July 2024

This newsletter is a resource for all residents and businesses. **The Town is always looking for citizens willing to volunteer their time, talent, and services in various capacities (strategic planning, monthly events, newsletter ideas, and new initiatives). If this is you, please contact us and share your name, phone number, and email. We would love to speak with you.**

Business Spotlight

Special THANK YOU to our businesses for the generous support you give the Town.

From the Desk of Mayor Benn Cann

Dear Morningsiders,

I trust you're in good health and high spirits. The Town continues to thrive with engagement. I want to personally thank all who have attended our events (75th Anniversary, Spring Clean-Up, 4th of July Celebrations, Skate Night are just a few). Please continue to check the website calendar for upcoming events. Our next big event will be August 6. Annual National Night Out. You owe it to yourself to come and have fun with your Council, Neighbors, and the Morningside Police Department.

Our Police Department has gone through a few changes. We would like to personally thank Wesley Stevenson who served as our Chief as he has officially retired. We would like to also welcome our newest member of the Morningside staff, Chief Daniel Franklin, as he has been selected as our new Chief of Police. Please feel free to give him your heartfelt welcome if you see him through out Town.

A special "Thank You" to Councilman John Anthony and Councilwoman Sharon Fowler for their continued service to the Town. Both were re-elected to serve an additional 2 years in May.

The Town has received a few grants to assist in our operation and engagement. You will notice that a lot of the things that we use for events no longer have to be rented, we have purchased them.

The top correspondences that I continue to receive as Mayor are noise complaints, dogs off leashes, and the Town's cleanliness. Please note that my top concern is the wellbeing and vitality of the Town's residents and businesses. I am continuing to work with departments and agencies to ensure your concerns are addressed.

Please continue to check in on each other, especially our seniors, to ensure that we are all ok.

If you have specific concerns, contact me at mayor@morningsidemd.gov.

Be Well, Mayor Benn Cann

Morningside Municipal Center
6901 Ames Street
Morningside, MD 20746
301-736-2300
Email:
generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov

Police Department
301-736-7400
Emergencies call 911

Website
Morningsidemd.gov

Social Media:
#TownofMorningside

Mayor
Benn Cann
mayor@morningsidemd.gov

Vice Mayor
Bradley Wade
vicemayor@morningsidemd.gov

Councilmember
Todd Mullins
temullins@morningsidemd.gov

Town Questions:

Question:
Why were there cameras around stop signs throughout the Town?

Answer: Due to ongoing concerns and feedback throughout the school year as well as summer months regarding running stop signs. The Town has conducted a study to see if stop signs cameras are needed. Our goal continues to be proactive when it comes to safety and not reactive. We are taking time to review the data and decide our next step for safety.

Email generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov and look for the answer in the next newsletter if you have a question.

Police News:

Going into the summer months, the Morningside Police Department wants to ensure that all our residents are enjoying their summers and recognize the dangers that excessive heat can bring. For all of us human types, stay cool, stay hydrated, use sunscreen when necessary, and try to limit outside activities to early morning or evening hours whenever possible. **When we say all our residents, we include our furry friends in that too!** Ideally, your pets should be kept indoors when possible. Prince George's County Ordinance Division 6 Section 3-180 states that it is unlawful to leave your pets outside when the National Weather Service advises that the Heat Index is 90 degrees or higher. In addition to that, Maryland Criminal Law Article Title 10 Section 604 states that a person who has custody of an animal or is in charge of that animal's welfare must provide adequate food, drink, shelter, air, space, and protection from the weather. Please make sure that your pets are provided for so they can continue to be the loving, loyal companions that we know them to be! If you see an animal that is in distress or is not being taken care of according to the standards mentioned above, please contact us at either (301) 736-7400 or through the Prince George's County Communications Center at (301) 352-1200.

There has been a recent spike "jugging" in Prince George's County as well as the rest of the State of Maryland. Jugging takes place when a person is observed either at a high-end store, bank, or ATM, and is followed by someone who looks to rob them and steal whatever they have in their possession. Most commonly, the perpetrator will follow someone to their car to steal their money, their belongings, and often their car as well. Some common ways to avoid being a victim of jugging are:

Councilmember John Anthony
jwanthony@morningsidemd.gov

Councilmember Sharon Fowler
safowler@morningsidemd.gov

Dates to Remember:

The Town of Morningside is on Recess from Public Meeting for the Month of August

August 6, 2024 – 5:30pm
National Night Out – hosted by Morningside Police Department

September 2, 2024 –
Town of Morningside Offices Closed for Labor Day Holiday

September 10, 2024 –
Town of Morningside Work Session
7:00pm

September 17, 2024 –
Town of Morningside Regular Meeting
7:00 pm

- Maintain awareness of your surroundings when banking, shopping, or walking to your vehicle. If something looks strange, call the Police. Stranger Danger!
- Park strategically in well-lit areas that have a great deal of visibility. Park as close to your destination as possible.
- Avoid falling into banking or shopping routines and use drive-through services or electronic banking whenever possible.
- If you must carry larger amounts of cash or merchandise, do your best to stay as low-key as possible and try not to make it known.

Always remember if you see something, say something! Call 911 for emergencies!

Morningside Volunteer Fire Department:

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department was honored to host the start of the Town of Morningside July 4th Parade and to provide a fire suppression detail for the fireworks display later in the evening.

The MVFD Engine Committee traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the Mid Point Inspection for the replacement of MVFD's Engine Company. Production is expected to be finalized around the end of August.

The MVFD has purchased a replacement Ambulance from the Silver Hill Volunteer Fire Department. The department chose to purchase this unit as it has low road miles and is a fraction of the cost of a brand-new replacement Ambulance. This unit will be able to provide Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support to the Town of Morningside and the surrounding area. It is estimated to be placed in service in roughly two weeks.

