

Smoke Signal



MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME LIX

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NO. 6

President's Note:

A Quick Mid-Year Review

— Michael Leventhal
MoyaonePresident@gmail.com

We are now at mid-year, and our list of projects — both completed and ongoing — demonstrate the variety of activity in the Moyaone Reserve. The Board is working to advance all of the projects and to ensure that our projected budget, approved at the December membership meeting, is in line with what was proposed. Here is a quick run-down on what is happening in our neighborhood:

The Moyaone Pool — The whitecoat of the pool (a new plaster resurfacing of the interior of the pool) has been completed. The pool has been successfully inspected by Prince George's County and been given its permit to operate. The pool opened over Memorial Day weekend and is being enjoyed by all who want to swim or just hang out. As you know, all Moyaone residents who have paid (or are paying) their membership dues are members of the pool, so please introduce yourself, and your family members, to the pool staff and guards.

The Wagner Community Center septic system — As has been discussed at both the December 2018 and May 2019 membership meetings, the current septic system has "failed" and needs to be totally redone. We hired a septic engineer to design the necessary state-of-the-art environmentally correct septic system. The proposed plans were reviewed and approved by both the county and state septic engineers/agency officials. These plans have now been sent out to bid, and we should be getting the bids back shortly. It is hoped, weather permitting, that this work can be undertaken and completed by summer's end. In the meantime, Prince

George's County is allowing us to use our existing septic tank with the condition we empty it monthly. While we don't have a cost yet attached to the new septic field, we do have a grant from Prince George's County to pay for part of the project.

Rental Policy for Wagner Community Center Building, Moyaone Pool, and Cookout/Picnic area

— The draft of this policy was discussed at the May membership meeting. I have taken all of the comments from the members, chairs, and other Board members and incorporated them into the draft. The final and Board-approved policy and the new application form is now online, with copies available at the pool and posted in the message box by the cook shed.

Proposed Moyaone Reserve Historic District nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

— The research for this project has been moving along, with the first phase of deliverables to the Maryland Historical Trust being completed now (*see related article on page 5*). Besides receiving grants for this project from the Maryland Historical Trust and the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Program, we have also received grants from Preservation Maryland and from Councilman Sydney Harrison's (District 9) discretionary funds. We are still waiting to hear from our grant requests to Mount Vernon and the Charles County Commission.

These projects, along with the basic work of maintaining our roads and culverts; maintaining all of the grounds around the Wagner Community Center, the Moyaone pool, and the cookout/picnic area; and maintaining the Moyaone pool, as well as ensuring

Continued on next page



Southern Maryland Fair Skies Coalition Annual Organizing Meeting, June 29

—Jon Rietmulder

Join the fight against the loud, low-altitude flights over our homes and communities caused by new traffic patterns to/from Reagan National Airport. Attend our annual organizing meeting:

Saturday, June 29 at 9:00 am, Moyaone Community Center, 2311 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek

Residents of Fort Washington, Accokeek, Bensville, Indian Head, La Plata, and other communities in Southern Maryland have been severely impacted by changes to flight paths to/from Reagan National Airport (DCA). Areas that once were peaceful and quiet now have hundreds of noisy flights per day passing overhead. We're seeking equitable solutions to decrease the aircraft noise in the regions south of DCA.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served while we cover the following:

- Information on the FAA NextGen implementation and other causes of the excessive noise
- Data on how aircraft noise affects our health and home values
- Latest update on proposals from the DCA Community Noise Working Group
- Discussion of our strategy for the next year, including goals
- Discussion of plans for media outreach, social media, political outreach and research
- How each of us can help in this effort to regain quiet skies
- Election of leadership board and officers

Please join us in our fight against excessive aircraft noise!

President's Note

Continued from page 1

that it is operating with responsible guards, is a fairly good body of work aimed at making life in the Moyaone Reserve as pleasant as possible. Of course, none of this activity can take place without the financial support of the Moyaone Association membership dues and of the Moyaone pool membership dues (paid by non-Moyaone residents). I thank all of you who paid/are paying their membership dues.

