

# Smoke Signal



MOYAONE  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

THE MOYAONE RESERVE • LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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NO. 10

## ***President's Note:***

### **A Successful Oktoberfest, and the Upcoming Budget Meeting on Dec. 10**

*Greetings Friends and Neighbors, and Welcome,*

This year September seemed to fall behind quickly and it feels like I drafted my September letter to you just a couple of days ago.

Despite the intervention of Post-tropical Depression aka Hurricane Ian, the loyal volunteers on the fundraising committee, led by Mary Lee Phelps, hosted an amazing Oktoberfest this year on October 7th. There was great food, beer (of course), and other refreshments. It was well attended on a very pleasant Autumn evening in the Moyaone (see photos on page 5). Thanks very much to Mary Lee and crew as well as all who contributed, and all who attended.

Some upcoming events on our calendar include the Conjure Market on Saturday, October 15th, 6–10 pm at the Moyaone Commons (2311 Bryan Point Rd.), a combination of Diagon Alley (of Harry Potter fame) and a farmers' market. Also on the schedule is the young folks' Halloween event at the Commons on Saturday, October 29th, beginning at 3 pm, warming up for Halloween on the 31st.

#### **Moyaone Association Budget Meeting**

The next significant association event is the annual Moyaone Association Budget meeting, scheduled for Saturday, December 10th. Your board and our standing committee chairs have begun building the budget for next year. I want to take this opportunity to thank our committee chairs for their participation in this critical process and also for striving to remain within this year's budget.

We operate the Moyaone Reserve on a slim margin through our annual dues, some pool revenue, and fundraising. This has been an especially challenging year, with a big snow in January, some heavy rain events, and inflationary pressures, which nibble at the already slim margins in the budget. Our goal is to hold the current line on dues and pool fees,



although it continues to be a challenge. We'll certainly want to address these issues with our membership as we draw closer to the next Moyaone Association meeting. Thanks to all for your attention and continuing to preserve our Reserve.

*Respectfully yours,*

— John Rudzis

*President, Moyaone Association*  
*MoyaonePresident@gmail.com*

#### **Moyaone Association Board of Directors**

*President* — John "JR" Rudzis  
*MoyaonePresident@gmail.com*

*Vice President* — Logan Kistler  
*MoyaoneVicePresident@gmail.com*

*Secretary* — Jim Wickman  
*MoyaoneSecretary@gmail.com*

*Comptroller* — Karen Bell  
*MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.com*

*Director-at-Large* — Rose Kim  
*MoyaoneDirectorAtLarge@gmail.com*



## The Reverend Thomas Davies Clay 1938 – 2022

The Reverend Thomas Davies Clay, age 84, died on Friday, September 9, 2022 at his home in Accokeek. Thomas was born in 1938 in Huntington, West Virginia, and spent his childhood in Kentucky. He graduated from Marshall University in 1960, and then from the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Kentucky in 1963. He was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1963, and for the next 35 years served congregations in Kentucky, Georgia, Virginia, and Maryland.

In addition to being an active parish priest, Thomas was an avid paper modeler and woodworker. In his later years, he specialized in recreating European cathedrals, sharing them with the world on his website, [cathedralquest.com](http://cathedralquest.com). In 2017, Catholic University showcased some of his work at an exhibit, "Great Churches in Miniature."

On his website, Thomas described how his abiding interest in cathedrals began: "One of my favorite memories is that of my first visit to the Washington National Cathedral in 1953. I was fifteen, and my Great Uncle Oley took me on a C.&O. railroad Cherry Blossom excursion to Washington from Huntington. Great Uncle Oley, who never married, was like a grandfather to me. ... We rode all night on the train, toured all of Washington including the Washington Cathedral and Mount Vernon and came home that night. I was awed by the Washington Cathedral which by that time had been in progress for forty-six years with thirty-seven years more before its final completion. Very little of the nave had been completed at that time."

Thomas embraced Kathleen's love of European cathedrals, and during their 25-year marriage they traveled extensively through Europe, visiting castles and cathedrals. After retirement, Thomas served as a docent at the Washington National Cathedral, giving tours to attentive visitors and school groups from across the US and the world.

Thomas was also a prodigious enthusiast of classical music and composers. As with his love of cathedrals, this appreciation began early. When he first began receiving an allowance from his parents, Thomas spent it on classical records and not the popular Perry Como.

