

# Smoke Signal



MOYAONE  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME LX

JANUARY 2020

NO. 1

## ***President's Note:*** **Obligation, Responsibility, and Stewardship**

— *Michael Leventhal*  
*MoyaonePresident@gmail.com*

With the start of the new year, the Moyaone Association is about to send to all property owners in the Moyaone Reserve the 2020 Moyaone Association Membership Dues Statement. You will note that there is no increase in the fees: they remain \$770 for properties with residences; \$150 for unimproved lots.

The 2020 annual membership dues can be paid in one payment or through installments over 10 months. Those wanting to pay over time, please contact the Moyaone Comptroller ([MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.com](mailto:MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.com)) to allow the Moyaone Association to receive monthly payments from your checking account. For several years payments have also been made through "PayPal," although this practice is now being discouraged due to the charge PayPal takes off the top. For every \$770 paid through PayPal, the Moyaone received only \$733. In 2019, the Moyaone Association "lost" \$2,000 through this arrangement, funds that could have been used toward budgeted items. While this payment vehicle is still allowed, it is hoped that property owners will consider another less costly method in paying their annual membership dues.

As you all know, the member dues are necessary for the upkeep of our roads, to pay the taxes on all of the property we own in common (Wagner Community Center, the pool, the cook-shack and picnic area, etc.), for the insurance we carry on our common properties, for *Smoke Signals*, and other obligated expenses.

As you all also know, these membership dues are voluntary even though it is the obligation and responsibility of the Moyaone Association to keep our roads in good working order, to see that our taxes and insurance for our shared property is paid/updated/current, as well as to pay all necessary community bills. And we say with pride to all our friends from outside the Moyaone, and especially to those interested in buying property in our community, that "our" roads and "our" other community assets are taken care of through the community stewardship by the Moyaone Association.

The truth of the matter is that in order for our part of heaven-on-earth, aka the Moyaone Reserve, to continue to remain the special place we all believe it to be, we all need to step up and recognize that our "voluntary" dues are also a personal obligation and responsibility. Stewardship of the Moyaone Reserve requires collective action where everyone accepts their portion of the obligation and responsibility. The Moyaone Association does not look at its obligations and responsibilities as "voluntary" nor should you look at your "voluntary" membership dues as anything less than a shared personal commitment to the preservation of your community. And, if everyone willingly shared in the financial obligation and assumed their personal responsibility for community stewardship, the burden to all would be lessened.

I hope that as each of you drive along the Moyaone roads and use our shared assets, noting with pride that all of this is "ours," you can say that knowing you have paid your fair share.

*Please see page 2 for a list of Moyaone Association members in 2019.*

# 2019 Members of the Moyaone Association

The following list is of those property owners and others who have given financial support to the Moyaone Association in 2019. The list includes full members (lots with houses), associate members (unimproved lots), those who made a partial payment of their dues, and those who made a contribution in lieu of membership dues. Names that are repeated in the list indicate ownership of more than one property.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank everyone for their voluntary financial support of the Moyaone Association. Without your willingness to participate in the well-being and stewardship of the Moyaone Reserve, living in the forest would be more difficult and tenuous. Please know how grateful the Board is for your generosity and commitment to this organization.

Should your name not be on this list, and you paid dues, I apologize in advance for the error. Please let me know, and a correction will be made in the next issue of *Smoke Signals*.

