

# Smoke Signals



MOYAONE  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME LVIII

February 2018

NO. 2

## President's Note

—Ben Kirkup  
[moyaonepresident@gmail.com](mailto:moyaonepresident@gmail.com)

Theresa Abell, Kent Hibben, and a number of other neighbors are buying trees—seedlings, really, just a year or so old. John Holyfield is replacing the pressure tanks at the pool. Marty Carts and others are planning a celebration of George Garner's life. What do these things have to do with the proposed compressor station? What meaning could they possibly have in the shadow of menace?

Shrovetide is here—part of cycles that outlast our stewardship; that go well beyond our memories, and stretch beyond our imagination of the future. Fixation and puritanism give over all power and dominion to a threat. To take up arms against outrageous fortune—is to concede immediately. Acting in apparent disregard of its fragility to cultivate goodness is powerful and meaningful in the present.

So, without denying potential harms and anticipated hazards, today offer a peon to each of the ways we invest—in the forest, in homes, in children, in all those things that have a future for and from the Moyaone.

### Moyaone Association Board

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <i>President</i>         | <b>Ben Kirkup</b><br><a href="mailto:MoyaonePresident@gmail.com">MoyaonePresident@gmail.com</a>                |
| <i>Vice President</i>    | <b>Jon Gillespie</b><br><a href="mailto:MoyaoneVicePresident@gmail.com">MoyaoneVicePresident@gmail.com</a>     |
| <i>Comptroller</i>       | <b>Jamie Kucab</b><br><a href="mailto:MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.com">MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.com</a>           |
| <i>Secretary</i>         | <b>Karen Hoagberg</b><br><a href="mailto:MoyaoneSecretary@gmail.com">MoyaoneSecretary@gmail.com</a>            |
| <i>Director-at-Large</i> | <b>John Mitchell</b><br><a href="mailto:MoyaoneDirectorAtLarge@gmail.com">MoyaoneDirectorAtLarge@gmail.com</a> |

SEND NOTICES FOR *SMOKE SIGNALS* TO:

Ruth Gaumont, 301-292-1189; [moyaonenews@gmail.com](mailto:moyaonenews@gmail.com)

Next DEADLINE: March 5 for March issue of *Smoke Signals*

### Moyaone Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting of the Moyaone Association Board of Directors:  
Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018, at 7 pm in the Wagner Community Center, 2311 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek.

## Notice from the Moyaone Comptroller

—Jamie Kucab  
*Comptroller, Moyaone Association*

Thank you, members of the Moyaone, for your past financial support of our community. Invoices for the 2018 annual dues have been e-mailed. If you have not received yours, please contact me ASAP.

The consolidated fee for 2018 has increased to \$770 (the unimproved lot fee is unchanged). After much discussion, this change was approved by unanimous vote at the December budget meeting. The purpose of this increase is to counteract the effect of inflation, which had whittled down the buying power of the dues that were set some nine years ago. It will also put us in a position to resume contributions to our investment fund next year.

You now have the option to pay your dues by automated payment plan. If you would like to take advantage of this option, you must set up your plan by the end of February 2018. You can do so by contacting Jamie Kucab at [moyaonecomptroller@gmail.com](mailto:moyaonecomptroller@gmail.com), or by calling the new comptroller hotline (240-903-1119) between 9–10 am and 5–6 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, during the month of February.

Thank you for your continued support!

### Contact Information for Moyaone Public Affairs

The Moyaone Public Affairs Committee has doubled in size (we are now two)! **Sarah (Carts) Kase** is now at the helm, as Kent Hibben is now serving our community as the new Roads Committee Chair. He remains the other half of the Public Affairs Committee.

Feel free to use [MoyaonePublicAffairsChair@gmail.com](mailto:MoyaonePublicAffairsChair@gmail.com) for any questions or updates you wish to share with the committee.

