

April 2022



This newsletter is considered a source and a resource to all residents and businesses. The Town of Morningside continues to seek citizens who can volunteer their time, talent, and services. (Strategic planning, monthly events, newsletter & grants to name a few). If this is you or you have another area of interest, please get in touch with the Town Administrative Office and provide your name, phone number, and email. We would love to speak with you.

From the Desk of Mayor Benn Cann

Dear Morningsiders,

I hope you are enjoying the Spring, and everyone is well. Still operating with caution, monthly Work Sessions and Town Hall meetings are in person. With warm weather, the Town will be bringing multiple events to enjoy and get to know your neighbors. Please mark your calendars (some are included later in the newsletter). You can also view all events on the Town website www.morningsidemd.gov.

The Town will be disbursing COVID-related items to residents as an ongoing way to ensure your good health in this unprecedented time. Items will be available on a first-come-first-serve base while supplies last.

May's elections are quickly approaching (May 2nd). It has been a pleasure to work with the current Council. The energy was positive, and we have done a lot for the Town of Morningside. I wish all candidates campaigning the best of luck. I want to take a moment to thank Councilmember Dave Williams for his service to the Town of Morningside. Councilmember Williams has decided not to seek re-election. His work, time, and energy given to the Town over the past two years were immeasurable and genuinely appreciated.

I have received several correspondences about the Town's cleanliness. The Town takes daily measures to keep the streets clean through our Code Enforcement and Public Works Departments. We, however, cannot take this job on alone. Please be sure to dispose of trash properly (including cigarette butts) in proper receptacles not just here in Morningside but also incorporated into your daily routine. Also, please advise any visitors and children in your household to do the same.

There are so many things happening in our great Town, I don't have enough time to share them all. I encourage you to come to the Town meetings. We also give you a platform to provide feedback to us on what is happening.

Please continue to check in on each other, especially our seniors, to ensure that we are all ok. For Town updates, refer to www.morningsidemd.gov.

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

Be Well, Mayor Benn Cann

Business Spotlight

Special THANK YOU to
all of our businesses.

The pandemic has
taken a toll on many
of you. If you require
resources, please get
in touch with the
Town Hall, and we
will work to assist you
in this endeavor.

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



Town Questions:

Question:

What is the Town doing for the 4th of July?

Answer: It has been a long-standing tradition that the Town holds the 4th of July festivities. The last two years due to COVID have been different with honoring this tradition. This year, we are scheduled to have a full day of activities, from the annual parade to a family fun day at the park, and lastly, fireworks at dusk (stay tuned for more information). Continue to check the website for additional information.

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

Police News:

Citizens should be aware of phone scams that are active in our area!

Law Enforcement personnel have received reports that scammers claiming to be from an “official” Law Enforcement agency have been contacting citizens regarding an outstanding warrant for an unpaid traffic ticket or other violation, threatening immediate arrest and/or criminal charges unless a fine is promptly paid.

The impersonator:

- Spoofs a legitimate police agency phone number, using a real name of a law enforcement officer in an attempt to gain the trust of the victim;
- Tells the community member the call is being recorded; and
- Tells the community member they missed a court appearance or jury duty.
- The caller states they need to send money, or a warrant will be issued for their arrest, or they may turn themselves into jail.

The Morningside Police Dept. reminds you to be aware that:

- We will never call individuals and demand or request money from community members under any circumstances.
- The Morningside Police Dept. or other legitimate law enforcement agency does not call citizens seeking payment for outstanding traffic citations or warrants.
- Impersonators claiming to collect debts may try to instill fear in potential victims to persuade them to forward money.
- **No government agency of any kind takes gift cards as payment.**

If you receive a similar call, disconnect without providing personal information or taking any instructions from the caller. Contact your local law enforcement agency to verify any questions you may have. The FBI maintains a list of common scams and provides safety tips for more information. Visit <https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety>.

Vice Mayor Bradley Wade

vicemayor@morningsidemd.gov

Councilmember Todd Mullins

temullins@morningsidemd.gov

Councilmember John Anthony

jwanthony@morningsidemd.gov

Councilmember Dave Williams

ldwilliams@morningsidemd.gov

Dates to Remember:

April 4, 2022 – 1-9pm

Last day to register to vote at the May 2nd Town election.

April 12, 2022 – Town of Morningside Work Session – 7 p.m.

April 16, 2022 – Bingo Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt – 9 a.m. -Noon (Pre-registration required)

Code Enforcement:

Lawn and Landscaping Maintenance

- **Grass and weeds** may not exceed 8 inches in height.
- **Dead trees and shrubs** must be removed unless within a forested area.
- **Bushes and shrubs** must be trimmed to prevent them from growing over the sidewalk, curb, or rubbing against fences.

