

Smoke Signal



MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME LXIII

DECEMBER 2023

NO. 12

President's Note:

Greetings, Friends and Neighbors,

I want to open this letter by thanking all who participated in our December Budget Meeting on December 2nd. It was gratifying to see a good turnout of our residents and members, present our proposals for funding the Moyaone, and listen to your comments, concerns, and recommendations. Unfortunately, our proposed Moyaone budget was not approved and has been reworked, providing more funding for our Roads Committee to maintain our essential road network.

We will be sending a new version of our proposed budget to the membership for ratification. If you are a member in good standing, you will receive a copy of the new budget and will have an opportunity to vote YES or NO by email.

There was also a provision, voted in by the membership, to raise 2024 property fees by a factor of the current inflation. Annual inflation through November 2023 will be reported on December 12, 2023, and will be added to the 2023 property fees of \$820 for improved lots and \$160 for unimproved lots. Annual inflation through October 2023, provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics on November 14, 2023, was 3.2%, which can be found at <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/>.

When next year's fees are announced this month, you will have until January 31, 2024, to pay your 2024 fees or enroll in our ACH payment plan. The due date for property fees has been moved forward by one month to ensure all ACH payments will have been received earlier in the year.

On a scheduling note, there will be no Moyaone Board of Directors meeting this month. We will resume our meetings in January 2024 on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Wagner Center, beginning at 6:30 pm. If you wish to present to the Board, please email me in advance to

moyaonepresident@gmail.com, so we may accommodate you on our agenda.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to thank our Board, Committee Chairs, Committee Members, and all who have volunteered their precious time, resources, and extraordinary talents towards operating, sustaining, and improving the Reserve in 2023. Cynthia and I wish all our neighbors here a safe, joyous, and Happy Holiday Season, and a very Happy New Year. Thank you.

Respectfully, John Rudzis
President, Moyaone Association
MoyaonePresident@gmail.com

Moyaone Association Board of Directors

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

Vice President — Chris Aills
MoyaoneVicePresident@gmail.com

Secretary — Jim Wickman
MoyaoneSecretary@gmail.com

Comptroller — Linda Witkin
MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.com

Director-at-Large — Bobby Gheen
MoyaoneDirectorAtLarge@gmail.com

Preparedness Corner

Emergency Response and the Moyaone Reserve

Any emergency incident requires the timely response of first responders and their related vehicles and emergency equipment. In the Moyaone, as in many rural areas, we have a variety of challenges that can delay timely emergency response, including 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: 911

If you are experiencing or 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 have been made more complex by delayed activation of the public safety system. All first responder agencies in Prince George’s, Charles, Fairfax, and elsewhere 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. Please, if you are in need of medical assistance, call 911 before driving to a firehouse or hospital. The ambulance might not be at the firehouse, and the hospital you think you should go to might be very busy or not have the appropriate medical team on site. The entire first responder system – fire, police, EMS and hospitals – is linked.

Note: If you call 911 from a cell phone in and around the Moyaone 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 and send the right resources. See “Location” below.

Location, Location, Location. Two key reminders here:

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. The dispatchers may not know the area, but can use an address to direct help to you.

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

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

Road and Driveway Condition/Size. Maintenance of shared roads is a partnership. The Moyaone 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, or ice or mud from poor drainage, emergency response may be delayed. Blowing leaves out of drainages can help.

The width of roads and driveways in the Moyaone presents real challenges to all first responders but especially to fire and EMS. Fire trucks and ambulances are wide, heavy, and in some cases long. If you see delivery trucks, oil or propane

trucks, or utility trucks having trouble navigating a road or driveway, you can be assured 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 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. Take a few moments to think about how emergency responders can access your neighborhood and your home.

Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department Update

Santa will be making his annual rounds through Accokeek on Sat., Dec. 16 and on Dec. 24. Details of routes and general times to be announced on the AVFD Facebook page soon. It is possible that Santa may come by the Moyaone Commons on Dec. 16.