—Michael Leventhal, President, Moyaone Association

Theresa Abell	Warren/Meredith Hodavance/Murray	Bill/Anne Robertson/Stokes
Thomas & Deborah Abernethy	John & Lynn Hollyfield	Robert Root
The Accokeek Foundation	Mike Huffman	Phillip & Hsin-i Russell
Aaron & Bonnie Ackley	John/Linda Jackson/Gorsuch	Bo Saylor
Marty & Paola Addamiano Carts	Bobby/Julia Jagger/Paajanen	Matt/Sheryl Schwaller/Romeo
Gary & Candace Allen	Paul/Jane Jett/Norman	William & Rhonda Scott
Cliff Anderson	Craig & Lucinda Jolly	Yanina/Gail Seltzer/Dickert
Michael/Emily Architzel/Canavan	Edward Jones	Chris & Lavon Sheppard
Josue & Gloria Barrera	Phil & Sue Jones	Wayland/Tina Shotwell
Trudy Beddow	Phil & Sue Jones	Larry & Natalie Spalding
Ed & Judy Bednar	Phil & Sue Jones	Bill & Pat Stagg
Matt/Karen Bell/Silhol	Tarik/Serena Kader/Legrow	Peter & Erica Strass
Rita/Nan Bergman/Fremont	Sigrid Kagle	Eric & Susan Straus
Betsy Binder	Dan & Samantha Katz	Ed & Michelle Sullivan
Jimmy Bramblett	Doug & Lori Keim	Phyllis Swanson
John/Dale Bruce/West	Steve & Rose Kim	John Taylor
John Brueggeman	Ben & Karen Kirkup	Chris & Kathy Tesi
Kevin & Rosemary Burke	Logan/Anna Kistler/Sewell	Patricia Tesi
Mike Campbell	David/Faline Koch/Haven	Jim Thompson
Kelly Canavan	Jamie & Christine Kucab	James/Wendy Tinsley/Vogenitz
Gordon/Lona Carlson Powell	Michael Leventhal & Judy Allen-Leventhal	Steve & Ikuko Turner
Thomas/Kathleen Clay/O'Day	Michael Leventhal & Judy Allen-Leventhal	Jim/Anita Turner/Stephens
Francine Cohen	Bev Linde	Holly Wagner
Michael/Linda Cohn/Witkin	Eric & Sylvia Livingston	Bud & Marilyn Wareham
Rick/Richard Collin/Wheeler	Paul & Barbara Livingston	Eileen Watts
Robert & Kathryn Cook Deegan	Edward/Rita Luedtke/Nagy	David & Nancy Weiman
David Cremer	Franco & Shawna Mazariegos	Glenn & Eve Welch
Frank/Amity Deleon/Glenn-Chase	Lloyd/Carolyn McChesney/Buckley	Cedric/Cathy Welch/Jenkins
Shirley Diehlman	Paul & Elaine McVinney	Edward & Sylvia Wilk
Rosemary Essex	Tim/Mina Melham/Karimi	Fred & Anne Williams
Jon & Alex Evans	David & Karen Miles	Michael/Drue Williams/Pearce
Stan & Patrice Fetter	Vivian Mills	Daniel/James Wise/Wickman
James/Carol Finger/Cox	John & Betty Mitchell	Dan Zak
Richard & Jeanette Finkbeiner	Bob & Marion Mullholland	
Dan & Ellie Fishman	Paul/Crystal Murray/Coleman	
Tom & Crystal Garcia	Alex/Karen Naar/Heys	
Chris Garrett	Donald & Phylliss Nelson	
Charlie & Ruth Gaumont	Scott & Dottie Odell	
Cliff George	Roger Osborn	
Bob & Charlotte Gillespie	Bill & Janet Parker	
Jon & Sarah Gillespie	Jerry Perrizo	
Laura Gillespie	Larry & Gwen Peters	
Judy Gladson	Harold & MaryLee Phelps	
Rob/Milena Gruwell	Frank/Amanda Pipitone/Truett	
Wendy Hall	Michael/Karen Plesniak/Hoagberg	
Rhonda Hanson	Ron & Becky Pollack	
Mikkel & Peggie Harrison	Kay & Tom Powell	
Doug Hattaway	Michael/Lucrecia Ramundo/Stansbury	
Hans Haucke	Ellen Reiben	
Kent/Kristen Hibben/Cibelli	David & Peggy Reichard	
Matt & Liz Hill	Jon & Gayle Rietmulder	

## **And landowners who paid in full or more**

Mark & Ruth Ann Borchelt  
Juliana Devall  
Julia Kamecka  
Warren Kline  
Skip & Lydia Kovacs  
Morgan McCleve  
Susan North  
Chris/Andi Novack/St. John  
Mike/Kirsten Palermo/Hartwig  
Katherine Parr  
Paradise Point  
John & Cindi Rudzis  
Elsie Spencer  
Mike/Dana Spute/Kee  
Persis Suddeth



## Fall Leaves Provide Crucial Cover

— Mikaila Milton  
 Biologist, Resource Management Division  
 National Capital Parks–East  
 National Park Service  
[mikaila\\_milton@nps.gov](mailto:mikaila_milton@nps.gov)

I'm including an important PSA from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation\* that will help protect our threatened pollinators: <https://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves>

**Leave the Leaves!** One of the most valuable things you can do to support pollinators and other invertebrates is to provide them with the winter cover they need in the form of fall leaves and standing dead plant material. Frequently however, this is the hardest pill for gardeners to swallow.

It may be habitual, a matter of social conditioning, or a holdover of outdated gardening practices from yesteryear – but for whatever reason, we just can't seem to help ourselves from wanting to tidy up the garden at the end of the season – raking, mowing, and blowing away a bit of nature that is essential to the survival of moths, butterflies, snails, spiders, and dozens of arthropods.