A New Name for *Smoke Signals*?

—Kelly Canavan

The Moyaone newsletter is a treasured institution and historically significant in many ways, but I believe that its name is outdated. Certainly it was named with only the best of intentions, but most people realize now that a newsletter by and for mostly white and almost entirely not indigenous people should not be named "Smoke Signals."

I raised my concern at the last Moyaone membership meeting in May, and was asked to form a committee to propose a new name and logo at the next membership meeting, at which time folks can vote on whether or not we should update the newsletter. If you'd like to be a part of the committee, please contact me at planesawdust@hotmail.com. Thanks!

Accokeek Artists Alliance to Meet June 30

—Peggy Reichard

The next meeting of the Accokeek Artists Alliance (AAA) is Sunday, June 30, at 3 pm. We'll gather at the home of Mary Lee and Harold Phelps. We are very fortunate to have Daniel Wise presenting a pastels demonstration.

We are gearing up for the October AAA Art Exhibition in the Wagner Center, curated by Anne Stokes. She will have a July "artists call" so she can select the participating artists and visualize what the exhibit will look like. Sara Lilly is working with us on ideas for AAA and Midcentury Modern collaborations.

All are welcome. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Mary Lee Phelps or Peggy Reichard: mlgp42@msn.com, preichard1@verizon.net.

Clarity Coffee Shop Open in Indian Head

There is an alternative to Dunkin' Donuts and Starbucks in nearby Indian Head: Clarity Coffee at 4175 Indian Head Hwy. in Indian Head (next to the Black Box Theatre). "Last fall, while biking through the landscapes of southern Maryland on his 1996 BMW Motorcycle, Mark Steele could not find many places to stop for a cup of coffee that was not a corporate chain organization. He found it amusing that for all its small town charm, friendly people and amazing back road sites, it was difficult to find a well-done cup of coffee similar to the cafe he opened and operated in Lewes, Delaware. At that moment, Clarity came to be"

Open Mon.–Fri. 7 am–5 pm; Sat. 8 am–4 pm; Sun. 9 am–3 pm. Coffee, tea, breakfast. Also, lunch menu/snacks served 11:30 am–3 pm. See the menu at <https://www.myclaritycoffeeshop.com/>

While you enjoy one of your favorite coffees, sample the vast array of cookbooks from varied cuisines and collection of books on sailing from chef Mark Steele.



Belva Laughlin Jensen, MS, PhD (1928–2019)

Belva Laughlin Jensen, 91, passed away on May 20, 2019 in Waldorf, MD. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 57 years, LeRoy (Roy) Jensen, as well as her parents, William Edward Ivan Laughlin and Virginia Cleaver Sneed Laughlin; and siblings: Mary Virginia Laughlin, Alexander William Laughlin, and Gertrude Laughlin Boyd.

She is survived by their daughters: Karen Jensen Miles, Nancy Jensen Tyree, Erica Jensen Strass; grandchildren: Andrew Jensen Hower, Ingrid Hower Leivo, Alexandra Miles Thompson, Autumn Strass Niggles, Summer Strass Cote, Clifford Jensen Strass; and seven great-grandchildren.

Belva was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, on Jan. 21, 1928. She was a polio survivor. A lifelong learner and teacher, she graduated from Surrattsville High School, and went on to earn her Bachelor's degree in biology from Miami University of Ohio in 1949. Belva earned a Master's degree from the University of Colorado in 1961, and then went on to American University in Washington, DC, to receive her PhD in Environmental Systems Management in 1979.

Belva was an adored and admired science teacher at both Oxon Hill and Gwynn Park High Schools in the 1950s. She was a founding professor of Charles County Community College (CCCC), now CSM, where she was Dean of Biological Sciences and launched the Estuarine Resources Technology, Horticulture, Pollution Abatement Technology, and Nursing Departments. Belva sponsored many college field studies in western Maryland and the Caribbean, as well as the retracing of the 3,400-mile route taken by the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery.

