

January 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 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 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,

Happy New Year to each of you. I hope you and your loved ones are well. They say “New Year, New Beginning,” unfortunately, COVID-19 has followed us into 2022. I strongly encourage you to do what is requested to keep yourself safe (vaccinations, boosters, masks, and social distancing where possible). There will be a time when the pandemic will subside but only with everyone’s collective efforts. If you need COVID-related resources or services, please contact the Town; we can assist with some things, and what we can’t help with, we have contacts throughout the State that can assist us.

Due to the surge of positive COVID cases in the County and State, the Town will hold monthly meetings virtually until further notice. Call the office for the information (you can join by phone or internet). In the upcoming meetings, we will discuss events, the purchase of police cruisers, updates to the Town Hall, digital signs in the Town, and our annual budget, naming a few. The Work Session is an opportunity to observe and hear all topics voted on at the Regular Town meeting. Only those who attend the Work Session can speak about items before the Council votes on them.

The Town of Morningside holds elections every year. This year, my seat and two Council seats are open. I will be seeking reelection. We strongly encourage your participation in local elections. 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. On April 4, 2022, there will be registration from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Town Hall for any unregistered voters 18 and older. Please refer to the Town Administration portion of this newsletter for additional information.

Please continue to check in on each other, especially our seniors, to ensure that 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, 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
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@morn
ingsidemd.gov](mailto:generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov)

Police Department
301-736-7400
Emergencies call 911

Website
Morningsidemd.gov

Social Media:
#TownofMorningside

Mayor Benn Cann
[mayor@morningsidem
d.gov](mailto:mayor@morningsidemd.gov)



Town Questions:

Question:

What are the non-emergency numbers that I can call if I need assistance?

Answer: There are a few numbers everyone should know: • 911 (Public Health, Safety, Medical Emergency), • 211 (Domestic Violence, Health and Human Services), • 311 (Environmental Complaints, or Request for Environmental Services), • 711 (TTY/STS), • 301-883-7681 (Well Water or Septic System Problems)

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

Police News:

Phone Scams

DO NOT give out any personal information about yourself or your family when you receive a call from an unknown or unlisted number. If you receive a call from a credit card company about potential fraud on your account, hang up and call the number printed on the back of your card. The Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration do not call and ask for personal information over the phone!

Vehicle Safety

Car thieves often drive through parking lots and try door handles to see if the car is unlocked. Thieves are looking for easy access and taking items left inside. It would be best if you stored your belongings in the trunk and out of clear view to avoid tempting criminals. Always lock your doors and roll up the windows when you leave your vehicle. DO NOT leave the engine running or your keys in the ignition even for a quick errand, AND NEVER LEAVE YOUNG CHILDREN ALONE AND/OR UNATTENDED IN THE VEHICLE!

How to Stop Car Break-Ins Before They Happen

1. Keep your car doors locked and windows closed.
2. Secure your car keys.
3. Park your car in secure areas.
4. Remove valuables from the car.
5. Protect your car's wheels.
6. Activate your car alarm.
7. Install safety devices.
8. Properly insure your vehicle.

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:

February 8, 2022 – Town of Morningside Work Session – 7 pm
February 15, 2022 – Town of Morningside Regular Meeting – 7 pm

March 8, 2022 – Town of Morningside Work Session – 7 pm
March 15, 2022 – Town of Morningside Regular Meeting – 7 pm

Home Security

Do not forget to lock all doors and windows. When outside doing yard work or socializing, close the garage door to prevent thieves from stealing items. In general, criminals regularly use the garage to quickly access the home and run off without ever being noticed!

You may contact the Identity Theft Unit by calling (410) 576-6491 or by sending an email to: idtheft@oag.state.md.us

Fire Department:

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) continues to recruit operational and administrative members. You can find all information for membership on our website at mvfd27.com. Last month, the MVFD provided invaluable service to the community’s citizens responding to a total of 476 calls.

As an all-volunteer station, our service is only possible due to the commitment of the volunteers. Our Top Runners last month (Hours):

Place	Name	Hours
1)	Moumami, Sarah	657
2)	Dorn, Henry	417
3)	Bautista Romo, Hugo	392
4)	Searchinger, Noah	281
5)	McKnight, James	141
6)	Adalian, Andrew	136
7)	Cohn, Yoav	132
8)	Eizenstat, Menachem	121
9)	Griffin, Joe	107
10)	De Alwis, Suneth	100

The Department recently held its yearly elections of officers - Effective January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022.

Administrative		Operational	
Position	Name	Rank	Name
President	Michael J. White, Sr.	Fire Chief	Carl R. McKlveen, Jr.
Vice President	Eric Lubben	Deputy Fire Chief	Andre Edwards

If you would like to continue to receive a hardcopy of the newsletter through the mail, please call the Town Administrative Office at 301-736-2300 to be added to the mailing list. If you do not choose to receive a copy in the mail, you can still read it on the Town website at www.morningsidemd.gov

Secretary	Amanda Bell	Assistant Fire Chief	James "Chips" McKnight
Treasurer	J.R. Sellers	Station Captain	Michael O'Brien
Assistant Treasurer	Michael O'Brien	A/Squad Captain	Lucas Oblender
Board of Director	Les Hedrick	Engine Captain	Timothy Duffy
Board of Director	Mark Hendley	Station Lieutenant	
Board of Director	Michael Poetker	Squad Lieutenant	
Board of Director	Jamie McAllister	Engine Lieutenant	
Board of Director	Jonathan Hart	Station Sergeant	
Board of Director	Gloria Bell	Squad Sergeant	
Board of Director	Pete Mellits	Engine Sergeant	

Fire Chief McKlveen and staff are currently working on the appointment of Jr. Line Officers and will present that information soon.