That's why this year—and every year—we are making the case for leaving the leaves and offering input on what to do with them.

Beyond butterflies, bumble bees also rely on leaf litter for protection. At the end of summer, mated queen bumble bees burrow only an inch or two into the earth to hibernate for winter. An extra thick layer of leaves is welcome protection from the elements. There are so many animals that live in leaves: spiders, snails, worms, beetles, millipedes, mites, and more – that support the chipmunks, turtles, birds, and amphibians that rely on these insects for food.

**Leaves and Lawn.** According to a 2005 NASA estimate, there are around 40 million acres of lawn in the continental United States – making turf grass the single largest “crop” we grow. This disproportionate ratio of lawn to garden is the main reason we rake, mow, and blow. To mimic the natural ecosystem an animal needs, a layer of leaves needs to be at least a couple of inches thick. While this would be too much of a good thing for turf grass to handle – research has shown that lawns actually benefit from a thin layer of leaves, and the rest can be piled up around ornamental trees, shrubs, and perennials to no ill effect.

**To Shred or Not to Shred.** Many organic gardeners opt for shredding their fall leaves for use in compost piles. While this is certainly a more environmentally friendly practice than bagging leaves and sending them to the landfill – shredded leaves will not provide the same cover as leaving them whole, and you may be destroying eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalis along with the leaves. We suggest that leaves in garden beds and lawn edges be left whole. Where space allows, consider creating a leaf pile and allowing it to break down naturally, or add the leaves gradually to your compost pile over time. Such efforts will keep critters safe and allow you to benefit from the rich garden gift that falls from the trees above.

**Free Mulch!** Another reason to leave the leaves is for the many benefits they provide to your landscape. Leaves provide valuable organic matter and build up healthy soil. Fallen leaves have the same weed suppression and moisture retention properties of shredded wood mulch — and they're free! Where mulch is desired as a decorative element, what could be more seasonally appropriate than a pile of brightly-colored fall leaves?

**The Bottom Line.** In the past gardeners may have worried that fall leaves, matted down by snow or rain, would have a negative impact on their perennials. In reality, a thick layer of leaves provides additional insulation against bitter cold weather, and can protect newly planted perennials when frost-heave may expose tender roots. Anyone who has spotted fragile spring ephemerals popping up in the woods knows that all but the frailest of plants will burst through the leaf litter in spring without trouble.

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*\*The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is an international nonprofit organization that protects the natural world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats. The name (which is pronounced Zer-sees, or /zəˈsɪz/) comes from the now-extinct Xerces blue butterfly (*Glaucopsyche xerces*), the first butterfly known to go extinct in North America as a result of human activities. The Xerces blue's habitat was destroyed by development in the sand dunes of San Francisco, and the species was declared extinct by the 1940s.*



## Coffee, Conversation, and Information on January 25

The Moyaone Coffee is Saturday, January 25 at 9:30 am at the Moyaone's Wagner Community Center, 2311 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek. It will be a perfect time to catch up with neighbors both new and old. At 10:30 am there will be a presentation and discussion on the nomination for the Moyaone Reserve to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Bring any questions that you have. Representatives from the Maryland Historical Trust will attend as well as the consultants working with the Moyaone Association, Robinson and Associates.

Come for the coffee; stay for the information.



## Moyaone Roads in 2020

— Kent L. Hibben, Roads Chair  
KentLHibben@gmail.com

### Dear Neighbors:

1) Special thanks to all those able to have contributed resources through their Moyaone Association consolidated fees) to keep our gravel routes safe and navigable. Throughout the year, please be aware of machines and members of the Roads team out there. We'll try to have cones/triangles/signs up to help alert folks when an area is temporarily blocked.

2) The names listed below are driveway snow plowers who are for hire this winter, by anyone who individually contracts with them for driveway snowplowing arrangements. The Moyaone Roads snowplow will focus ONLY on Moyaone roads, once accumulation reaches 3 inches.