Belva's life was dedicated to education, service, and advocacy. She was one of a few individuals instrumental

in the establishment of Piscataway Park in the 1960s, which was created to preserve the view from George Washington's Mount Vernon estate. She also served on the Board of Directors of Alice Ferguson Foundation (President), Accokeek Foundation, Moyaone Association (President), Nature Conservancy Maryland Chapter, and Smithsonian Institution's Office of Horticulture Advisory Board. She was an active member of the Charles County Garden Club and served as Senior Warden at Christ Episcopal Church in Accokeek.

She was incredibly devoted to her family, especially her grandchildren, teaching them to enjoy her creative hobbies like wood carving, poetry, flower arranging, sewing, and painting, as well as sharing with them her love and respect for nature.

A memorial celebration was held at Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center in Accokeek on June 1. Donations may be made in Belva's memory to Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center (fergusonfoundation.org) or the Alzheimer's Association (act.alz.org/donate).

Printed in the Maryland Independent on May 22, 2019.



Belva Jensen played a prominent role in the establishment of Piscataway Park. She is third from the left in the photo above, taken at the park's dedication on Washington's birthday, 1968. Photo: Accokeek Foundation.

May 31, 2019

To the family of Belva Jensen,

On behalf of the board and staff of the Accokeek Foundation, I would like to extend our deepest condolences on Belva Jensen's passing. She was a true friend of the Accokeek Foundation, and has been described to me by more than one person as "a force of

Continued on next page

Letter from Laura Ford

Continued from page 3

nature.” Belva served on the Accokeek Foundation’s board from 1990 to 1998 and then was appointed by her peers to the Foundation’s honorary board.

In 2007, the Accokeek Foundation honored Belva Jensen and Dixie Otis, along with the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, at its annual Leadership Salute. Belva received the William T. Moran Award, which recognizes outstanding voluntary service to the Foundation and to the community, for her work to ensure the preservation of this landscape.

As Congresswoman Bolton said in her first published report to the Trustees of the Accokeek Foundation, “Occasionally there comes a unique opportunity to perform a service of lasting value.” We owe Belva a tremendous debt for her service to ensure the lasting protection of this landscape. Her frequent trips to the state legislature in Maryland, educating politicians about the value of retaining open space and the potential use of scenic easements as a conservation tool, undoubtedly led to the effort’s success. The passage of Prince George’s County’s scenic easement legislation and the tax credits helped persuade landowners to donate easements to create Piscataway Park, by promising economic relief for the conservation of the landscape.

Thanks in large part to the intense lobbying of Belva and Dixie, Prince George’s County was the first county in the nation to approve tax benefits for preservation. Since then this pattern has been replicated in thousands of local jurisdictions nationwide and has set the precedent that enabled the conservation easement to become a preeminent tool for land conservation in the United States. It is a tremendous success story, not only for the land conservation movement but also as a model of the remarkable achievements that can be reached when a group of diverse people comes together around a shared vision.

I love the photo of Belva at Piscataway Park’s dedication in 1968. Describing the land conservation effort in a 2007 oral history collected by the Accokeek Foundation, Belva acknowledged it as “a hard, hard fight,” but noted it ended with everyone as “all the greatest friends, and everybody works together.” I have to believe that, too, is part of the legacy that Belva leaves with us — that spirit of community partnership, of innovation, of volunteerism, of commitment to education and preservation, of willingness to sacrifice and to work together for a larger, greater good.

So we celebrate Belva’s memory and her legacy with you, in gratitude for the many ways that she and all of you in her family have blessed the community and the Accokeek Foundation.

*In sympathy and friendship,
Laura Ford, President and CEO
Accokeek Foundation*

— Laura Ford’s letter was read at the memorial service for Belva Jensen on June 1.



To Belva's family:

My entire days, like yours, connected to this forest Belva championed, bring forth the need to celebrate, ongoing, her effective and inspirational focus on roots, branches, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

Belva inspired in my mother that there ought exist NO boundaries of access to women, in any field of endeavor. And so Mama raised us Hibbens (alongside Papa’s full agreement of this gender-neutral stance) to honor equally ALL minds and include ALL at the table.