Thomas is survived by his wife, Kathleen Jenkins O'Day of Accokeek, and many other family members.

Gifts in memory of Thomas may be sent to the Lazarus Ministry, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St., Alexandria VA 22314; or to The Humane Rescue Alliance, DC Chapter, 71 Oglethorpe St. NW, Washington DC 20011. (Thomas' beloved dog, Jeremiah, was rescued by the Alliance.)

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### **October Activities at Accokeek Branch Library**

15773 Livingston Rd., Accokeek  
(240) 455-5451; <https://www.pgcmlls.info>

#### **Cantaré Presents Mucha Música: Latin American Music** *Wed., Oct. 12: 6:30–7:30 pm*

For all ages, including teens and adults. Cantaré introduces audiences to the beautiful songs and rhythms of Latin America, drawing from the musical heritage of the Caribbean, Central, and South America.

#### **Craft and Create: Galaxy Pumpkins** *Thurs., Oct. 13: 4:00–5:00 pm*

For teens 13–18 years old. Create your own space-themed pumpkin using paint and LED candles!

#### **Ready 2 Read Storytime** *Mon., Oct. 17 and 24: 10:30–11:00 am*

For children 3–5 years old. Bring your preschooler and enjoy songs, fingerplays, and more!

#### **Legos: Creative Club** *Tues., Oct. 18: 6:00–7:00 pm*

For children 5–12 years old. Freestyle building. Legos will be provided and kids can let their imaginations run wild!

#### **Fizzle, Pop, Boom! — presented by the Science Guys of Baltimore**

*Sat., Oct. 22: 1:00–2:00 pm*

For children 3–12 years old. Our states of matter show is great for kids of all ages, from 3 years and up! Dry Ice is the star of the show, as we learn about sublimation and the other state changes. We'll create bubbling potions, experiment with chemical reactions, and wow participants with explosions!

#### **Piscataway Nation Singers and Dancers**

*Sat., Oct. 29: 2:00–3:00 pm*

For all ages, including teens and adults. Celebrate Native American Heritage Month and learn more about American Indian history, culture and traditions! Mark Tayac and the Piscataway Nation Singers and Dancers carry on the longstanding traditions, culture, and heritage of their indigenous ancestors. The troupe travels from the Tayac Territory in Port Tobacco, MD with its colorful, educational and entertaining program.



*The Lago family (above) and the family dogs (below). Above right: Jacob and Laura Ellena.*

cooking. They moved from just down the road in Fort Washington, Maryland — they've wanted to live in the Reserve for years and are thrilled to be here! They're looking forward to lots of walks in the woods and getting to know all of the people who make the Moyaone Reserve such a great community.

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We (Steve Teske and Jan Goldstein) recently moved to the Moyaone from the Silver Spring/Takoma Park area where we lived for close to 30 years in a mid-century modern house which we loved, but which couldn't accommodate our expanding post-employment-years interests.

## Welcome, New Neighbors!

— Crystal Garcia

Our son, Noah, and family live in Montgomery County. Midwesterners by birth and upbringing, we share a love of art, architecture, plants, and animals. Steve's career was in journalism and Jan's in landscape architecture and arts administration. We are still dumbstruck by our good fortune in landing in a wonderfully designed and maintained Wagner home (the Hickerson House on Laurel Drive) where our passions for growing cacti and succulents (Steve) and making pots (Jan) have room to flourish in a setting more inspiring than we ever imagined.

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Hello from the Lago Family! We just moved into Cactus Hill Road, and we couldn't be more excited to become part of this great community in the Moyaone Reserve! We (Daniel and Lily) have been looking for a place to raise our two children, Wendy (4) and Lincoln (1). Our friends who live in the Reserve, the Wallace Family, showed us this home and community, and it just seemed like the perfect fit for us. Daniel is a nuclear engineer turned general purpose researcher, and Lily is a Medical Laboratory Scientist specializing in cell therapy. Daniel is an avid chef, homebrewer and runner, and Lily loves crafting, decorating, and yoga. Wendy loves to draw and is currently very into dinosaurs, while Lincoln just loves to run around and search for all the cows in his new neighborhood. The Lago Family also includes two dogs, Dusty (black) and Nimbus (white), both of whom enjoy barking at deer through the patio windows. We can't wait to meet more of you and help this community grow!