### Driveway Snow Plowers for hire:

- Troy Ackers (240) 882-4298
- Jim Boone (240) 832-3591
- Tommy Clagett (301) 751-4171
- Dennis Gilroy (301) 775-6743 or (301) 743-2232
- Shane LaBrake sjlabrake@verizon.net, (301) 758-6474 or (301) 203-8954



## Homeschool Day at the Accokeek Foundation

Wednesday, February 5, 10 am–noon.  
Homeschool Day. Black History Month. Honoring the Underground Railroad. More information at [accookeekfoundation.org](http://accookeekfoundation.org), phone (301) 283-2113; [info@accookeek.org](mailto:info@accookeek.org)

Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek

## WINTER/SPRING 2020 EVENTS



### FEBRUARY 1 - 9 AM - BIRD WALK

Explore the Alice Ferguson Foundation's diverse ecosystems and the birds that inhabit the site. Keep your eyes and ears open for various bird species as our very own Bill Townsend guides you through wetlands and woodlands.

### MARCH 21 - TBD - FARM CHORE DAY

Join us for an evening at the farm. You will get a chance to milk our dairy cows, Annie and Opal, collect eggs from our chickens, and provide food and clean water for our other barnyard friends. After we finish the nightly farm chores, we'll relax by the fire with all the fixings for a hot S'more. This is a free event, but we ask that you register before, so we know how many people to expect. There will be eggs for sale at the event.

### MARCH 29 - 12 PM - GREEN WEDDING EXPO

Join us at Hard Bargain Farm's "Green Wedding Expo" as we highlight local vendors who provide eco-friendly products and services. This inaugural event features tours of potential rental areas—our newly refurbished barn, ceremony field, and reception space in our living building, as well as a workshop on how to plan a "green or "eco" wedding. Registration is now open on Eventbrite - \$5/person



### APRIL 18 - 9 AM - POTOMAC RIVER CLEANUP

The 32nd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup is almost here! Volunteer by picking up trash or lead a cleanup at your own site. Choose from hundreds of events in Maryland, Virginia, and DC! Register online and invite friends, family, and co-workers. Since 1989, volunteers have prevented more than 8 million pounds of trash from entering the Potomac River. Find an event and learn more at [PotomacCleanup.org](http://PotomacCleanup.org)

### MAY 2 - 11 AM - SPRING FARM FESTIVAL

A day in the country for the entire family! Come enjoy our newly refurbished Blue Barn and the rest of our beautiful 330-acre property. The Spring Farm Festival will feature a plant sale, local craft vendors, wagon rides to the Potomac River, barnyard adventures and much more! Admission - \$10/car

### MAY 16 - 4 PM - PIG YOGA

Join us for yoga in our restored barn with Amanda of GoatToBeZen Yoga surrounded by nature, farm fresh smells and of course, MKONO Farm's Kurekure piglets. It will be an experience like no other!

### JUNE 6 - 5 PM - PINOT ON THE POTOMAC

Enjoy an evening of delicious local wines and beer, great food, live music, and a live auction complete with breathtaking views of the Potomac River and historic Mount Vernon. All proceeds from the event support our impactful environmental education programs, which serve thousands of students each year.



FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF 2020 EVENTS VISIT EVENTBRITE!  
[alicefergusonfoundation.eventbrite.com](http://alicefergusonfoundation.eventbrite.com)



## Accokeek Artists Alliance to Hold Art Show and Sale

The Accokeek Artists Alliance (AAA) announces the "Celebration of Community" exhibit and sale of 15 area artists opening this Friday, January 10, in the Wagner Community Center, 2311 Bryan Point Road. The opening will be from 6:30 to 8:00 pm with light refreshments and piano music provided by Frank Pipitone. The show will continue through to the end of the month, open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Artists will talk about their work in the gallery Saturday, January 18, from 4:30 to 7:00 pm.

The AAA is now an official, viable association with proven popular support. As such, the Steering Committee (Peggy Reichard, Lona Powell, Daniel Wise, Mary Lee Phelps, and Cyndi Rudzis) has decided that to continue to grow we need a defined membership with annual fees. Individual membership is \$30 a year and family membership (for those over 18) is \$50. You can join at any time by contacting Mary Lee Phelps, mlgp42@msn.com. Credit card fees (cash or check, too) will be accepted at the Wagner Community Center throughout the exhibit and during the Moyaone Coffee Event on Saturday, January 25, from 9:30 to 10:30 am. As an added incentive, if you join this month, individual

## Vegans Explore Culinary Variety at January Potluck

The Moyaone Voracious Vegans' Vittles "V3" will meet on Friday, January 17 at the home of Amanda Truett and Frank Pipitone, 3100 E. Ridge Rd., 6:30–9:30 pm. Bring your best vegan covered dish and enjoy healthy eating, good company, and help practice sustainable food security in the Moyaone. This month's theme is: CURRY! — but really anything is fine. Bon appétit.



membership is \$25 and family \$40.

