

Smoke Signal



MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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President's Note: **Moyaone Association Membership Approves 2021 Budget**

— Rose Kim
(MoyaonePresident@gmail.com)

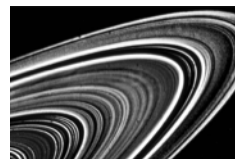
Like many of you, I was disappointed that we could not convene for the annual Moyaone Association (MA) December budget meeting. I am, however, grateful to those 53 members who cast their ballots in favor of approving the 2021 MA budget. I am pleased to announce that the 2021 MA budget was unanimously approved by all those who voted. The comments received from the community were positive, or they are general housekeeping questions that are more appropriate to address individually. Thank you to all the MA members who cast a 2021 ballot.

Now that the 2021 budget has been approved, we need to think about supporting it! Be on the lookout in January for your annual Association Membership fee request. As with the December budget meeting, a letter detailing payment information and options will be emailed to the residents and lot owners. Those who prefer traditional mail will receive the form in their mailboxes. More on that in January!

As we enter the Season of Lights, it is my hope that you all stay safe and healthy, and that you are able to celebrate this special time of year with those you love. There is much to be thankful for here in the Moyaone Reserve woods, especially our dear friends and neighbors.

Moyaone Association Board of Directors

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Winter Solstice Features Rare Sight

This year's winter solstice on December 21 will feature an unusual astronomical event: the lining up of two objects in the sky. In this case of a "grand conjunction," Jupiter and Saturn will appear very close to each other — despite being actually hundreds of millions of miles apart. The last time such a conjunction was readily visible from the earth was in the Middle Ages during the year 1226.

In the evening sky, scan for two dots that, unlike stars, do not twinkle: a pure white dot for Jupiter and one with more of a golden hue for Saturn. You can start viewing the planets now. Look towards the low, southwestern horizon right after sunset.

GACA Remains Active Despite COVID-19 Limitations

Throughout 2020, Greater Accokeek Civic Association (GACA) has been working behind the scenes to continue our mission “to promote interest and friendship among the residents of the area ... and [work toward] the civic and social betterment of the community.” With COVID-19 pandemic conditions continuing, we are more thankful than ever for the invaluable contributions and the many sacrifices made by the first responders, health care workers, and essential workers who we all depend on. Recognizing the need of many for basic resources, the GACA Board has made financial donations using rental money saved due to our cancelled meetings to two local Accokeek food banks: the Accokeek Food Pantry of Faith United Methodist Church and River Jordan Project. We have also made financial contributions to the Accokeek Foundation and the Alice Ferguson Foundation.

GACA held a virtual membership meeting in the fall: officers were elected [Judy Allen-Leventhal, President; Trey Thomas, Vice President; Lee Puterbaugh, Secretary; Erica Barry, Treasurer; and Members-at-large: William Centano, Dan Donohue, Stevenson McIlvaine, Roger Midgette, and Phil VanWiltburg], and Accokeek Citizens of the Year, Beverly and Cliff Woods, were recognized. GACA has established an ad hoc committee, the Roadway Advocacy Committee for South County or RACS, to address a variety of managed maintenance and aesthetic issues along South County roadways, in particular State Highway 210 and adjoining/ adjacent service roadways; the committee’s fourfold focus is roadway maintenance, landscape maintenance, illegal signage, and trash removal. GACA sent a letter of support to the Prince George’s County School Board on behalf of Clean Energy Schools for their initiative. Testimony was given virtually by GACA’s president on November 4 before the Public Service Commission concerning the Mattawoman Energy facility proposed for Brandywine.

Again this year, B&J Carry-Out will donate the GACA Holiday Tree to display from December 12 through January 9 at Accokeek’s “heart” – the corner of Livingston Road and Route 210. Our thanks to B&J Carry-Out owner Barry Young for generously donating the tree and providing the electricity. The tradition was initiated by previous B&J Carry-Out owners Sue and Phil Jones, and continuing it is very much appreciated.