## The “Gateway to the Moyaone” Is a Dangerous Intersection

### —Please Use Caution and Common Sense

—Shane J. LaBrake

Many residents of the Moyaone know me and Kirsten Watts. Kirsten grew up in the Moyaone on Overlook Drive, and I moved to Accokeek in the spring of 1995. We live at the intersection of Bryan Point Road and Farmington Road West.

When Kirsten Watts moved into our house in 1994, realtor Dotie Odell called this intersection the “Gateway to the Moyaone.” In some ways it’s a fitting description.

Since then, there have been a lot of changes in the area. There are more people living in the greater Accokeek region, and consequently there is much more traffic. Technology has also allowed for more distracted drivers.

There have been four traffic accidents at this intersection since last October, and many more over the past few years. It’s hard to put a number on the close calls we’ve witnessed. At least six accidents have involved Moyaone residents.

I suspect that many local residents do not fully appreciate the change in the traffic dynamic of this intersection. Both roads that make up this intersection are posted at 30 mph, and there are STOP signs on each side of Farmington Road West. Many people routinely pass through the intersection at much higher speeds, and often fail to stop at the sign.

This makes for a dangerous situation, especially when coupled with the physical features of the intersection.

Consider the following:

- It is not a perfectly perpendicular intersection, i.e., the roads do not intersect at 90° angles.
- As you approach Farmington Road West departing the Moyaone, there are slight bends in the road before and after the intersection. There is also a sharp bend in Farmington Road West as you approach the intersection from the Christ Church side.
- There is vegetation on both sides of Bryan Point Road that obstructs the view of oncoming cars when you are at the STOP sign wanting to turn toward the Moyaone. While I regularly trim back trees and shrubs to improve visibility, the sight line is still compromised.
- When approaching the intersection from the Moyaone during sunrise and the following hour or so, especially in the winter months, the bright sun can blind a driver approaching the intersection.
- On our side of Bryan Point Road, there is a significant dip in the roadway, and there are no shoulders adjacent to the road. Instead there is a ditch that is often muddy or water-filled.
- Drivers approaching the intersection from the Moyaone side often come through so fast that they pass by our house in the opposing traffic lane.
- Many drivers fail to stop at all when turning right from Farmington Road West onto Bryan Point Road, and some make the turn wide, i.e., they end up in the oncoming lane.
- Some drivers even make a left turn from Farmington Road West onto Bryan Point Road without stopping.

## Roads in and around the Moyaone

—Rita Bergman and Kent Hibben

I was recently asked by Ben Kirkup, Moyaone Association President, to address a recurring issue related to the roads, specifically access to the Moyaone between Livingston Road and Sanford Lane. While this road is not part of the Moyaone, it is a very important access road—both for entering and leaving, and certainly for use of emergency vehicles. Moyaone residents, visitors, and delivery trucks are able to use this road; however, it is maintained by the Moyaone Association with an unwritten cooperative agreement. In general, we have maintained a good working relationship and have worked to communicate regularly on upcoming roadwork and issue resolution.

Most recently, concerns have arisen (again) about speeding on this stretch, and this note is intended to remind everyone that speeding both damages the gravel road, and is a threat to pedestrians and animals (domestic and wild) and therefore a safety issue. It also results in excess wear, and creates dust and noise that none of us would want in our front yards. Moyaone Roads Chair Kent, and I, both urge all of you who use this stretch of road to be conscious of the speed limit (15 mph maximum on the Moyaone gravel roads), and to remind your visitors and delivery folks to be compliant as well.

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- Many drivers are observed trying to manage the turns while holding a phone.
  - Even more drivers fail to use turn signals.

I wish it weren’t so easy to see all of this. But many of our windows face the intersection, and we both spend a lot of time outside. Incidentally, it’s not just “outsiders” who exhibit these dangerous driving habits. Regrettably, we witness many local residents from the Moyaone and other nearby neighborhoods, as well as staff from both Foundations, who engage in these unsafe behaviors.

After the two accidents that occurred just days apart in late November, a number of ideas were put forth on the NextDoor Moyaone forum. Among these were making this intersection a four-way STOP, and/or installing speed bumps on the roads.