The benefits of becoming an AAA member are many: support of the arts in the Accokeek area, invites to in-house AAA programs and social gatherings, opportunities for members to showcase work in varied venues, early announcements of upcoming events, and a fun way to get to know your neighbors.

### 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

### Herbal Center to Hold Winter Retreat

The Wild Ginger Community Herbal Center will host its first Evergreen Winter Retreat on Saturday, February 1 at the Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Road. Participants will explore herbs, meditation, medicine making, herb walk, and various holistic healing modalities. For cost and registration information: WildGingerHerbalCenter@gmail.com; www.WildGingerHerbalCenter.com



# Homegrown Coffeehouse Kicks Off 2020 Season Jan. 11



The Homegrown Coffeehouse kicks off its 2020 season on Saturday, January 11 with a fantastic Blues Show. Phil Wiggins, Memphis Gold and Steve Wolf join forces — each are extraordinary in their own right. M.S.G. Acoustic Blues Trio will start off the evening. Read on: we're in for some magic!

**Phil Wiggins.** Phil Wiggins recently joined the ranks of his eminent elders, having been bestowed with the NEA National Heritage Fellowship, putting him in the company of some of the greatest luminaries in traditional blues and folk music. Phil is a versatile traditional harmonica player, continuing the Piedmont blues tradition, a gentle and melodic blues style of the mid-Atlantic region. His sound is not shaped by the gear, microphone, or amplifier when performing on stage, but instead by his complex syncopated patterns, breath-control and rhythm, stylistic virtuosity, and fiery solo runs. Within the past year he has performed in Sweden, Australia, and throughout the US, so it is a rare opportunity to see him in the intimate setting of the Homegrown Coffeehouse. [www.PhilWiggins.com](http://www.PhilWiggins.com)

**Memphis Gold.** This special concert will also feature the music of Memphis Gold, who has graced the cover of numerous blues and music publications, and has shared this uniquely American art form with audiences around the world. In this time of musical fads and gimmicks, his music is real and heartfelt. Here's how the British publication *Blues & Rhythm* describes him: "Memphis Gold stands with one foot in the past and one foot in the present ... [he] could be one of the youngest (and one of the last) to have picked cotton on the Dockery and Stovall plantations. Appreciative of his roots, yet too young to be completely anchored in the past, his original music moves forward with funky rhythms, odd chord changes and structures, and his own idiosyncratic view of life." [www.MemphisGold.com](http://www.MemphisGold.com)

**Steve Wolf.** The musicians will be accompanied by bassist extraordinaire Steve Wolf, who has backed many of the finest R&B artists in the mid-Atlantic, plus a range of national artists such as Chuck Barry, Bo Diddly, The Marvettes, and Dr. John. Steve was recently described by blues writer Tommy Lofgren in the Swedish blues magazine *Jefferson* as "Very likely the best blues bassist I have ever seen; versatile with innovative solos. He is well known in Scandinavia after many tours with Tom Principato, pianist Deanna Bogart, and others."

**M.S.G. Acoustic Blues Trio** (at 7:15 pm). An M.S.G. concert is not just a performance, but an event where everyone participates. We invite the audience to share in our celebration. M.S.G. Acoustic Blues Trio is a roots-infused, Piedmont-steeped, yet thoroughly up-to-date

group of widely and deeply talented musicians. M.S.G.'s repertoire includes original songs, traditional blues, gospel/spirituals and ragtime-influenced tunes, as well as a number of surprising covers. They are proud to say their latest effort, *The Flood*, received a first round Grammy nomination under the category of Best Traditional Blues Album. [www.AcousticBluesMSG.com](http://www.AcousticBluesMSG.com)

**Location:** National Colonial Farm, Adult Education Building, 3400 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek

Lite fare served at cafe tables: homemade soups, bread and cheese (served 6–7:30); desserts, tea and coffee (all evening).

Doors open at 6:30 pm. Opening Act 7:15–7:45 pm: M.S.G. Acoustic Blues Trio. Main Act 8–10 pm: Phil Wiggins, Memphis Gold and Steve Wolf. Admission: \$12. More info: 240-305-0876



*Before the lecture, enjoy a walk to the Chapman Family Cemetery on the grounds of Mount Aventine. Trail maps are online ([www.friendsofchapmansp.org](http://www.friendsofchapmansp.org)) and at the park entrance.*

## Lecture on Preserving Domestic and Slave Cemeteries at Chapman State Park

Sunday, January 19, 1–3 pm  
Chapman State Park, 3452 Ferry Place, Indian Head, MD

The Friends of Chapman State Park present a lecture by Robert Mosko, Mosko Cemetery Conservation, on Sunday, January 19. Mosko, who is a third-generation stone mason with a master's degree in historic preservation, will speak on the preservation of domestic and slave cemeteries. His company specializes in restoration and preservation. A member of the Historic Trades Association, the Association of Gravestone Studies, and a board member of the Coalition to Maryland Burial Sites, he has worked on 80 cemeteries with 7,000 monuments and markers.