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Jacob and Laura Ellena have joined the Moyaone Reserve from Rockville, MD after time in DC and the San Francisco Bay Area. They're excited to join the community and be near family members Julia and Bobby Paajanen on West Auburn and George and Annette Paajanen in the Rhino House. Laura has joined the Accokeek Artists Alliance, and is looking forward to sharing a booth at the upcoming Conjure Market with sister Julia and mom Annette. Jake's hobbies include cooking and video games. They will happily chat with you about Scotch, silly action movies, and their two cats. Jake works in data for the government, and Laura's career has most recently focused on making government websites easier to use.

Harold Stallworth and Sarah Godfrey moved into 2810 Colonial Road (formerly Wendy Hall's home) in early September. Harold, who is from North Carolina, is a structural engineer who spends his free time hiking, gardening, and record collecting. Sarah, who is from Virginia, is a non-profit editor who enjoys live music, thrifting, and

## Accokeek Artists to Cast a Spell at October 15 Conjure Market



The September meeting of the Accokeek Artists Alliance (AAA) at member Gene Mirus's historic plantation farmhouse was a grand success. Members and guests enjoyed an inspiring talk by noted glass artist, Eileen Martin, tour of enchanting farmhouse, and a mind-boggling look at the magical interior (right) and exterior (far right) of the "Greek Temple," a great example of a folly\*.

Thanks to Patrick Heydt, floral designer/gardener, for opening his studio home for us.

Come to The Conjure Market, on Sat., Oct. 15, 6–10 pm, Moyaone Commons, 2311 Bryan Point Rd., and enjoy food and drink at the "The Wicked Wand" tiki/tavern hosted by AAA members. This first time ever event is not to be missed!

Mark your calendars for the AAA's famous Winter Market, Dec. 2–4, at the Wagner Community Center.

For more information: [www.accokeekartistsalliance.com](http://www.accokeekartistsalliance.com).



*\*In architecture, a folly is a building constructed primarily for decoration, but suggesting through its appearance some other purpose, or of such extravagant appearance that it transcends the range of usual garden buildings.*



## Literacy Council to Host Fundraiser: Adult Team Spelling Bee

Sat., Oct. 22, 6–10 pm  
St. Mary's Catholic Church, 15 Notre Dame Place,  
Bryantown MD

On Oct. 22, the Charles County Literacy Council (CCLC) will host an Adult Team Spelling Bee fundraiser to support its work of providing free one-on-one confidential adult tutoring in reading, writing, math, GED, and ASVAB preparation, ESOL, and citizenship. The Bee has multiple teams of 3 to 4 adults who will enjoy a fun, good-natured competition and an evening of music and good food.

Register and send in an individual donation of \$30 per ticket to attend, cheer on the teams, *and/or* donate a gift certificate/cards for food item(s) toward silent auction gift baskets or refreshments.

See the website for more information about the event, and to make donations: [charlescountyliteracy.org](http://charlescountyliteracy.org)

## Pulse of the Pool: End of the Season

We want to thank the following folks for helping to close the pool, put on the pool cover, and winterize it all: Will Micknick and the lifeguard staff, Dave Cremer, the Garcia family, Ben Grenoble, Kent Hibben, John Hollyfield, Bill Robertson and Anne Stokes, JR and Cindi Rudzis, Matt Schwaller, Russ Strathern, and everyone else who showed up and pulled their weight.

Please take a moment to recognize the members of the 2022 Pool Committee for their service: Crystal Garcia, Ben Grenoble, Rhonda Hanson, John Rudzis, Logan Kistler, Will Micknick, Hsin-I Russell, and Nancy Weiman. Thanks to you and many helping hands in this community, we all have been able to enjoy another safe and fun pool season.

If you would like to contribute to future pool operations, please join the 2023 Pool Committee (email: [russelhc@yahoo.com](mailto:russelhc@yahoo.com))! We reconvene in March 2023.



There was something for everyone at this year's Oktoberfest, postponed from a very rainy weekend to a perfectly gorgeous one on October 7. The annual event raised funds to improve the Wagner Community Center facilities and grounds. Photos: Jan Parker.

