

April 2023



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 in various capacities. (Strategic planning, monthly events, newsletter & grants to name a few). If this is you or you have another area of interest, please contact the Town Hall, and provide your name, phone number, and email. We would love to speak with you.

From the Desk of Mayor Benn Cann

Dear Morningsiders,

Spring has Sprung!! I hope you are having a great year and can find happiness and joy in all you do! As a Town, the Council and I have provided quite a few events and look forward to seeing you at future events. Please be sure to check the website and signs around Town for upcoming events. If you would like to be notified of future events electronically, please contact the Town with your name and email address so you can be alerted. Town elections are taking place in May. I want to take this time to thank Vice Mayor Brad Wade and Councilmember Todd Mullins for all the service that they have provided to the Town. You do more for the Town than most will probably ever know—best of luck in the upcoming elections.

Unfortunately, I could not lock in dates that accommodated the schedule for setting up the Roundtable with the Mayor. I will work to do something in this 2nd Quarter. Please stay tuned for more information on the topic. I look forward to speaking with you and getting your feedback on our great municipality.

Please continue to check in on each other, especially our seniors, to ensure we are all ok. I look forward to seeing you at future events for the Town. For Town, updates, refer to www.morningsidemd.gov.

If you have specific concerns, I answer my own email and return calls. Contact me at mayor@morningsidemd.gov or leave a message at 301-736-2300.

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 contact 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 staff does the Town of Morningside employ?

Answer: The Town currently employs a total of 11 staff (2 vacant positions in the Police Department). Staff consists of Clerk-Treasurer, Admin-Code, Public Works, Police Clerk, Chief, and Officers. Please take a moment if you see them to thank them for helping keep the Town moving in a great direction.

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

Police News:

The Gun Safety & Firearms Responsibility:

Please be reminded that the Morningside Police Department has FREE gunlocks available to any adult citizen, come to the station during weekday hours M-F 9am-5pm to receive one.

As a firearm owner, **it is your responsibility** to know how to properly handle your firearms and how to secure them in a safe manner when not in use. Gun safety is an important thing to understand before picking up or purchasing a firearm. Protect yourself and the ones around you by safely and properly handling firearms. As almost every firearms accident is caused by carelessness, proper gun safety procedures must be taken incredibly seriously!

Top 10 Universal Gun Safety Rules

1. Treat every and all guns as if they are **ALWAYS LOADED**; always perform a **Clearance Check Every Time You Pick One Up**.
2. Keep your finger OFF the Trigger and Outside the Trigger Guard until your sight is on target and you have made the decision to shoot. Avoid touching the Trigger until the gun is pointed at an appropriate target.
3. Keep the safety in the "On" position until ready to fire.
4. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction in which an accidental discharge will not injure yourself, others, or damage property, and **NEVER** point the gun at anything you are not prepared to destroy.

**Vice Mayor Bradley
Wade**

vicemayor@morningside.md.gov

**Councilmember Todd
Mullins**

temullins@morningside.md.gov

**Councilmember John
Anthony**

jwanthony@morningside.md.gov

**Councilmember
Sharon Fowler**

safowler@morningside.md.gov

Dates to Remember:

May 1, 2023 –

Town of Morningside
Elections

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

May 9, 2023 –

Town of Morningside
Work Session – 7 p.m.

May 13 & 14 –

Spring Clean-Up
(Rain date

May 20 & 21)

See flyer enclosed

5. Always be certain of your target and be aware of what is behind & around it, and mindful of potential ricochets.
6. Never leave a loaded weapon unattended or unsecured; firearms should be unloaded when not in use. Always check the gun's magazine and chamber before handing over a firearm or handling it yourself. Store guns unloaded and make sure that they are not accessible to unauthorized users. Store ammunition separately from firearms
7. **Take Special Care to Keep Guns Away from Children and Anyone Unfamiliar with Guns.** Always let them know that they may only handle a firearm with your supervision. If children are in an environment where they are exposed to guns, provide instruction in gun safety habits, **BUT KEEP THE GUNS LOCKED AWAY SAFELY!**
8. Always wear eye and ear protection as appropriate when operating a firearm. Good eyewear is a must as you cannot replace your eyes. Since gunshots typically exceed a volume of over 90 decibels and effects hearing, ear protection is imperative as well.
9. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting
10. Know your firearm and maintain it by cleaning it regularly and taking it for service when necessary.

Teach your children about gun safety. Do your kids know what to do if they come across a gun? Here are some tips.

STOP! This first step is CRUCIAL! Stopping first allows your child the time he or she needs to remember the rest of the safety instructions.

DON'T TOUCH! A firearm that is not touched or disturbed is unlikely to fire and otherwise endanger your child or other people.

RUN AWAY! This removes the temptation to touch the firearm as well as the danger that another person may negligently cause it to fire.

TELL A GROWN UP! Children should seek a trustworthy adult, neighbor, relative, or teacher if a parent or guardian is not available.

All you have to do is act responsibly and insist that other members of your family, and/or any friends, acquaintances, visitors to your home, ESPECIALLY CURIOUS CHILDREN, do the same!

May 16, 2023 – Town
of Morningside
Regular Meeting
– 7 pm

May 29, 2023 –
Town offices closed
for Memorial Day
Holiday

Code Enforcement:

Morningside Code Compliance Officers (CCO) survey the Town to determine compliance with Town’s Ordinances. The CCO and the Morningside Police Department share responsibilities for the enforcement of most on-street parking violations.