Exterior Surfaces, Structures, or Buildings

- **All exterior surfaces, accessories, and buildings** must be maintained and repaired in a reasonably skillful manner. They are to be structurally safe and sound, in good repair, and kept in a condition to exclude rodents.
- **House numbers** must be numeric and 3 inches in height or more and affixed to the dwelling.
- **Guttering systems and downspouts** must be in good condition, properly connected, secured to the building, and free of plant growth or any obstruction.

Municipal Infractions

Municipal Infractions are civil citations used to obtain compliance with the Town Code. Municipal infractions are issued by Code Enforcement Officers or Morningside Police Officers.

When are Municipal Infractions Issued?

Generally, municipal infractions are issued after a person fails to comply with a warning or a notice of violation. A notice of violation may be in the form of a letter, door hanger, or verbal communication.

A municipal infraction may be issued without a prior warning if the circumstances require immediate action, and Municipal infractions may be issued immediately to a repeat offender.

Municipal infractions are issued to the property owners on record. Multiple municipal infractions can be issued if the violation persists. A municipal infraction may be delivered personally, by certified restricted mail, first-class mail, or posting on the property in violation.

Town Administration:

The Administration Office continues working with the Mayor and Council on the ARPA Grant and ensuring that the Town uses the funds to the best advantage for our residents. We are also gathering information for the 2022-2023 Town budget. Cleaning out decades worth of old files and generally redoing the filing system is another of our tasks as we maintain the day-to-day operations needed to make the Town run seamlessly. Please continue to contact us if you have questions or concerns at 301-736-2300 or generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov.

April 19, 2022 – Town of Morningside Regular Meeting – 7 p.m.

May 2, 2022 - Town of Morningside Elections
Polls open 8am – 8pm

May 7, 2022
Mad Hatters Teas Party for Mother’s Day – 10am

May 10, 2022 – Town of Morningside Work Session – 7 p.m.

May 14, 2022 – Spring Clean Up – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

May 15, 2022 – Spring Clean Up – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

May 16, 2022 – Town Council Swearing-In 7pm

May 17, 2022 –Town of Morningside Regular Meeting – 7 p.m.

Municipal Meeting Room Rentals:

The Town of Morningside rents out its meeting space for special occasions. We have hosted everything from baby showers to repasts – heck, we have even hosted a wedding! The books have just opened up for April-May-June. If you would like more information, call the Town Admin Office at 301-736-2300. Dates are going fast!!

Town Elections:

Election day is **Monday, May 2nd, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Morningside Municipal Center, 6901 Ames St.** We will be electing a Mayor and 2 Council Members. The candidates are: - **Mayor** - Bennard Cann (incumbent), **Council Member** – John Anthony (incumbent), Sharon Fowler (former Council Member), and Anthony Pitts. Their pictures and short biographies appear elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Administrative Office at 301-736-2300, M-F 8 am-5 pm.

Section 52-24. Voters.

Every person who (1) is a citizen of the United States, (2) is at least eighteen years of age, is a bona fide resident of the Town, and (3) is registered in accordance with the provisions of this charter and town ordinances, shall be a qualified voter of the Town. Every qualified voter of the Town shall be entitled to vote at any and all Town elections. (Res., Oct. 4, 1957, sec. 24; Char. Amend. No. 76-2, 4-2-76.)

Section 52-25. Registration.

There shall be a registration on the first Monday in April each year between 1:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. of the qualified persons not registered to vote. If necessary, for the performance of registration or the convenience of the citizens of the Town, the Council may designate additional hours or special registration days. (Res., Oct. 4, 1957, sec. 25; Char. Amend. No. 76-2, 4-2-76.)

If you are currently registered to vote in County, State, and National elections, you do not need to register for the Town elections. Just make sure your address is current with the Board of Elections of Prince George’s County. **For the 2022 election, this special registration date will be Monday, April 4, 2022, 1-9 p.m. at the Morningside Municipal Center, 6901 Ames St.**

Public Works:

The Public Works department is responsible for the delivery of essential services to the Town as well as assisting Code Enforcement when needed. The Senior’s back door service is another value the department provides to the Town. including back door service for seniors. Public Works also maintains the landscaping of the Towns. Snow removal, street signage, litter collection, maintaining the pet waste stations, and assisting code enforcement.

NOTICE: If you as the homeowner/renters have work done by a contractor, it’s the contractor’s responsibility to haul away any material/waste.

