamp) dollars are doubled for an equal amount of tokens for fruits and vegetables at the information tent. The market's location offers a spacious, tree-lined setting for market goers.





Atlanta City Council

<u>Click here</u> and sign up to receive alerts, updates and newsletters - plus view past communications - from our District 6 City Councilperson Alex Wan.



Atlanta Public Schools Updates

Midtown Cluster Engagement Opportunity

The Midtown Cluster Advisory Team (CAT), which comprises a principal and an elected GO Team Member from each Midtown Cluster School, has established a Midtown Cluster Engagement Committee for the 24/25 School Year. The focus of this committee is to provide stakeholders with authentic engagement opportunities on topics of interest within the Midtown Cluster.

For the inaugural year, the Midtown Cluster Engagement Committee is providing three engagement sessions: (1) Tests & Assessments, (2) Safety & Security, and (3) Cluster Data. These engagement opportunities are to hear from stakeholders across our entire Midtown Cluster spanning all grade levels.

Topic 1: Test & Assessment Feedback

We invite all Midtown Cluster families, students, and teachers to share feedback on the current state of tests and assessments in the Midtown Cluster. The feedback received from this survey and Zoom session will be compiled and presented to the district via Midtown GO Team parent representatives that currently sit on newly established APS District Test & Assessment Task Force.

Survey Feedback:

Please complete the survey, and provide your feedback prior to January 25.

Zoom Feedback Engagement:

Dec. 16, 2024 from 7-8pm please register via link.

Trees for Tuition

hTrees for Tuition is back for its 4th Christmas season! This initiative sells premium Fraser Fir trees, treats, and more, with 100% of profits supporting local scholarships and facility improvements. Shop now to support and spread holiday cheer - free delivery included! APS teachers and staff get 20% off all season at treesfortuition.com!

District 3 APS Board Member Ken Zeff

- Get the newest information by signing up for his newsletter!
- Don't hesitate to reach out: kenneth.zeff@apsk12.org.



Morningside Neighbors Magazine

Are you getting Morningside Neighbors magazine delivered to your mailbox every month? If not, please reach out to publisher Ken Schmanski. Each issue is a great source of community happenings featuring neighbors.

Furthermore, they are always looking for families in the neighborhood to add to their list to be a future Resident Feature Family on the cover. They also love to get pictures or articles you might want to submit about what you like about living in Morningside. Pictures of fur babies are always welcome; family favorite recipes, too!

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: 893 6667 0233

Passcode: 553503

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

2024 MLPA SPONSORS

PRESENTING



Audi Atlanta

PREMIER



ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMEMBERS



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

BENEFACTOR

Alscan

Ansley Home Cleaning

Catherine Wilson Interiors

Copper Sky Design & Remodel

Joy Myrick I Atlanta Fine Homes/Sotheby's Realty

Pulse Performance Studio

Savi Provisions

Six Feet Under

Stretch Lab Morningside

Varuni Napoli

.....

FRIEND

Boutte Tree, Inc.

Selig Enterprises

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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