Over the holidays we will all remember loved ones lost and reflect on the multiple impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our community. GACA Board member Phil VanWiltburg will continue to email information as we all follow COVID-19 pandemic guidelines and public health recommendations.

Happy holidays to you and your family.



Happy Holidays from the Accokeek Foundation

Farm tours

Friday, Dec. 11 at 1 pm or 2 pm

Take a tour through 1770 led by one of our educators. Explore the grounds of a working tobacco farm and meet its two- and four-legged residents. Suitable for all ages.

This is an in-person small group (up to 7 people) Farm Tour. When booking a group, purchase 1 ticket which covers up to 7 people. We ask that the group is part of the same household for safety during COVID-19. All participants are required to wear a mask.

*All tours must be booked by 5 pm the evening before the tour is scheduled. If you have questions, feel free to contact Foundation staff at: info@accokeek.org

Hit the Trail

Explore one of Piscataway’s seven nature trails.

Explore the Indigenous cultural landscape of Piscataway Park on over three miles of nature trails. These trails wind their way alongside the Potomac River, under the canopy of the park’s woodlands, past rolling pastures, and over wetlands and marshes.

For more information

Accokeek Foundation, 3400 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek; (301) 965-9574, accokeekfoundation.org

HOLIDAY SPECIAL G.C.

Bodywork, and Microderm/Hydration with Ultrasound special G.C. For the holidays. Please text for info: 301-661-5585

MicroDermabrasion/Hydration (normally each \$45) Together process \$75; Bodywork 60 min \$75 (normally \$85); 90 min. \$110

Yoga, stretch, and Pilates \$10 per class or class pack of 10 for \$90.

Purchase before December 25, 2020.



Long-time residents Jane Norman and Paul Jett are moving away from the Moyaone.

A Moyaone Farewell

After so many happy years living in the Moyaone, we have sold our home on Reserve Road. With a super-cute two-year-old granddaughter in Phoenix (along with her terrific parents Jess Suworoff and Travis Bradley), we want to spend more time out there. We bought a condo in central Phoenix this spring, concluding that despite all the joyful aspects of life in the Moyaone, it was time to make a change.

The new family who bought the house – Jonathan Faull, Valerie Volcovici, and their sweet little boy Zev (*pictured below at left*)– will move in mid-December. They are thrilled to be out in the country after years of city living and we think they will be wonderful members of the community.

In fact, we are not leaving the Washington area entirely – summers in Phoenix are way too hot – and have rented an apartment in DC near the Zoo. Just as Jonathan, Valerie, and Zev will learn to adapt to the ways of Southern Maryland, we will be re-acquainting ourselves with urban life. We're both sad to leave and excited to start this next chapter of our lives.

We also hope that once the world becomes more socially normal, we will return to visit Accokeek and the Moyaone. Piscataway Park is still a favorite place to walk.

To all our friends and neighbors, we say thank you for making this community the special place that it is.

Best wishes to all; stay healthy and safe in the New Year,

Jane Norman and Paul Jett
janenorman1@gmail.com
paul.jett@gmail.com



(left to right) Exploring at the Hard Bargain Farm; woodland/fairy house; Children's Garden scarecrow; birdfeeder using pine cones. All photos: Alice Ferguson Foundation.

AFF Winter Update

Holiday Family Fun at the Hard Bargain Farm

This holiday season, give your loved ones the gift of some great memories and experiences as you spend time together outdoors. Come to Alice Ferguson Foundation's Hard Bargain Farm with your family: visit with our farm animals, take a nature hike, or explore the sights and sounds of birds in our area. It's the most wonderful time of year to be with family and enjoy the outdoors, together.

