

July 2023

This newsletter is considered a source and a resource for 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 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,

We are halfway through the year; I hope you are doing well. Let me take a moment to thank all that participated in this year's Town election in May. Your support in this democratic process continues to put officials in place that represent you. I also want to congratulate Vice-Mayor Brad Wade and Councilmember Todd Mullins on winning their re-election.

We have had several great events for the Town over the last quarter. The latest was July 4th. Thank you to everyone that supported the Parade, Family Fun Day, and Fireworks. It was a great day, and I am glad to have seen so many of you. If you did not have an opportunity to participate in the July 4th Celebrations, our next event is August 1st, National Night Out. This is where we as a Town come together to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness and generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs. If you would like to be notified of future events electronically, please get in touch with the Town with your name and email address so you can be alerted of events.

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, please reach out to me.

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.

Morningside

Town Hall

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

mayer@morningsidemd.gov



Town Questions:

Question:

Do we only have one Public Works Associate?

Answer: The Town usually employs two full-time Public Works associates. One of the positions is currently vacant. The Town is currently accepting applications. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the Town Hall.

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

Police News:

Very often, a citizen will come in person to the Police Dept. requesting a Peace or a Protective Order, sometimes referred to as a restraining or stay-away order.

This is different from the correct procedure as either one or both Orders need FIRST to be petitioned from a Commissioner of a P.G. County District Court, of which there are two (2) in the County as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Regional Booking Facility
Upper Marlboro
13400 Dille Drive
Marlboro, MD 20772
Administrative Commissioner
Location: Inside Dept. of Corrections | 2. Hyattsville District Court
4990 Rhode Island Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20781
Upper Commissioner Station
Location: Front of Courthouse |
|---|---|

A PEACE ORDER is a Court Order that requires another person to stay away and refrain from contacting you. You may ask the court for this order if you have been subjected to abuse, harassment, stalking, trespass, or malicious destruction of property. Other grounds include telephone or electronic communication misuse, revenge porn, and visual surveillance. Note: You must file your petition within 30 days of the act you describe on the form. If your relationship with the other person is family-like or sexual, you should ask for a Protective Order instead of a Peace Order.

**Vice Mayor Bradley
Wade**

vicemayor@morningsideemd.gov

**Councilmember
Todd Mullins**

temullins@morningsidemd.gov

**Councilmember
John Anthony**

jwanthony@morningsideemd.gov

**Councilmember
Sharon Fowler**

safowler@morningsidemd.gov

Dates to Remember:

August 1, 2023 –

National Night Out –
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
At Town Hall

August 8, 2023 –

Town of Morningside
Work Session – 7 p.m.

August 15, 2023 –

Town of Morningside
Regular Meeting –
7 p.m.

A PROTECTIVE ORDER is a Court Order that says one person must refrain from doing certain acts against another person, e.g., one or more abusive acts between family or household members or victims of sexual assault. The main difference between these two Orders is the type of relationship one has with the other person. Any relationship not qualifying for a Protective Order is eligible for a Peace Order.

These are the basic definitions, but each Order has other qualifying criteria. If interested, the Police Department will be happy to send a Fact Sheet on each Order upon your request to 301-736-7400 or mailed to your address or email.

The Police Department is most honored and proud to announce the recent commendation to Corporal Vena Mitchell as an Outstanding Officer for his heroic bravery and valor on June 6th, 2023, for the on-site apprehension of a shooting suspect that occurred at a funeral on Suitland Road. Congratulations, Corporal Mitchell with our sincere appreciation for this honor!

On a much more solemn note, we also wish to extend our most sincere condolences to our former officer, A/Sergeant Khari Grooms, now a handler with the Forest Heights PD K-9 Corps, on the tragic passing of his beloved “partner & companion,” *Kuno*. *Kuno* died in the line of duty on July 2nd, 2023, from a medical emergency while assisting the PG County Police with a burglary call. K-9 *Kuno* was five years old with four years of service.