**CONCERT IN THE WOODS**  
**FERGUSON AMPHITHEATER**  
**14 OCTOBER 2022**  
**FRIDAY**  
**LYNN HOLLYFIELD**  
**BAND REUNION**  
 W/LEVI SHOTWELL-OPENING ACT



LYNN HOLLYFIELD-SINGER-SONGWRITER WITH DAUGHTER KEELY, (VOCALS-FAMILY HARMONIES), DAVE ABE (FIDDLES/MANDOLIN-MAY THROW A HORNSPIPE IN), STEVE WOLF (BASS-EXTRAORDINAIRE) & JIMMY BRINK (PERCUSSION-EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED)  
 LEVI SHOTWELL: OPENING, A PROLIFIC TEEN GUITARIST/VOCALIST

**FERGUSON AMPHITHEATER -**  
**2001 BRYAN POINT ROAD, ACCOKEEK, MD**  
**(RAIN OR SHINE\*)**  
 \*FOLLOW SIGNS/ALTERNATE SITE JUST 2 MINUTES AWAY!



FRIDAY, 10/14, 7:30-9:30PM  
 ADMISSION: \$20  
 CHILDREN 12 & UNDER: \$5

**Concert in the Woods, Friday, Oct. 14**  
**Alice Ferguson Foundation Amphitheater**  
**2001 Bryan Point Road, 7:30–9:30 pm**

Singer and songwriter Lynn Hollyfield reunites with bandmates at one of her favorite venues: The Concerts in the Woods at the Ferguson Amphitheater in Accokeek. This concert will celebrate the beautiful season of autumn and promises enchanting family harmonies (Keely Hollyfield) and backing by these extraordinary musicians: Dave Abe (fiddles, mandolin), Steve Wolf (bass), and Jimmy Brink (percussion). Beautiful music in a sylvan setting.

Levi Shotwell, prolific teen guitarist/vocalist, will open the show and begin a fantastic evening of music. Come join us!

Admission: \$20 at the door; children 12 and under: \$5.

Advance ticket information:

<https://ticketstripe.com/lynnhollyfield>.

[www.LynnHollyfield.com](http://www.LynnHollyfield.com)

**Banjos and More – Davies Concert Series Returns Oct. 23**

The Davies Concert Series proudly presents performers from the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA), the Southern Maryland Banjo Project (SMBP) and the National Association of African American Dance Teachers (NAAADT) in a rousing concert performance of West African and Early American Music and Dance. The concert begins at 4 pm, Sunday, Oct. 23.

In keeping with the Series' emphasis on accessibility, all tickets are Pay What You Can. They can be reserved on EventBrite [HERE](#) or obtained onsite beginning 30 minutes prior to performance. Masking is required for admittance. All Davies Concert Series events take place at the Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7400 Temple Hill Rd., Camp Springs, MD.

**Autumn at Alice Ferguson Foundation**

**JOIN US FOR FUN ON THE FARM**

There's still plenty of spots to fill for our upcoming Fun on the Farm fall events. Guaranteed memories and fun for the whole family! Cost: \$15/person. Kids free under the age of 2.

**Session Dates and Times**

- Fun With Fermentation  
Sat., Oct. 15, 4–6 pm
- Chores & S'mores  
Sat., Nov. 12, 4–6 pm
- Natural Wreath Workshop  
Sat., Dec. 10, 4–6 pm

[SAVE YOUR SPOT HERE](#)



**AT THE FERGUSON AMPHITHEATER**

**Upcoming Concert in the Woods**

Lynn Hollyfield and Band with opener Levi Shotwell will be live at the Ferguson Amphitheater on Fri., Oct. 14 at 7:30 pm. It's a reunion you don't want to miss! More information at left.

**Ferguson Amphitheater Strike for Winter**

Ready or not, winter is almost here. Please help us get everything in order and safely tucked away to survive the coming months, on Sat., Nov. 5 at 9 am. Open to all, ages 15+; volunteers under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Let us know you'll be helping out [here](#)!



## Action and Adventure with the Accokeek Foundation

*Looking for Spine-Tingling Adventure?*

Join the Accokeek Foundation (AF) for our **Twilight Tours: Haunting of the Pumpkin Ash Trail!** This moon-lit hike takes you through twists and turns as you investigate the history and horror of Piscataway Park. Tickets include a survival kit, hayride to the trailhead, and an experienced guide to get everyone through the hike in one piece ... hopefully.



Proceeds from these programs support the AF's education programs and land conservation work in Piscataway Park, and this is a wonderful way to show your support! Group capacity is 8–10 people, so gather your friends (especially if they're slower than you) to enjoy the fright of your lives! Pre-registration is required.