We're looking forward to seeing you at the Farm soon! Learn more and schedule your visit at:

<https://fergusonfoundation.org/visit-us/>

Nature Nuts Crafts

Our fall sessions of Nature Nut Wednesdays are officially in the books. Children enjoyed outdoor activities that focused on being in nature while learning, and put their creative minds to the test.

See photos above for some of the artistic pieces made by our young explorers! More crafts at:

<https://fergusonfoundation.org/craft-time-with-nature-nuts/>

Nature Nut Wednesdays will be making a return in Spring 2021 and spots will fill fast! Join our waitlist and be one of the first to know when registration opens by emailing Brenda Wright, bwright@fergusonfoundation.org

Save The Date for Annual Member Meeting

Mark your calendars. The Annual Member Meeting of the Alice Ferguson Foundation will be held virtually on Sunday, January 30, 2021 at 2:00 pm. Additional details to come. Not a member? Join at:

<https://fergusonfoundation.org/support/membership/>

For more information: Alice Ferguson Foundation, 2201 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek; fergusonfoundation.org



Neighborhood Creative Arts Center Offers Free Community Services

Giving Fair, Virtual Tutoring, Art Smile Community Murals, and more!

The Neighborhood Creative Arts Center (NCAC), in support of its mission to enrich minds through art in the community, is sponsoring their first Annual Giving Fair on Sat., Dec. 12, 10 am–1 pm. We are encouraging children, ages 4–12, to create gifts for their family, friends, teachers, and neighbors this year for the holidays. Volunteers from our Rotary Interact Club have assembled over 1000 kits of varying levels of difficulty for gifts for fathers, mothers, siblings, and everyone. Families are welcome to sign up for an entry time, allowing for social distancing, so their children can visit our many craft tables to choose their kits. It is like shopping for free! This event will be held in the parking lot of Christ Episcopal Church, 112 Charles St., La Plata.

NCAC is also offering “Here to Help” free virtual tutoring for students of all grade levels. Families are welcome to sign up for a tutor on the NCAC website. We have tutors from Charles County Public Schools, adults, and university students ready to help during these virtual schooling days.

Visit incredible venues around the world with NCAC’s free Virtual Field Trips. Since COVID started, NCAC has offered live interactive experiences at a wide diversity of venues: wolf parks, zoos, museums, national parks, STEM centers, and art museums, to name only a few.

For parents looking for tips on managing school at home, NCAC offers free monthly parent symposiums with guest speakers ready to lead discussions and answer questions.

On Oct. 31, NCAC completed its first community mural in its Art Smiles series at the Dorchester Community Center in La Plata. NCAC’s mural artist, Kayla Hare, a lifelong resident of Charles County, welcomes community families to join in the final painting of her beautiful designs focused on nature, joy, love, and healing during these uncertain days.

For those older children aged 12–18 looking for a service-oriented experience, the NCAC is sponsoring a virtual Rotary Interact Club. This free club meets weekly and empowers youth to develop leadership skills through the organization and execution of community projects as well as an international service projects that promote international awareness and understanding. Our Charles County Interact is currently developing a relationship with the Interact Club in Maluba, Zambia.

NCAC also offers a multitude of in-depth educational opportunities. These virtual, tuition-based programs include the following:

- The Thinking Kid (TTK), a live on-line program providing an educational curriculum (with the exception of math) for students aged 7–15. Each class meets weekly for one hour

Lynn Hollyfield Virtual Concert to Benefit Fort Washington Food Pantry

Friday, Dec. 18, 7–8 pm. Via ZOOM and streamed live to FACEBOOK.

The concert will be filled with uplifting, inspiring songs of hope and light.

With the ongoing pandemic, the reports of families in need are growing. We can see the long lines at food donation sites and with that, I would like to help support our local food pantry. All proceeds from this concert will go to the Fort Washington Food Pantry. Please spread the word to help make this a great success!