Please: NO to both! It is loud enough and busy enough at this intersection already. More starting and stopping will make this a noisier and dirtier intersection (I should also note that people often throw trash out their windows when stopped at the STOP sign). All that starting and stopping will also increase air pollution around the intersection.

In lieu of those radical measures, may I respectfully suggest the following:

- *Compliance and Common Sense:* Respect the STOP sign and use turn signals.
- *Courtesy and Civility:* Be kind and pay attention.
- *Caution:* Simply slow down as you approach the intersection when you have the right-of-way.
- *Mindfulness:* You’re driving. Stop multi-tasking and put down the phone.

This plea alone cannot prevent another accident. We’re all in this together. It is my sincere hope to increase awareness and foster a safer intersection.



## Moyaone Roads: In Case of Snow and Other Policies

—Kent L. Hibben, Roads Chair

Were snow to reach 3 inches in depth, the Moyaone Association's hired snowplow kicks into gear, with thanks particularly to those whose volunteered Moyaone Association consolidated fees pay for his blade clearing a path for you.

As in seasons before, please know that his rig is hired only for our gravel roads. If you have any questions regarding his work, please direct them to me; he's got lots of miles ahead of him to clear, to keep us safe.

If you wish your driveway cleared of snow, among the plows-for-hire are the persons below. Residents are welcome to contact them or others, and arrange individual contracts with them. Remember to use NO salt where it could touch the gravel roads. The chemistry of the salt ruins the gravel road, leading to an expensive repair.

- Troy Ackers, 240-882-4298
- Jim Boone, 240-832-3591
- Tommy Clagett, 301-751-4171
- Dennis Gilroy, 301-775-6743
- Shane LaBrake, 301-758-647

As for other gravel road TLC, and driver awareness whenever behind the wheel (I support both Rita's and Shane's separate yet related narratives on page 2), please consider the merit of checking with your local road captain or with me, if there is a road, gutter, tree, or other issue on your stretch of gravel.

Many of the Roads Captains, myself included, have chains, trucks, saws, winches, and other equipment to happily remove trees or ditch-bound autos. Indeed we also have the good fortune of professional help-for-hire. Nevertheless, it makes it easiest to track the Roads budget's expenditures (for work beyond what the Captains and Chair can assist with), if a quick phone call or email to me is made—to discuss options—before any work is started.

I welcome the chance to drop by to identify what is Moyaone Roads' purview, and what is the landowners' responsibility; and either way, to offer help all the while. I welcome 24/7 texts to **202 316-8432**, and/or emails to **MoyaoneRoadsChair@gmail.com**

## THE CHILI CHALLENGE

Saturday, Feb. 24, 6:00 pm

Wagner Community Center,  
2311 Bryan Point Rd.,  
Accokeek



The **Chili Challenge** is returning to the Moyaone on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 6 pm. Come down to the Wagner Community Center, 2311 Bryan Point Rd., and join in the fun. Prizes will be awarded in two categories: best vegetarian chili and best chili with meat. To enter, send an email to Mary Lee Phelps at **mlgp42@msn.com**. Enter all your best recipes!

For those of you who just want to eat, drink, and catch up with neighbors, the admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Our master brewers will provide their wonderful beer. Admission includes chili, salad, bread, beer, wine, and soda. Cornbread and brownies will fill out the menu. Admission for all chefs will be waived.

This is a perfect time to catch up with friends and neighbors. All proceeds from this event will support getting electricity and water to the cook shack. Sunday, Feb. 25 is the snow date.

Hope to see you there.

## Piscataway Park Dedicated 50 Years Ago



In 1961 Congress enacted Public Law 87-362, authorizing the creation of Piscataway Park. On Feb. 22, 1968, Piscataway Park was dedicated on Washington's Birthday. In 2018 we mark the 50th anniversary of that dedication. This photo of the 1968 dedication shows (left to right) Frances Bolton, Turkey Tayac, Belva Jensen, Robert Ware Straus, Rosamond Bierne, Gladys Spellman, and Hervey Machen. Photo: Accokeek Foundation.