A donation of \$20 is requested to offset the speaker's travel expenses. Light refreshments will be served. For more information about Mosko's background and the Friends' project to document the Chapman Family Cemetery, see: [www.friendsofchapmansp.org](http://www.friendsofchapmansp.org)

Project partially funded by a grant from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Authority.

# **Davies Concert Series Presents “Our Voice: African American Composers”**

**Sunday, February 2 at 4:00 pm  
Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation,  
7400 Temple Hill Road, Camp Springs, MD**

Davies Concert Series, now in its 48th season, on February 2, will feature the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA), in a program entitled “Our Voice: African American Composers.” In partnership with Davies Concert Series CAAPA presents a relevant historical voting rights concert highlighting black composers and their music, showcasing the music of William Grant Still, as well as composers George Augustus Bridgewater, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and Florence B. Price, and performed by CAAPA Chamber Ensemble featuring pianist Joshua Jenkins and curated by soprano Jocelyn Hunt.

The concert will begin at 4:00 pm and will be preceded by a short performance by student artists from the Charles County Youth Orchestra. The concert will be followed by a meet-the-artist reception. Tickets available through: <https://daviesuu.org/connecting/davies-concert-series/>

Davies Concert Series, a tax-exempt 501(c) (3) charitable trust, is committed to presenting classical music concerts, offering educational opportunities for young audiences, and providing a venue for new American music. For directions and other detailed information you can visit the Davies Concert Series at Facebook – “Davies Concert Series.”

Davies Concert Series is supported in part by grants from the Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC) and the Cynipid Fund, which is a recently established donor advised fund that provides modest levels of grant support to non-profit organizations, including colleges and universities, that focus on food, hunger, and agriculture in the U.S. and around the world as well as to nonprofit organizations that promote poetry.

For more information contact Artistic Director Osman Kivrak, DMA, Davies Concert Series [phone: (301) 375-7109; [DAVIESCONCERTSERIES@gmail.com](mailto:DAVIESCONCERTSERIES@gmail.com)].

## **Literacy Council Hosts Adult Spelling Bee**

A night of fun begins this Saturday, January 11 at the Charles County Literacy Council’s (CCLC) 2nd Adult Team Spelling Bee. Join us for a spirited night at the St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Bryantown (13715 Notre Dame Place, off of Oliver Shop Road). The doors open at 6 pm with the event beginning at 6:30 pm. Come out and cheer for a team. \$30 admission for food, beverages (wine and beer available for purchase), dessert, music and entertainment provided by Country Cruizers. Have fun and support CCLC in its mission of free adult literacy tutoring in our community. Call (301) 934-6488) or email: [charlescountyliteracy@comcast.net](mailto:charlescountyliteracy@comcast.net) for more information.



## **Youth Orchestra Announces an Exciting Weekend of Events and Upcoming Mid-Season Auditions**

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of La Plata, Charles County Youth Orchestra’s (CCYO) 1st Annual Concerto Competition will be held on Saturday, January 11 at 3:00 pm, at Christ Church, 112 Charles St., La Plata. The competition will be a recital with a distinguished panel of three judges. In addition to giving monetary awards, the judges will determine the soloist for the CCYO spring concert on May 17, 2020. The event is free and open to public. For more information about the CCYO Concerto Competition please visit: <https://www.charlescountyyouthorchestra.org/ccyo-competition>

The Winter Concert of the Charles County Youth Orchestra with Encore Band, Encore Strings and Prelude Strings will be held Sunday, January 12 at 3:30 pm, at Thomas Stone High School, 3785 Leonardtown Rd., Waldorf. The program will include the Egmont Overture by Beethoven and the Italian Symphony by Mendelssohn. In celebration of Beethoven’s 250th birthday in 2020, CCYO will present a work by this beloved musical giant on each concert this year.

The Charles County Youth Orchestra will be holding auditions for spring on Saturday, January 18 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Neighborhood Creative Arts Center, 106 St. Mary’s Ave., La Plata, for the Charles County Youth Orchestra, the Encore Band, Encore Strings, and Prelude Strings. More information and signups are available at <https://www.charlescountyyouthorchestra.org/auditions>

The Charles County Youth Orchestra is one of the largest youth organizations in Southern Maryland providing music education and performance opportunities for talented young musicians in Charles, Prince George’s, St. Mary’s, and Calvert counties.