Home Improvement Planning

Are you planning a project? Don’t forget to include the cost and the time necessary to obtain building permits from Prince George’s County DPIE and the Town of Morningside.

Common home improvements that require building permits: additions, decks, driveways, enclosing a porch, fences above four (4) feet in height, garage conversions, and sheds larger than 150 square feet.

Exterior Property Maintenance

Trash, litter, and debris – are to be removed, and the property must not be unsightly in appearance.

Open Storage – household appliances, building materials, car parts, furniture, rubbish, refuse, and other similar items are prohibited.

Firewood – is to be stored evenly and neatly stacked on a platform 6 inches above a concrete, asphalt, brick, or ground surface.

Public Works:

The Department works hard to provide and maintain public services that contribute to the Town’s health, safety, and well-being. As a reminder:

- **Pet Waste** - The owner or custodian of any dog or cat must remove their pet’s excrement from public or private property. Waste Stations are placed throughout Town for your convenience.
- **Yard Waste** - Please don’t blow or rake yard waste into the streets, gutters, or neighboring yards. After mowing and cleaning your yard, place all yard waste into a paper bag or can and place it on the curb for Monday pickup.
- **Street Light Outage** – If you notice a streetlight out, please note the pole number and/or the closest address to the pole and call Town Hall 301-736-2300 to report it.

Additional Information:

- As we embark on the warmer weather, please be aware of your noise, and being respectful of your neighbors.

- The World, Country, State, County, and Town are still in a pandemic. Please be cognizant to do your part to stop the spread (social distancing, facial masks, vaccinations) and encourage others to do the same.
- Recycling is Monday, Yard Waste is Monday, Regular Trash is Tuesday and Friday, and Bulk Trash is Friday.

Town Administration:

Town Elections:

There are Town Elections in Morningside every year. Election Day is the first Monday in May. **For 2023 that day is Monday, May 1st.** We will be electing 2 Council Members. There were 2 petitions turned in – both incumbents: Todd Mullins and Bradley Wade.

Below is some information regarding the election according to the Town Charter and Ordinances. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Administrative Office at 301-736-2300, M-F 8am-5pm.

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.)

Ordinance Section 3 -103. - Voter ID Required

All persons participating in Town elections must present a legal form of picture ID before casting their ballot. A current driver's license or another form of ID provided from the Department of Motor vehicles with a current Town of Morningside address listed will be accepted. If there is not an ID provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles, then 2 forms of ID, 1 with a picture, containing the Town address will be sufficient. The person still has to be registered at the current address to cast a ballot. (Emergency Ordinance Introduced and Passed - April 20, 2021)

Ordinance Section 3-104. Additional Voter Registration

The voter registration roll of the Town of Morningside shall include by reference all voters on the Prince George's County voter rolls residing within the Town of Morningside. If a Town of Morningside voter is registered on the Prince George's County voter rolls as living in the Town, then they are permitted to vote in Town elections without the need to register again with the Town.
(Approved 3/21/23)

Ordinance Section 3-105. Conduct of Election - Poll Times

It shall be the duty of the Board of Supervisors of Elections to provide for each special and general election a suitable place or places for voting and suitable ballot boxes and ballots and/or voting machines. The Board shall keep the polls open from **8:00 am to 8:00pm**. (Emergency Ordinance Introduced and Passed - April 18, 2023)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

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 budget. We continue working with the Council to ensure we get the best services and purchases with the ARPA grant we received. The Police Department has been very active in seeking grants for the Town, and we are providing them with financial and other information as needed to help in their endeavor.

The meeting room is available for rental. We have everything from baby showers to repasts here. We have even hosted a wedding! The months of Apr-May-June are now open. Dates for July-Aug-Sep will open on June 15th, 2023.

Please continue to contact us with questions or concerns at 301-736-2300 or generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov. You can also check our website at www.morningsidemd.gov for more information

Candidates for May1st Town of Morningside Election:



My name is Bradley Wade and I am seeking my 5th term as Councilmember. I currently serve as Vice-Mayor. I moved to the Town in 1987 at age 10, and I currently share the love of the Town with my wife Amy and our four daughters. I continue to work on improving the operation of the Town, through working with the annual budget, state training, recreational events, and meeting with an elected official in the state. I also work closely with the Public Works Department. I will continue to work with the Mayor and Council on improvements and helping the Town thrive with new opportunities.

Vote Bradley Wade on May 1st, 2023



My name is Todd Eugene Mullins, and I am running for Councilmember. My family moved to the Town in 2008. We immersed ourselves in the annual activities. As a result, I wanted to do more for the Town and ran for Council and have been serving since 2012. I oversee streets and roads, repairing sidewalks and roads. I am partnering with the Morningside Fire Department, County, and State governments to put back into place the speed cameras on Suitland Rd. I happily work extremely hard for the Town and its residents. I also continue to work with the Mayor and Council on various projects that will be beneficial for our Town. I am currently employed with Metro

Earth Works as a driver and maintaining a lawn care business in the town and surrounding communities.
Vote Todd Mullins on May 1st, 2023



Breakfast Bingo with the Easter Bunny

Business Ads (Place Your Business 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
301-736-5086**