Roots: my days were, and remain filled, with actions anchored by the roots of Belva, Nancy, Dixie, Eileen, Kay, Frances Wright, Dottie Odell, Doris ... and others.

Branches: that brains haven’t boundaries, and can grow and flow in any desired direction, Belva showed generations of Moyaoners, Accokeekians, and others, of all ages and schools of life, across the region and across the river.

And, STEM: in this era, and daily more so, having BOTH halves of the population, men AND women, encouraged to fearlessly forge into uncovering unknowns is precisely what Belva personified. My wife, my daughters, Mama; all the girls, all the women in my and each of our orbits are advanced through her message, DOUBLING the population ready to meet our tomorrows with scientific, sociologically sane, environmentally-focused answers.

I salute and am forever steered by Belva. Glad to weave further her and others’ ongoing narratives into the recorded history of the Moyaone and surrounds in the next edition of the Moyaone Reserve book

— Kent L. Hibben

National Historic Register Nomination Update

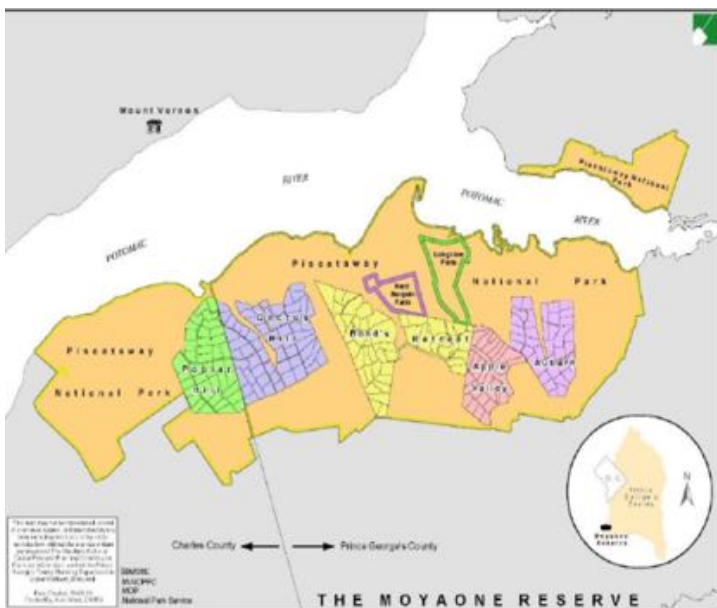
—Rita Bergman

Phase I of the project is scheduled for completion this month. This milestone includes in-depth architectural descriptions of 11 midcentury modern homes in the Moyaone and the chains of title for these properties. Collectively, they provide a rich source of historical information about the Moyaone Reserve, and the community's commitment to preserving the rural landscape and the natural ecosystem. Phase I also includes a preliminary building inventory of all the properties in the Moyaone, and a final report that describes the research design, the architectural and historical contexts, and the results of the field investigations undertaken by our contractor, Robinson and Associates. The map below shows the different neighborhoods that comprise

the Moyaone Reserve that will be included in the National Register of Historic Districts nomination.

Phase II of the project will focus on the preparation of the National Historic nomination application. At the completion of this phase, likely the end of this year, we plan to hold a community meeting to present the results of the study including a summary of the historic and architectural significance of the Moyaone and the details of the National Register Historic District nomination.

We are also pleased to announce that we received a grant from the Prince George's County Council, through the sponsorship of Councilman Sydney Harrison for \$5,000. Thanks to Michael Leventhal who initiated the request, which we then followed up with a detailed grant application. This brings us to a total of \$53,101 towards our goal of \$62,100. We are still waiting to hear from two other grantees that we hope brings us close to, if not meeting, our goal for the total project.



Map of the Moyaone Reserve showing its five subdivisions, which include Poplar Hill, Cactus Hill, Bond's Retreat, Apple Valley, and Auburn. (Map courtesy Nick Ward, Prince George's County Planning Department.)