Code Enforcement:

The Town of Morningside continues to enforce 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 Town of Morningside and the Code Enforcement Division's top priority.

With the winter season upon us, please remember to remove your vehicles from the **even side** street if snow or ice is in the forecast. When a **Snow Emergency** is in effect, all vehicles must be removed from the **even side** of the Town streets; It's the Law (you may be towed or ticketed). Please park in your driveway if possible. This will allow plows, salt trucks, and emergency vehicles to service the Town streets more efficiently.

Each resident and the commercial property owner is responsible for removing snow and ice from the sidewalk adjacent to their property after the snow has stopped falling.

Did You Know?

House Numbers: All homes in the Town of Morningside MUST have address numbers affixed to the dwelling and placed clearly visible from the street.

Open Storage, Trash & Debris: Open Storage, Trash, and Debris are prohibited from being left on the property and must be disposed of properly. This includes but is not limited to open storage, auto parts, appliances, furniture, building materials, tires, trash such as discarded paper, cardboard, plastics, etc., and debris such as tree trimmings, leaves, and fallen limbs. Remember you can request Bulk Service EVERY Wednesday by calling 301-888-1900 by the Tuesday prior by 2:00 pm.

Town Administration:

We are currently 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. All this while still maintaining the day-to-day operations needed to make the Town continue to run seamlessly during what has been a trying beginning to the new year with COVID and the inclement weather. We appreciate your patience throughout all of this. Please continue to contact us if you have questions and concerns at 301-736-2300 or generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov.

Town Elections:

There are Town Elections in Morningside every year. Election Day is the first Monday in May. For 2022 that day is **Monday, May 2nd**. We will be electing a Mayor and 2 Council Members. Below is some information regarding the election according to the Town Charter. 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 elections, this date will be **Monday, April 4, 2022**.

Section 52-28. Nominations.

Candidates for election to the office of Council Member or Mayor shall file with the Board of Election Supervisors a petition signed by at least ten registered voters of the Town of Morningside by the first Monday in MARCH. The petition shall be verified and contain the following information: (1) the name, address and phone number of the candidate; (2) a statement of eligibility pursuant to [section] 52 of the Charter; (3) a statement that the signatures on the petition are genuine, and (4) a request to be placed on the ballot. No person shall be eligible for elective town public office who has not fulfilled the requirements of this section. No candidate shall file for election to more than one public office at any one election. The Board of Election Supervisors shall be the final judge of the qualifications of candidates for offices under the requirements of this charter. In the event that there are no candidates for an office, or an insufficient number of candidates to fill the councilmanic positions, the deadline for filing petitions shall be extended FIFTEEN DAYS. (Res., Oct. 4, 1957, sec. 28; Char. Amend. No. 76-2, 4-2-76; Char. Amend. No. 87-1, 8-17-87.)

For the 2022 elections, this date will be **Monday, March 7, 2022**. Petitions for Office are available at the Municipal Center in the Administrative Office. This year the Office of Mayor and 2 Council Members are up for election.

The Town of Morningside is seeking volunteers to serve as Election Judges. Please contact 301-736-2300 if you are interested in holding this appointed position (a small stipend and food are provided).

Section 52-21. Board of Supervisors of Elections.

There shall be a Board of Supervisors of Elections, consisting of three members who shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Council on or before the first Monday in March each year. The terms of these members shall begin on the first Monday in March each year in which they are appointed and shall run for one year. Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by the Mayor with the approval of the Council for the remainder of the unexpired term. Members of the Board shall be qualified voters of the town and shall not hold or be candidates for any public elective office during their term of office. Before entering upon the duties of his office, each member of said Board shall take oath as prescribed by Section 52-63 of this charter. (Res. Oct. 4, 1957, sec. 21.)

Public Works:

The staff works hard to ensure all of the Town's maintained roadways and sidewalks are cleared of snow and ice promptly (within 24hrs) of snowfall. This is only possible with the patience and cooperation of everyone. Plowing of the roads begins once snow accumulation reaches 2"-3", residents can assist Public Works by moving their vehicles to the odd side of the street or using their driveways when snow is predicted. Any feedback on the process should be directed to the Mayor and Council.

Congratulations to our very own Mike Johnson of the Public Works Department! On December 8, 2021 Mike won an award from Keep Prince George's County Beautiful (KPGCB) Recycling Section - Department of the Environment for his installation of a cigarette butler at the Municipal Center. Cigarette butts take years to decompose in the environment and are hazardous to wildlife that may ingest them. Thanks to Mike's endeavor, he has helped greatly cut down of the amount of cigarette butts that have been strewn all over the parking lot, not only making it safer but more esthetically pleasing. Way to go Mike!



Picture of the Quarter: November Annual Senior Luncheon

Business Ads (Place Your Business Ad here)

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

FOR SALE

6520 Suitland Rd.
Morningside, MD 20746
3 beds/2 baths

For more information, visit
www.C21NM.com

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