Your donations can be made at:
<https://www.paypal.me/LynnHollyfield>
More info: lynn@lynnhollyfield.com

Topic: Lynn Hollyfield's Zoom Meeting
Time: Dec. 18, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86566368765?pwd=REZkVDU2Y3NGU2hkbTdxam8zb2xEUOT9>

Meeting ID: 865 6636 8765; Passcode: 725036

of live interactive instruction taught by dedicated teachers. TTK also offers after-class clubs for those wanting to explore a variety of extracurricular topics, including, but not limited to, travel, royalty, architecture, art, and entrepreneurship.

- Music Instruction for all ages and instruments are offered in a 34-week session with the option of either 30- or 45-minute lessons. Our accomplished instructors effectively transitioned to online teaching in March 2020 and have found lessons over Zoom to be focused and productive.

The programs described above are addressed in detail on our website: www.neighborhoodcreativeartscenter.org
Contact us with questions at: msgeorgia@neighborhoodcreativeartscenter.org or by calling 301-542-9359.

NCAC is grateful to the following organizations for their support: Charles County Arts Alliance, Charles County Health Department, La Plata Rotary Club, and Maryland Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Though the migration to a virtual arts center was a pivot we had not anticipated after opening our center in late 2019, we have successfully adapted and found effective ways to spread the joy of art and learning remotely. Art provides a thoughtful way to explore, express ourselves, and make connections with others and the world around us. That seems especially important in the separated environment of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Works by some of the artists in the Accokeek Artists Alliance include: (far left) John Massey, sculpture; (left) wooden bowls by Steve Turner, and stained glass by Cindy Rudzis.

Accokeek Artists Alliance Wraps Up the Year

We've had a good year: the "Celebration of Community" art show in January with a reception and artists' talks, four diverse and stimulating Zoom programs and, most recently, a very successful Art Market at the Moyaone Commons. There will be one more holiday-themed Zoom program in December for Accokeek Artists Alliance (AAA) members.



We're proud that our membership tops 60 art enthusiasts at this time. If you'd like to join, go to our website: AccokeekArtistsAlliance.com and fill out the application. Enjoy discounted rates if you sign up before the end of January 2021.

In 2021, look for an outdoor arts and craft sale in April with individually rented spaces for both members and non-members. (Fees will be determined to benefit AAA members.)

If you need any holiday gift ideas, here are some wonderful books written and published by a few of our members. All of them are available widely online, including through Amazon.

- Steven Turner. *The Science of James Smithson: Discoveries from the Smithsonian Founder* ("Accessible exploration of the noteworthy scientific career of James Smithson, who left his fortune to establish the Smithsonian Institution.")
- Kay Gardener Powell. *After Alice: Building a Foundation to Protect the Land* ("With wisdom and heart, Kay tells the tale of the foundation's infancy, rocky childhood, and transformation into today's Alice Ferguson Foundation.")
- Carol and Joyce Burbank. *Stay-At-Home Bears* ("Prowly, Growly, and Flo are three curious bears who love adventure. But, in this time of COVID-19, they find themselves still at home! This is the story of how they have some fun as they follow the new bear family rules (which include 'wash your hands', of course, but also 'love each other'!)



December 11 Moyaone Christmas Market (Weihnachtsmarkt)

Help local youth hone their math skills while having a bit of Christmas cheer. The pandemic learning pod that's been meeting at the Moyaone pavilion has been learning business math. They've also been creating an array of hand-crafted goods suitable for holiday giving. Will they make a profit or suffer a loss? The community decides, but the students do the math.

The outdoor, cash-only market is open for one day only, rain or shine:

**Friday, December 11
3 to 7:30 pm**

Moyaone Pavilion and Grounds
2311 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek

Hot cocoa and cookies will be available for purchase.

Current COVID restrictions limit outdoor gatherings to 25 people. All people must wear masks.

Curbside pickup of reserved items is available. To view the inventory of goods (items are being added as they are completed), visit our website: <https://lunactias.wixsite.com/weihnachtsmarkt>