Moyaone Association Board of Directors

- *President* — Michael Leventhal
MoyaonePresident@gmail.com
- *Vice President* — Rose Kim
MoyaoneVice President@gmail.com
- *Secretary* — Samantha Katz
MoyaoneSecretary@gmail.com
- *Comptroller* — Paola Carts
MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.com
- *Director-at-Large* — Karen Hoagberg
MoyaoneDirectorAtLarge@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT: 15305 Reserve Road available 7/1/19. Large, fully renovated rambler with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, library, family room, full attic/plenty of storage. New kitchen and baths. Some brick floors and exposed brick walls, beamed wood ceilings, massive central fireplace with insert. Circular drive, mature plantings, large rear deck overlooking lovely fenced yard. Many amenities. Lots of charm. City water and sewer. Easy living in a beautiful setting. Pool membership included. Call Sue at 301-814-7329.



Skunk, in pencil. Art by Sheila Cox.



The new Fairy Trail opens on Friday at the National Colonial Farm at Piscataway Park. Photo: Accokeek Foundation.

Events at National Colonial Farm at Piscataway Park

3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek
accokeekfoundation.org

Friday, June 21, 6–8 pm Fairy Trails Grand Opening

The Forest Fairies of Piscataway Park have opened up their homes for the first time ever and are inviting visitors into their world to learn about the forest they call home. Join us on the summer solstice to explore this magical new trail! The grand opening will include fairy crafts, special “Fairyologist” guides, face painting, and music. General admission: \$5 (includes a Fairy Trail guidebook and a DIY fairy wand); VIF (Very Important Fairy) admission: \$10 (Includes a Fairy Trail guidebook, DIY fairy wand, and a magical craft of your choice: a summer solstice suncatcher or a bottle of wishes).

Sat. & Sun., June 22 & 23, 1 pm & 3 pm Guided Nature Hikes

Explore the natural wonders of Piscataway Park with a guided trail walk led by an educator. June themes include “Magnify Your World” and “Sensory Hike.”

Sat., June 29, 9 am–12 pm Wild Edibles Walk: Summer Edibles

This series of seasonal walks are designed to support land-based connections, strengthen community ties, and increase our knowledge of native wild edibles. Each 3-hour workshop includes a hot breakfast, guided hike, and wild food tasting.

National Colonial Farm MUSEUM THEATER

The Accokeek Foundation's interpretive team presents a series exploring the life of Cate Sharper, a woman enslaved in Maryland in the 18th century. Experience the drama of family life in 1770. Free; takes place on the

Royal Farms Presentation at June 26 GACA Meeting

The next Greater Accokeek Civic Association (GACA) meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 26, 7:30 pm, at the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Hall, 16111 Livingston Road, Accokeek.

Representatives of Royal Farms will provide information about their plans for a Royal Farms Convenience Store/Gas Station — “a food or beverage store in combination with a gas station” — on the southwest quadrant of Indian Head Highway and Livingston Road. The 2.94-acre parcel will encompass four existing parcels (bounded by Indian Head Highway, Livingston Road, and Biddle Road) to include a 4,600 square foot “store,” eight gas pumps, and parking for 69 vehicles.

The project was presented to the Accokeek Development Review District Commission (ADRC) in May and is continuing through the various steps of review required by Prince George’s County. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the project proposed for Accokeek’s “gateway” intersection and to ask questions about the proposal.

The meeting agenda will also include reports by Phil VanWiltburg on Accokeek Academy, Jon Rietmulder on Southern Maryland Fair Skies Coalition, and Prince George’s District VII Police. Visit the GACA “free table” and enjoy free refreshments as well. Everyone is welcome!

National Colonial Farm every hour, on the hour, between 1 and 4 pm.

SISTERS FOREVER, Sat. & Sun., June 22 & 23

Two sisters—one free, the other enslaved—prepare for the reunion of a lifetime.

REUNION OF CATE & JACK, Sat. & Sun., July 27 & 28

Four years ago her son was sold away; today they are reunited.