**Fri., Oct. 21.** Tours begin at 6:15 pm and last for one hour. Tickets: scan the QR code above or visit [calendar.accokeekfoundation.org](http://calendar.accokeekfoundation.org).

## Sign Evaluation

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who came to give their feedback on our proposed interpretive signs for the park! Inclusive storytelling is a vital part of our mission and community feedback is a crucial aspect of this goal.



## National Public Lands Day

Our wonderful volunteers (above photo) made a huge impact during this year's National Public Lands Day events. Over 50 pounds of shoreline trash, including a tire, and six pickup truck loads of invasive plants were removed from our park. During the COVID-19 pandemic, public lands have been a haven for many of us as some of the few places where we could recreate, gather, and enjoy nature. Thank you to those who came out to enjoy and beautify the park. You don't have

to wait until next NPLD to take action — there are so many ways to get involved at AF! Find opportunities at [Accokeek.org/volunteer](http://Accokeek.org/volunteer).

## Native American Heritage Day Walk

Join us in celebrating Native American Heritage Day with a native trees walk! Participants will be introduced to the basics of tree identification and learn how trees provide food, medicine, and materials for Piscataway People throughout the past and present. The tour will be a trail walk through various ecosystems of the Indigenous Cultural Landscape.



Fri., Nov. 25. Noon–1:30 pm.

\$10 per registrant. Tickets: scan the QR code or visit [calendar.accokeekfoundation.org](http://calendar.accokeekfoundation.org).

## Save the Date – Winter's Eve

Join us the evening of Sat., Dec. 3 to celebrate the season at the AF's annual Winter's Eve festival. We're lighting up the hay wagon, decking the stalls of the livestock barn, and building a bonfire you won't want to miss!

*not too spooky* **ALL AGES READ TOGETHER HALLOWEEN HOEDOWN**

Join AART for their 10th annual, family-friendly country Halloween Hoedown **fundraiser** at River Farm in Leesburg, VA!

**Saturday, October 29th**  
5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

The Halloween Hoedown includes a Live Band, BBQ Buffet, Games, Silent Auction, Kiddie Korral, and Mechanical Bull!  
*Event is rain or shine.*

Costumes are welcome! **PRIZES** for the **BEST COSTUME** (adult, youth, and group)!  
Unlimited non-alcoholic drinks for all & (2) complimentary beer and wine tickets included with an adult ticket.  
*Additional drink tickets can be purchased at the event.*

\$75 (21+) • \$30 (ages 20 - 13) • \$15 (ages 12 - 3) • Under 3, FREE  
\$90 Discount Family Pack A (1 adult, 1 youth or child)  
\$180 Discount Family Pack B (2 adults, 2 youth or child)  
• Event sponsorships with reserved tables are also available! •

Visit the event page to purchase tickets and see sponsorship options!  
Scan or visit <https://bit.ly/aarthoedown2022>

100% of the proceeds will support All Ages Read Together, a nonprofit providing free kindergarten readiness classes in under-resourced communities throughout Northern Virginia. <http://allagesreadtogether.org>

Come out to support a great cause and help a fellow-Moyaoner who leads this tiny but mighty organization: All Ages Read Together! Reach out to Michelle Sullivan, Executive Director and Moyaone resident, if you have any additional questions at [michelles@allagesreadtogether.org](mailto:michelles@allagesreadtogether.org). The "Halloween Hoedown" takes place Sat., Oct. 29 at River Farm, 16009 River Farm Lane, Leesburg, VA.

— Michelle Sullivan  
Executive Director, All Ages Read Together

## Preparedness Corner

### Emergency Response in the Moyaone Reserve

Any emergency incident requires the timely response of first responders and their related vehicles and emergency equipment. In the Moyaone Reserve, as in many rural areas, we have a variety of challenges which can delay timely emergency response. Some of these hurdles include: Timely and Clear Communication; Location Identification; Road Condition and Accessibility; Distance from Hydrants; and transient obstructions such as snow, fallen trees, and/or parked cars.

#### Communication: Call 911

If you are experiencing or are a witness to an emergency situation, please call 911. If you are unsure if the situation is really an “emergency,” call 911. Some emergency incidents in and around the Moyaone Reserve have been made more complex by delayed activation of the public safety system. All first responder agencies in Prince George’s, Charles, Fairfax and any county anywhere will never fault anyone for calling 911 with a legitimate issue no matter how small it may seem to you. Let the 911 system determine what type of response, if any, is needed. Do not call your local firehouse or a neighbor first.