Public Works:

Summer has begun, and the department continues to provide many services that affect the daily lives of the Morningside Community. Services Include:

- Street and Storm drain cleaning
- Litter patrol
- Pet waste stations maintenance
- Landscaping
- Removal of fallen trees

Please remember that the homeowners are responsible for maintaining their property. Please do not allow cut grass or clippings to be discarded into the street or onto neighboring lawns.

September 4, 2023 -

Town Administrative
Offices Closed for the
Labor Day Holiday

September 12, 2023

Town of Morningside
Work Session – 7 p.m.

September 15, 2023

Skate Van & Ice Cream
Social

6:30p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

September 19, 2023

Town of Morningside
Regular Meeting –
7 p.m.

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.

Thank you to our Election Board – Dave Chambers, Deborah Jackson, Dorothy Stevenson, and alternate Judge Marge Tremblay for carrying out another successful election day in the Town of Morningside. Congratulations to Todd Mullins and Bradley Wade on their respective re-elections.

The Clerk-Treasurer worked with the Mayor & Council to provide a balanced budget for FY24 without raising the Town Tax Rate. A synopsis of the budget is enclosed in this newsletter.

The Clerk-Treasurer attended the 2023 Maryland Municipal League Conference in Ocean City June 25-28 with the Mayor, Council, and a Police Officer. There were some exciting classes, and we look forward to putting what we learned to good use for the Town and its residents.

We continue working with the Council to ensure we get the best services and purchases with the ARPA grant we received.

The FY23 audit season is upon us, and we are gathering all the information our auditors need, LSWG. All FY23 audits are due to the State by October 31, 2023.

The meeting room is available for rental. We have everything from baby showers to repasts here. We have even hosted a wedding! The calendar is now open until December 31, 2023.

Town Election Results:

The Town of Morningside holds elections on the first Tuesday of May. This year there were 2 Council seats up for election. 2 people placed their names on the ballot: incumbents Todd Mullins and Bradley Wade. The verified election results are as follows:

Todd Mullins 43

Bradley Wade 36

There were no write-in candidates, and no ballots were voided.

FY23-24 Town Budget Synopsis:

A copy of the budget is available by contacting the administrative office.

Revenue:

Taxes and Other Revenue	\$1,518,112.00
Highway User Grant Fund	\$113,000.00
Remaining CLFRF Grant	\$845,388.00
Rainy Day Fund	\$189,645.00 = Total \$2,665,145.00

Expenditures:

General Government	\$628,923.00
Public Safety	\$975,307.00
Public Works	\$1,009,165.00
Recreation	\$52,750.00 = Total \$2,666,145.00

Code Enforcement:

Code Enforcement surveys the Town regularly to determine compliance with the Towns Ordinance. The goal of this office is to ensure the cooperation of all property and business owners necessary to maintain property standards set forth by the Mayor and Council.

Do Your Part to Clear Sidewalks

Town Code requires homeowners to maintain the grass, weeds, and overhanging trees on public sidewalks abutting their property. If you have sidewalks in front of your property, be sure to edge and clear the joints and cracks of grass and weeds, trim all overhanging trees to allow for a 9' clearance for foot and vehicle traffic, trim all shrubs as to not encroach the sidewalk for pedestrian safety, etc. Check for the power line before any tree trimming begins. For more information on Power Lines, call 301-883-4748 to submit a service request.

Home Improvement Planning

Are you planning a home improvement project? Don't forget to include the cost and time necessary to obtain building permits. Expected 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.

Morningside Recreation Committee



The Morningside Recreation Committee has had some great times. We started in June with our Skate Van & Movie Night, and then we went back to work preparing for the 4th of July. We started the day with our annual Parade, Family Fun Day, and the Fire Works display. Thanks to the Morningside Volunteer Fire Dept. for all their assistance throughout the day.



Upcoming Events:

- National Night Out August 1st
- September 15th Skate Van & Ice Cream Social
 - October 28th Halloween Events
- November 16th Senior Holiday Luncheon
 - December 9th Breakfast with Santa

For more information, call 301-736-2301 or
Email: Morningsiderec@morningsidemd.gov

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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**