In Other News: Mount Vernon’s Director of Preservation joined Accokeek Foundation President and CEO Laura Ford, in Piscataway Park at the end of May (Preservation Month) to talk about the history of the Mount Vernon Viewshed and the continuing efforts that go into preserving this landscape. It was a great opportunity to highlight the importance of the Accokeek Foundation's partnership with the Moyaone Association and the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Catch up on the conversation below (that is, if you can hear us over the wind ...).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TgwDyiMcS8>



Alice Ferguson Foundation Summer Events

Volunteer in the Garden. Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF) invites you to volunteer at the Children's Garden 10 am– noon on July 20 or Aug. 17. The Children's Garden is used to teach schoolchildren about plants and where their everyday food comes from. Please RSVP to info@fergusonfoundation.org. 2301 Bryan Point Rd.

AFF Ice Cream Social—A special volunteers & member appreciation event on Sun., Aug. 25, 2–4 pm. As a thank you for your service and support please join us at our historic farmhouse overlooking the Potomac River for an afternoon sundae and visit to the farm! Guests and children are welcome; the barnyard will be open. Open to all AFF volunteers and members. Let us know you are coming. RSVP: specialevents@fergusonfoundation.org

Summer Theater Camp. This AFF summer theater workshop will introduce young theater enthusiasts ages 7–14 to the world of the theater (*see flyer at right*). Both kids new to theater and young veterans are welcome, with activities ranging from beginner theater to advanced theatrical concepts and acting techniques. Mon.–Fri., July 22–26, 9:30 am–3:30 pm. \$200 per participant/\$180 for AFF members (optional extended day provided 3:30–5:30 pm at \$35 per child). AFF Hard Bargain Amphitheater, 2001 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek. <http://bit.ly/ChildrensTHEATERcamp>

AFF Summer Exploration Camp is a daycamp for children entering grades 4, 5, or 6. Aug. 26–Aug. 30, 8 am–3 pm (extended day available; capped at 10 children). \$200 per child (\$175 per additional child in the same family). Program includes activities such as identifying organisms in the swamp, understanding how the food on our plates starts in the soil, and how wetlands keep our drinking water clean. Young explorers will also enjoy interactive, fun activities with other campers. Camper provides own lunch. Register: <https://fergusonfoundation.org/events/summer-exploration-camp/>

AFF Cafritz Environmental Center. 2201 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek. For more information please contact Will Orndorff at worndorff@fergusonfoundation.org or (301) 292-5665 ext. 110.

July 22 - 26, 2019

Alice Ferguson Foundation

Summer Theater Camp

Calling all young theater enthusiasts and drama stars!



Discover the fun and magic of theater!

This outdoor summer camp will introduce young theater enthusiast ages 7–14 to the world of the theater. Both kids new to theater and young veterans are welcome, with activities ranging from beginner acting to advanced acting concepts and acting techniques. This fun, hands-on exploration of the world of stage makeup includes a variety of themes and styles, including age and character make-up, scars and special effects.

9:30AM - 3:30PM**



**Food not included. Extended day is provided between 3:30 - 5:00 PM at \$35 per child. (Capped at 10 children.)

\$200 per child; \$180 for Alice Ferguson Foundation Members.

Open to ALL theater enthusiasts ages 7 - 14!

Learn more at: <http://bit.ly/afftheatercamp>

Questions? Contact thomas@fergusonfoundation.org

Bay Journal Article Probes History of Land Conservation in Accokeek

A recent issue of the *Bay Journal* includes an article on the recent series of conversations hosted by the Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park: “Community conversations aim to broaden visitor experience at Piscataway Park.” (https://www.bayjournal.com/article/community_conversations_aim_to_broaden_visitor_experience_at_piscataway_par)

The April 2019 article by Whitney Pipkin gives an overview of the Mount Vernon viewshed and the history of protecting it. “Site managers,” said Pipkin, seek an “authentic story of the land and its people through more inclusive viewpoints.” The recent series hosted by the Accokeek Foundation, “Land and River Conversations,” explored race and culture. “This series,” explained Shemika Berry, Accokeek’s interpretation coordinator, “is designed to honor the voices of those who were here on this land before us, and those who still live here.”

See the online article for the full details of the complicated history of the land and efforts to conserve it.