*NOTE:* If you call 911 from a cell phone in and around the Moyaone Reserve your call may be initially handled by Fairfax, Charles or Prince George’s county. All of these 911 centers can and will transfer you to the correct center. See location below.

#### Location, Location, Location. Two key reminders:

1) When you call 911 to report an emergency, give as accurate a location as possible; e.g., “2311 Bryan Point Road in Accokeek, Maryland” is better than “The Moyaone Commons” or the “Moyaone Pool.” Not all responding units have been here.

2) Is your house address visible? Do you have a reflective sign that is free from vegetation, etc.? The Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) sells, at cost, reflective address signs. Contact [alex@accokeekvfd.org](mailto:alex@accokeekvfd.org)

3) If first responders cannot find you, they cannot help.

#### Road and Driveway Condition/Size

Maintenance of shared roads is a partnership. The Moyaone Association Roads Chair provides guidance and direction as warranted. Dirt roads require care and present a challenge year-round to all first responders. If there are washouts, fallen trees upon a road, ice, or mud from poor drainage, emergency response may be delayed.

The width of roads and driveways in the Moyaone Reserve presents real challenges to all first responders but especially to fire and EMS. Our fire trucks and ambulances are wide, heavy, and in some cases long. If delivery trucks, oil or propane trucks, or utility trucks have trouble navigating a road or driveway, fire department vehicles will have as much and possibly more trouble getting to where they need to go. Parked cars, staged building materials, or encroaching vegetation can all hamper emergency response.

We have had several structure fires over the past decade in the Moyaone where the width of the roads hampered emergency response. A parked car in one fire blocked

firefighter access.

AVFD continues to offer free site visits to evaluate access to your home. Please contact me if you would like us to come out. We can offer our professional assessment and make suggestions to improve access.

Talk to your neighbors as well and find out if you might have shared access issues that can be resolved collectively. Improving emergency access can be achieved while preserving and respecting both private property and environmental values. Seconds and minutes count in an emergency, so take a few moments to think about how emergency responders can access your neighborhood and your home.

**Smoke Alarms:** A gentle reminder to evaluate your home smoke/fire/carbon monoxide alarms. Smoke alarms should be placed on every level, in every bedroom, and hallways to bedrooms. If your smoke alarms are over 10 years old – please replace them. Smoke alarms have saved lives in the Moyaone. There are many options available today and AVFD can assist in evaluating your home’s needs. Please consider having your alarm system monitored remotely so that there will be rapid notification to the 911 system of an emergency.

**Chimney/Wood Stove/Fireplace Safety:** As the weather turns cooler, please have your chimneys inspected/cleaned by competent professionals. Burn only dry wood and have a preparedness plan – extinguishers, smoke/heat detectors, etc. Dispose of hot ashes carefully.

**Chainsaw Safety:** If a tree falls... To begin, chainsaws are dangerous! If you feel uncomfortable using one, please don’t! Hire a licensed tree company. We can offer basic chainsaw safety classes for those who are interested. Please reach out directly with questions/interest. If you are not 100% confident in your ability to safely use a chainsaw, don’t!

**Wildland Fire Preparedness:** While the threat of wildland fire in our area is relatively low, there is some risk. The fire community has learned from recent fires that hardening your home and keeping the 5 feet closest to your house clear of flammable materials greatly improves the chance of surviving a fire. Maintaining defensible space is the law within 100 feet of a home in wildfire-prone areas (not in Maryland), and highly recommended elsewhere. If a garage, shed, your neighbor’s house or the property line is closer than 100 feet, it is especially important to “harden” the home itself to reduce vulnerability to radiant heat, and to work together with your neighbors to reduce risk—a great way to build community while protecting assets.

Please reach out for more information and to have your property evaluated. For more information:  
<https://www.ready.gov/home-fires>

Fire Safety Information for Residents — California Fire Safe Council ([cafiresafecouncil.org](http://cafiresafecouncil.org))

<https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/emergency-preparedness/fire-safety>

— Alex Naar, CEM

*Moyaone Resident and Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department  
Officer and Community Liaison  
[alex@accokeekvfd.org](mailto:alex@accokeekvfd.org)*