(left) A volunteer works in the garden at the Hard Bargain Farm. (right) A crew of volunteers displays bags of trash picked up from the shoreline, part of the annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Photos: Alice Ferguson Foundation.

## Alice Ferguson Foundation Offers Volunteer Opportunities

Varya Zhigilei  
Communications and Marketing Manager

The Alice Ferguson Foundation invites you to volunteer at Hard Bargain Farm. Join us in the Children’s Garden from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on the third Saturday of each month, March through August. The Children’s Garden is a space we use to teach school-children about plants and where their everyday food comes from. We will dig in and help this outdoor classroom grow. All skill levels welcome! RSVP to let us know you’re coming (<http://bit.ly/affgarden>). Alice Ferguson Foundation, Cafritz Environmental Center, 2201 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek.

Stay tuned for details about our Bluebird Monitoring opportunities too.

### Save The Date for Potomac River Watershed Cleanup: April 14

The 30th Potomac River Watershed Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April. 14. Join us here at the Alice Ferguson Foundation on the shoreline of the Potomac River or at one of the hundreds of sites throughout the watershed.

Since 1989, more than 150,000 people have prevented 7 million pounds of trash from entering the Potomac River. Will you join us this year?

- Volunteer by picking up trash. Choose from hundreds of events in Maryland, Virginia, and DC.
- Lead a cleanup at your own site. Register online and invite friends, family, and co-workers: Sign up to be a cleanup site leader this month to get free gloves and bags for your group.
- Find an event and learn more at [PotomacCleanup.org](http://PotomacCleanup.org)



### George Garner Memorial Set for April 14

—Paola Addamiano-Carts

A memorial gathering for George Garner (above, on right, at a Moyaone picnic in 2013) is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the Moyaone’s Wagner Community Center, 2311 Bryan Point Rd. George died on July 16, 2017 after a brief illness. He was 61.

## Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park WIGS AND WINGS WEEKEND

Events take place at the Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek

### Backyard Birding: Walks & Talks Saturday, Feb. 17, 8 am–2 pm

It's the Great Backyard Bird Count, and we're celebrating all things backyard birds. Take a guided walk on the Piscataway Park nature trails and learn how to ID the most common birds in our area. Then join a mini-workshop to learn how to turn your backyard into a bird paradise.

#### 8 am & 1 pm: Bird Count Walk

Free. Registration for 8 am:

<https://8ambirdcountwalk.eventbrite.com/>

Free. Registration for 1 pm:

<https://1pmbirdcountwalk.eventbrite.com/>

It's the perfect time of year to go for a bird walk! Join one of our volunteer bird guides for a special walk through Piscataway Park. As part of the Great Backyard Bird Count, bird walkers will be participating in one of the largest citizen science projects in the world as they help identify and count all of the birds we spot. The data collected will then be shared with the scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, who study bird populations and migrations all over the world. Both experienced and novice birders are welcome! Please meet at the Visitor Center 15 minutes before for check-in. Wear warm layers and sturdy shoes that will keep your feet warm and dry on the trails. Approx. 45 minutes to an hour.

#### 10 am: Backyard Bird Feeders 101

\$10/person. Registration:

<https://10ambackyardbirdfeeders.eventbrite.com/>

Setting up a bird feeder in your backyard may sound like a simple task, but a trip to your local feed provider may leave you wondering where to start. Which birds prefer which feeders, and what type of seed do I put in it? Where in my yard is the best place to set it up, and how do I maintain the feeder? What about unwanted diners like squirrels? Do birds eat differently in the summer than in the winter? Join us for this mini-workshop to learn all about which feeder is right for your yard, and how to create the best dining experience for your backyard birds. Please meet at the Education Center at 9:45 am for check-in. Approx. 45 minutes.