May 30, 2022 –
Town Admin Offices
closed for Memorial
Day Holiday

June 14, 2022 – Town
of Morningside Work
Session tbd
(postponed due to
MML Conference –
Council out of Town)

June 17, 2022 –
Father’s Day Event
(time tbd)

June 21, 2022 –Town
of Morningside
Regular Meeting –
7 p.m.

Town Council:

Councilmember Dave Williams: I have decided not to seek reelection to the Town Council. I have enjoyed my time serving the community. I want to thank you all for your support and the trust you have instilled in me during my tenure. Once again, it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with everyone involved with the Town.

Candidates for the May 2nd Town of Morningside Election:



Mayor Benn Cann

As Mayor, I have had the distinct opportunity to represent the Town of Morningside in the municipal, county, state, and federal forums. This has given me access to information and resources, which have been vital as we faced one of the biggest hurdles with the COVID-19 Pandemic. I am asking for your vote and support as I enter into my 3rd term as Mayor. In my first two terms, I was able to establish a Town government domain (morningside.md.gov), create a website, create an atmosphere of collaboration (adding more events to the Town Calendar for citizens), establish the Town as “Banner City” status (ongoing rapport with all agencies of county, state and federal governments), strengthen the relationships with businesses, increase interactions with Senior Population, Strengthen the relationship with the Morningside Fire Department, as well as foster partnerships with the Schools that our children attend to name a few. I appreciate every individual that makes up the Town of Morningside. I have intentionally made myself very accessible to feedback, concerns, and criticisms at times to continue to have a Town that we can be proud to call home. I ask for your continued support; please vote Benn Cann, Mayor. Thank You



Councilmember John Anthony

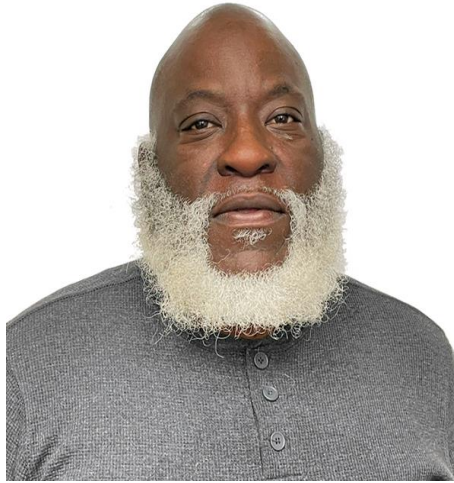
My name is John Anthony, and I am rerunning for Town Councilmember. I am 62 years old. I was born in the District of Columbia and moved to Morningside in 1968. My grandparents lived in the town and raised my father here. I have lived in the Town for over 50 years, so I have a long history with the Town. I have been married to Ruth Anthony for 44 years, and we have three children, two of which also live in the town, four granddaughters, and a great-granddaughter who live in the TOWN, which

makes up six generations. I am a previous Vice Mayor and Councilmember. I am retired and able to dedicate the time to the Town. I would like to be part of the governing of the Town once again and to continue making Morningside a safe and pleasant place to live. I would appreciate your support.



Mrs. Sharon Fowler

My name is Sharon Fowler, and I am seeking a return to the Town Council. I'm able to dedicate my time to the needs of Morningside. With my prior- experience, I'm prepared to work on any issues pertaining to residents, local businesses while maintaining a budget that benefits everyone. With my experience with the Town for over 30 years, I believe getting involved truly makes a difference. I would appreciate your VOTE on May 2nd. See you at the polls!



Mr. Anthony Fontaine Pitts

Anthony is a 37-year community servant of the DMV area, having attended elementary school through high school in the District of Columbia. Having served our country in the US Army from 1985 – 1990 as a Wire Systems Installer in Fort Hood, Texas, and then Frankfurt, Germany, until his honorable discharge in 1990, Anthony immediately returned to his passion for serving his community. He joined the Local #5 Ironworkers Union, launching a budding

career in a new area of public service. In 2012 Anthony returned to serving his local community, moving his career to the Aggregate Industries Ready Mix Plant in Bladensburg, Maryland, servicing road and building construction throughout the DMV area. In addition to having served his community, the public, and our country, Anthony also embarked upon his passion for GOD. Since 2012, Anthony has been serving GOD and the people of GOD as an ordained Baptist Deacon. Anthony's passion is service, public service, community service, and worship service. As a community servant of Morningside Town Council, Anthony desires to continue the service of his community, providing a voice for those who are unable to be heard.

Business Ads (Place Your Business Ad here)

Yvonne Rodgers - Precious Lil Ones Day Care

6924 Pickett Drive

Morningside, MD 20746

(240) 716-8607