For more information, contact Osman Kivrak, DMA, Director, Charles County Youth Orchestra [(301) 375-7109; [charlescountyyouthorchestra.org](http://charlescountyyouthorchestra.org)].

# A Letter from AFF's Theresa Cullen to the Moyaone Community

Dear Moyaone Community,

We wish all of you a happy new year!

It has been an honor to be part of the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF) community these past few months. The programs we provide to the community and to students in this region promote environmental stewardship and agricultural understanding. These are critical in today's world. We thank the community for its support of AFF in providing opportunities to nearly 5,000 students annually and helping in the ongoing efforts to clean our waterways. We will have the 32nd Annual Potomac River Clean Up this year. It has been past and current members of this community who have made these wonderful programs possible and have sustained our mission. If you have not had a chance to visit us or know all that we do, please visit [our website](http://ourwebsite.fergusonfoundation.org) (fergusonfoundation.org) and join us on any number of events this year.

Our first event is our annual Member's Meeting on Sunday, January 26 at 3 pm, which will include a reception and book signing of Kay Powell's *After Alice*.

In addition, an oil painting featuring the Hard Bargain Barn by former resident Peggy Mills, mother-in-law of Vivian Mills, will be on display. This oil painting depicts the barn in its original blue color. You may remember our barn's green and brown colors from previous years' events, but it starts the year with a brand new coat of paint as homage to its historic blue color.

Our doors will be open for Spring Farm Festival on the first Saturday of May, so please mark your calendar to stop by and see the beautiful restoration of the barnyard.

Become a Member or Renew your Membership - If you haven't already, please take a moment to [become a member, or renew your membership](#). Memberships are \$45 per year for the entire immediate family. Members are invited to our Member Meeting (we hope to see you there on January 26), and get discounts year-round on all our events.

**Volunteer with Us.** We need your help. Here are a few upcoming volunteer opportunities in 2020:

- Could you help with plant sales for our May 2 Spring Festival?
- Are you an artist interested in working with students this summer?
- Would you like to hold an art event or workshop in our barn?
- Could you help serve breakfast for the cast and crew of *Macbeth*, Sunday July 12?
- Do you enjoy gardening and would you like to help out once a month in our educational garden?
- Would you like to be a part of the 32nd Annual Potomac River Clean Up on April 18?

If you have already filled out [our volunteer interest form](#), we will be reaching out to you soon with this year's

opportunities. If not, please contact Brittney Gray at (301) 292-5665 or [bgray@fergusonfoundation.org](mailto:bgray@fergusonfoundation.org). You can also [submit your info here](#).

**Upcoming Events and Summer Programs.** We are excited for many wonderful programs in 2020. Some highlights include:

- January 26: Annual Meeting - members, please [RSVP here](#).
- March 29: A wedding at the farm? Stop by to learn more at our [green wedding open house](#).
- April 18: Join us on the shoreline for the 32nd Annual Potomac River Cleanup.
- May 2: Spring Farm Festival, 11 am–4 pm.
- May 29: Day of activities and learning for home schoolers. [Learn more](#).
- June 6: Save the Date for Pinot on the Potomac, AFF's Annual Gala Event
- June 21–July 31: We are offering [6 weeks of overnight summer camp](#) for kids.
- July 11 & 12: Prince George's Shakespeare in the Park will present *Macbeth* at our amphitheater on the weekend of July 11 and 12.

Are you a registered nurse or EMT? We are looking to hire an on-call person this summer during our camps. If interested please contact me at [tcullen@fergusonfoundation.org](mailto:tcullen@fergusonfoundation.org) or call direct (240) 988-8476.

*See you at the Farm!*

Theresa Cullen, Executive Director

*Alice Ferguson Foundation*  
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**CAMP DATES**

- June 21 - 26
- June 28 - July 3
- July 5 - 10
- July 12 - 17
- July 19 - 24
- July 27 - 31

Learn more at [www.fergusonfoundation.org/summercamps](http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/summercamps)  
Have questions? Contact (301) 292-5665 or [hbfeducation@fergusonfoundation.org](mailto:hbfeducation@fergusonfoundation.org)



# Hearings on Proposed Royal Farms Development to Continue

— Kelly Canavan, *The AMP Creeks Council\**

The Royal Farms hearing process before the Prince George's County Office of the Zoning Hearing Examiner (ZHE) will continue on January 21 and 22. The hearings for a proposed Royal Farms convenience store and gas station in Accokeek began on December 17.