#### 11:30 am: Landscaping for Birds 101

\$10/person. Registration:

<https://1130amlandscapingforbirds.eventbrite.com/>

How can you turn your backyard into a bird paradise? Join Annmarie Buckley to learn about landscaping your yard with your feathered friends in mind. You'll learn about native plants that can attract birds to your yard throughout the whole year, and how to create ideal habitats for avian visitors. Workshop includes a DIY activity. Please arrive at the Education Center at 11:15 am for check-in. Approx. 30 minutes.



## National Colonial Farm Needs Volunteers

—Deanna Rishell, Visitor Outreach Coordinator

The Accokeek Foundation is seeking volunteers to share their traditional trades and skills with the public as a part of the weekend interpretation on the National Colonial Farm. For the upcoming season from April to November, we are looking to bring in partners to showcase their knowledge and talents alongside costumed historic interpreters in the form of demonstrations, workshops, artist highlights at the gift shop, or hands-on experiences. Examples include but are not limited to coopering, soap making, leatherworking, theorem painting, or lacemaking. Please contact Deanna Rishell ([drishell@accokeek.org](mailto:drishell@accokeek.org); 301 965-9646).

### Raptor Brunch (*Members Only*)

Sunday, Feb. 18, Noon–2 pm. \$20/person, Registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/raptor-brunch-members-only-tickets-42483579530>

Become a Member:

<https://accokeekfoundation.org/memberships/>

On Sundays we brunch. On *this* Sunday, we raptor brunch. Join the Accokeek Foundation on Sunday, Feb. 18 to take your brunch game to new heights. Enjoy a brunch buffet at the Education Center while you meet some of the fierce and feathered rescues of the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center. See a Barn Owl, American Kestrel, and Bald Eagle up close and learn more about what makes each raptor so unique, and how *you* can get involved in conservation efforts to save them and their habitats. Members will receive an email with the access code to purchase tickets.

### Escape Farm: Presidential Edition

Monday, February 1, Noon–1 pm *or* 1:45–2:45 pm  
\$25/person or \$225 to book all ten slots

Noon–1 pm. Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/escape-farm-presidential-edition-12-1-pm-tickets-42369203428>

1:45–2:45 pm. Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/escape-farm-presidential-edition-145-245-pm-tickets-42478405053>

It's the 19th century, and George Washington's Distillery has burned down. What has become of his famous whiskey recipe? Rumor has it that it may be somewhere on the National Colonial Farm. Grab a group of 10 friends, and play this special edition of Escape Farm! You'll have one hour to solve interactive puzzles, complete challenging games, and search the farm for clues before your time runs out. Max of 10 participants in each time slot. To purchase all 10 slots, contact Deanna Rishell ([drishell@accokeek.org](mailto:drishell@accokeek.org)) to check on availability. Participants should arrive at the Visitor Center 30 minutes prior to the start of their time slot for check-in and orientation. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.





Meet and Greet

# Ben Jealous

Candidate for Governor  
of Maryland

**Wagner Community Center  
Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018  
11:00 am to 1 pm**

**Hear Ben's plans to:**

- Control costs and provide health care to all Marylanders through a Medicare-for-All system
- Create better-paying jobs and economic security
- Fully fund and improve the quality of public education
- Reform our criminal justice system
- Protect the Bay and expand the use of renewable energy
- Defend DREAMers and champion a pathway to citizenship
- Protect and expand civil rights

**Endorsed by Bernie Sanders, Ben currently works as an investor for Kapor Capital, an investment firm that invests in companies working to create progressive social change. A former president and CEO of the NAACP, Ben is a graduate of Columbia and Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.**

**In 2013, Ben was named Marylander of the Year by the Baltimore Sun because of the role he played in leading the effort to abolish the death penalty, helping to pass marriage equality, chairing the effort to pass the DREAM Act, and expanding voting rights.**

**Sponsored by Greater Accokeek Progressive Activists**

**Refreshments will follow**

## SAVE THE DATE:

# 2018 Moyaone Homes Tour

*Saturday, April 21*

Don't miss the 7th Moyaone Homes Tour on Saturday, April 21. Gracious homeowners in the Moyaone Reserve will be opening their homes for visitors to enjoy some of the diverse architecture and style in the area. Watch for more details in future issues of *Smoke Signals*.