The MVFD is planning a Recruitment Event September 28th-29th at the fire house for potential new members.

Lastly, the MVFD members are looking forward to participating in National Night Out Events coming soon!

Services provided for the month of June:
Total Volunteer Hours Staffed: 2880
Total Calls for Service: 257

Public Works:

The Public Works department continues to provide many services that affect the daily lives of Morningside residents.
Services Include: Street and storm drain cleaning, litter patrol, landscaping, and removal of fallen trees.
A friendly reminder that it is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain their own property. Please do not allow cut grass or clippings to be discarded into the street or neighboring lawns.

Town Administration:

The Administrative Office continues to provide courteous, knowledgeable and efficient service to Town residents and the public to the best of our abilities. We are currently gathering information to prepare the FY24 audit. We continue working with the Council on making sure we are getting the best services and purchases with the ARPA grant we received.

The meeting room is available for rental. We have everything from baby showers to repasts here. We have even hosted a wedding! The books are now open through December 31st.

Please continue to contact us if you have questions or concerns at 301-736-2300 or generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov. You can also check our newly updated website at www.morningsidemd.gov.

FY23-24 Town Budget Synopsis:

Proposed Revenues

General Income $1,794,542.00
Highway User fund $164,128.00
Remaining CLFRF Fund $$741,542.00
Rainy Day Fund $238, 336.00
Total: $2,938,548.00

Proposed Expenditures

General Government $654,679.00
Public Safety $1,214,404.00
Public Works $1,046,715.00
Recreation $22,750.00
Total: $2,938,548.00

Morningside Recreation Committee:

The Morningside Recreation Committee is moving forward planning Summer and Fall Events.

For more information on these and future events, visit our website at www.morningsidemd.gov, email the Morningside Rec Committee at Morningsiderec@morningsidemd.gov or call 301-736-2301.

Code Corner:

The Town of Morningside is continuing enforcement of all Town ordinances to ensure a clean and safe environment for all citizens. The safety of our citizens and the cleanliness of our Town is the number one priority for the Morningside Police Department and the Code Enforcement Division.

Do Your Part to Clear Sidewalks for Pedestrians

Per the Town Code, homeowners are required to maintain the grass and weeds on public sidewalks abutting or adjoining their property. If you have public sidewalks in the front, side or rear of your property, be sure to edge them and clear the joints and cracks of grass and weeds.

Home Improvement Planning

Are you planning for a home improvement project? Don't forget to include the cost and time necessary to obtain building permits. Common home improvements that require Prince George's County and Town of Morningside building permits:

additions, decks, driveways, enclosing a porch, fences above four (4) feet in height, garage conversions and sheds larger than 150 square feet.

Fire Wood is to be stored evenly and neatly stacked on a platform 6 inches above a concrete, asphalt, brick or block surface or 18 inches above an unimproved ground surface.

Water in pools, hot tubs, fishponds or other items are not allowed to become stagnant or a breeding area for insects.

To Report an Infraction please contact Town Administrative Offices.

National Night Out 2024

Hosted by: The Morningside Police Department

National Night Out is the biggest Crime Prevention event of the year.

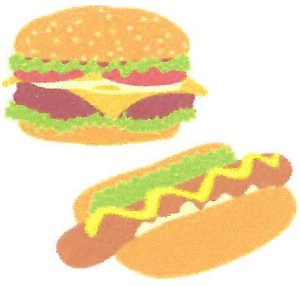
Lock your doors and spend the evening outside with your neighbors!

Effective Crime Prevention begins with strong neighborhood and community relationships.

Join us as we celebrate our community and police partnerships!

August 6th, from 5:30 -8:30pm
Morningside Municipal Center
6901 Ames Street
301-736-7400
Dinner Served 5:45 to 7:30pm (while supplies last)

Enjoy Free Food, Drinks, Games, Music, Give A Ways, Police Demos and so much more…



www.morningsidmd.gov

Morningside Recreation Committee

Up-Coming Events:

August 6th – National Night Out Against Crime from 5:30-8:30pm at the Municipal Center.

September 21st– Fall Yard Sale at the Morningside Volunteer Fire Dept. Table/Space Rentals, 1 for $15.00 and 2 for $25.00.

October 19th – Trunk-or-Treating at the Municipal Center, time to be determined.

November 21st – Senior Luncheon at 11:30am at the Municipal Center.

December 14th – Breakfast with Santa 9:00am at the Morningside Volunteer Fire Dept.

December 15th – Christmas Caroling at dusk. The Rec Committee and volunteers will cruise the streets singing our favorite Christmas songs. We will also be on the hunt for the Best Decorated Homes in Morningside.

For more information on any of these events please call 301-736-2301 or email Morningsiderec@morningsidemd.gov.

The Town of Morningside hosts multiple events throughout the year for residents of all ages, and we could use your help to make these events a reality. Give back to the community by volunteering!

Whether you are a resident looking to help, or a PGCPS student wanting to acquire some service hours, we have the opportunity for you. Our office can track service hours and provide documentation.

Want to volunteer? Contact the Town at 301-736-2301 or email Morningsiderec@morningsidemd.gov

Business Ads (Place Your Ad Here)

Yvonne Rodgers | Precious Lil Ones Day Care
6924 Pickett Drive
Morningside, MD 20746
(240)716-8607

Vanessa Beverly | My Sweet Angels Daycare
6801 Marianne Drive
Morningside, MD 20746

7-11
6201 Suitland Road
Morningside, MD 20746

Town of Morningside
6901 Ames Street
Morningside, MD 20746