Most of December 17 was spent on the right-of-way (ROW) case that precedes the special exception case. (Both cases are for the Royal Farms Accokeek proposal.) The hearing was long and technical, and involved a lot of lawyers going back and forth presenting and cross-examining Royal Farms' experts. There is one lawyer (Lawrence Taub) representing the current landowners; one representing Royal Farms (Matt Tedesco); Sean Canavan representing The AMP Creeks Council; and Macy Nelson for several individuals, Anchors Kennel, the EXXON convenience store, and Accokeek Gas and Go.

Through this process, we learned a lot about how the proposal got this far. Listing agent Daniel LaPlaca was approached by B&H Hardware (the Perrygo family). LaPlaca decided that the group of properties should band together and sell as a group to make more money. He met with each property owner, and they agreed to sell together. LaPlaca determined that "pass-by uses" (gas stations, convenience stores, pharmacies, fast food – impulse-buy businesses) as opposed to "destination uses" (sit-down restaurants, grocery stores, furniture stores – businesses that people make plans to go to before leaving the house) would make more money. LaPlaca then marketed the property to WaWa, 7-11, and Royal Farms. A bidding war ensued. Originally the asking price was about a million per acre, but the resulting sale price was much higher. LaPlaca testified that the next best thing to build on the parcels would be a fancy restaurant or furniture store, estimating that they would bring in 25% to 30% of the value of a pass-by use, but admitted that he never pursued sales to a destination-use business. LaPlaca stands to gain a huge commission from the sale of the property if it goes through.

The ROW case was put temporarily on hold.

The Special Exception part of the hearing began after lunch. People who were not represented by counsel were given the opportunity to testify for as long as they liked, but many had left by then. Still, they took up most of the rest of the day. The ZHE cannot accept written comments from people who don't testify, but will accept a copy of anyone's oral testimony for the permanent record. If a person is speaking on behalf of a group or organization, they must bring a letter from that group authorizing them to represent it. We advise future speakers to try to take a look at the technical staff report for

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*The Accokeek, Mattawoman, Piscataway Creeks Communities Council, Inc. (AMP Creeks) is a small nonprofit organization established in 2007.*

this project if possible and the traffic analysis that was submitted. While you can certainly testify if you don't, Tedesco asked everyone opposing the project if they'd read those two reports, and also if they'd oppose any gas station at the intersection or not.

Chuck, Lee, and Richard Clagett (who own two of the four properties) testified and were cross-examined. Sean Canavan asked if they'd known about the ROW problem when they entered into a deal with Royal Farms, and they testified that they knew very little about the real estate deal at all.

On December 18, the hearing ran from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. The ROW case was first up again. There was a very specific set of facts that Macy Nelson was working to establish. A couple hours in, there was evidence that Nelson still needed to procure, so the ROW case was again put on hold to allow for that collection.

The hearing shifted to the related Special Exception case. The Applicant called a slew of expert and fact witnesses who were cross-examined by both our attorney Sean Canavan and Macy Nelson. Around 2:30 when it became apparent that the hearing would not conclude that day, the ZHE told members of the public who had come to testify that they would not be able to speak that day, and that they could go home if they liked.

Royal Farms presented a traffic expert who testified extensively, showed video he'd taken, and showed a modeling video, and then was cross-examined at great length by both opposition attorneys. Canavan drew out some disturbing information from the expert about the way traffic studies are done and the way the traffic expert and, according to him, State Highway Administration (SHA) defines "safety." According to the expert (a former employee of SHA), meeting safety standards means meeting road design standards set out in a manual (things like width of the road or turn lanes), not reducing – or even considering – the number of accidents that occur in any given place. In fact, he testified that there was not really a way to figure out how many accidents would occur anywhere at any time. He testified further that SHA keeps accident data very close to its vest, and that they do not release accident numbers unless requested by other state agencies. They keep accident "rates" instead that are calculated by averaging the secret number of accidents at intersections across the state, and then figuring out which ones have above average rates.

When we get closer to the next hearing dates, the ZHE may decide when the public will be able to speak, and AMP Creeks will do our best to find out, and then will email those on our list with updates. If you'd like to be a member of AMP Creeks (thus joining our list), please email me at [kelly@ampcreeks.org](mailto:kelly@ampcreeks.org). Sean Canavan has had to return to Tanzania, so our usual lawyer, Carroll Holzer, will be representing AMP Creeks moving forward.