## *Moyaone Memories Sought*

—Kay Powell

This year is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Piscataway Park. Our community is diverse and some of us have been here many years; others have just moved here recently. I was speaking to another resident and we thought it would be fun to share memories of living on five acres in the Moyaone Reserve.

Anyone that lives here knows that this is a special place. So share some memories: What brought you here or how did you learn about the Moyaone? What is your favorite thing to do when you have free time? Have you experienced animal sightings of an unusual nature? What about conversations and doings with old timers? Share a story that made an event at the Accokeek Foundation or the Alice Ferguson Foundation special to you. If you grew up here you probably have many wonderful stories. Don't be limited by these ideas. I want to tell about the time a tractor trailer truck was stuck on our hill for eight hours and the best places for sledding in winter.

Limit your writing to 100 words. If we get enough responses maybe we can publish. Sharing our experiences of living here will help our neighbors and the organizations that are so embedded in our past to know us. Send your stories to [kaypowell@verizon.net](mailto:kaypowell@verizon.net). I'll be looking for help pulling this together. Happy reminiscing.



## **Tony Denikos at Homegrown Coffeehouse March 24**

The next Homegrown Coffeehouse is Sat., March 24 with Tony Denikos. Doors open at 6 pm. Admission: \$12. More info: 240-305-0876. The coffeehouse takes place at the National Colonial Farm Education Building, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek.

Light fare (homemade soups, bread and cheese) is served 6–7:30 pm; desserts, tea, and coffee (all evening).

### ***Coming Up at the Homegrown Coffeehouse***

**Sat., March 24**—Tony Denikos

**Sat., April 28**—Gina Desimone and Pat Quinn

## **Dear Neighbors, particularly those living in District 9 (Prince George's County):**

This is what occurred during the District Council Work Session on CR 62-2017 (on Jan. 30), the resolution to bring MXT (mixed use transportation) development to eight areas in District 9.

The Council heard a summary of the written and oral testimony presented during the joint public hearing with the Planning Board. It accepted a late-filed written testimony of Ms. McKee of Brandywine to be part of the official record. Ms McKee opposed the resolution. Finally, rather than voting on the matter today, Councilman Franklin moved to take the matter under advisement. The Council has until March 9, 2018 to act on the resolution.

In a surprising turn of events, the Council's attorney, Karen Zavakos, stated she disagreed with the legal opinion of Planning Board's attorney and believed that resolution was permissible or would "enhance the vision of certain plans" already created, mainly the Central Branch Avenue Plan (near Suitland and Naylor Roads), which has absolutely nothing to do with the eight areas in District 9 that, if granted, will see unfettered development under MXT zoning designation.

MXT has no limits on the type development or how much development can be done in an area so its designation should not be taken lightly.

Therefore, I urge residents to call all nine Council persons as many times as possible between now and March 9 to kindly urge them to listen to the majority of oral and written testimony of the public and vote against CR 62-2017.

They should be reminded that developers should use the normal zoning process to re-zone their properties and should not circumvent local zoning ordinance for action without true public input, especially since the public does not know what specifically is being proposed for each development.

Please call the Council members at:

- *Chair* Danielle Glaros, 301-952-3060
- *Vice Chair* Todd Turner, 301-952-3094
- Mary Lehman, 301-952-3887
- Andrea Harrison, 301-952-3864
- Mel Franklin, 301-952-3820
- Obie Patterson, 301-952-3860
- Karen Toles, 301-952-3690
- Deni Taveras, 301-952-4436
- Derrick Davis, 301-952-3426

Please share with your neighbors.

*Tamara Davis Brown*

*Candidate for Prince George's County Council, District 9*

*[www.tamaradavisbrown.org](http://www.tamaradavisbrown.org), 301-704-0930*