Operational Updates. AVFD was awarded a nearly \$700,000 federal grant to acquire a new fire engine. The total cost of the engine is near \$1,000,000. We expect delivery in late 2024 or early 2025. We are also working on buying both a new ambulance and a water tanker. Donations are welcome through PayPal or here: <https://accokeekvfd.org/>

Smoke Alarms. Here is a gentle reminder to evaluate your home smoke/fire/carbon monoxide alarms. Smoke alarms on every level, in every bedroom and hallway to bedrooms. If your smoke alarms are over 10 years old – please replace them. The date of manufacture is located on all detectors. 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.

Kitchen Safety. The US Fire Administration reports that cooking is, by far, the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. And the leading cause of kitchen fires is due to unattended equipment, i.e., a pot on the stove.

Electrical Safety. Winter and the holiday season is a great time to think about electrical safety. Power strips should not be linked together and space heaters should never be plugged into power strips. If you have electrical safety concerns, please contact an electrician.

— continued on page 3

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 ... Chainsaws are dangerous! If you are not 100% confident in your ability to safely use 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. One resident recently suffered a minor injury using a chainsaw and was very lucky not to have been more seriously hurt.

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.

In Maryland, the busiest wildfire seasons typically occur in the spring and fall. These are the transition times for natural cover fuels. In spring, with the absence of moist deciduous vegetation and forest canopy shade, the sun warms the forest floor, preheating the fuels. In fall, an abundance of new fuel accumulates with leaf fall. Given adequate rainfall amounts throughout the state, wildfires are mostly suppressed on initial attack and can be intense but of short duration. However, unusually hot and dry conditions or drought can turn a mild fire season into a serious problem that often requires extended attack operations to completely suppress wildfires.

Please reach out for more information and to have your property evaluated or with any questions for the AFVD.

Community Hazard Assessment and Risk Reduction. If you are interested in helping conduct a community hazard assessment and risk reduction plan, please reach out.

Links

<https://www.ready.gov/home-fires>

[Fire Safety Information for Residents - California Fire Safe Council \(cafiresafecouncil.org\)](https://www.cafiresafecouncil.org)

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

— Alex Naar, CEM
Moyaone Resident and
AVFD Officer and Community Liaison
alex@accokeekvfd.org



Artists Alliance Wraps Up 2023

The Accokeek Artists Alliance (AAA) thanks everyone who supported our November "Winter Market." It's always so gratifying to see the community come out to support us! See the photo above.



AAA will start the new year with plenty of arty activities. We are planning a winter meeting that will feature the AAA watercolor artists on January 27 at the Wagner Center. This will be followed in February by our popular Valentine's Day social gathering and "Valentine" exchange of small art pieces, and in March we will follow our tradition of recent years and have a month-long AAA show at the beautiful Mattawoman Creek Art Center Gallery in Smallwood State Park.

These are all good reasons to join or keep up with your membership! Most membership renewals are due at the end of the year and the easiest way to renew or join is via our website at www.accokeekartistsalliance.com. If mailing a check, we are now using PO Box 194, Accokeek, MD 20607, as the AAA mailing address.

Consider Supporting Local Organizations, Exploring Local History

For (re)connecting with our many partner organizations, please email Moyaone Association Public Affairs (PA) Chair KentLHibben@gmail.com — or stand by for his stocking-stuffer PA bulletin, with summaries of local-legacy books and links to the Accokeek Foundation, Alice Ferguson Foundation, AMPS Creek Council, Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department, Bryans Road Volunteer Fire Department, Conservancy for Charles County, Friends of the Accokeek Library, Greater Accokeek Civic Association, Indian Head Highway Area Action Council, Mattawoman Watershed Society, and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

And from our forest's branches to its roots: Copies of the following books: *The Moyaone Reserve* (TMR), *The Possible Dream* (TPD), *Adventures in Southern Maryland* (ASM), *Hard Bargain Adventures* (HBA), and *After Alice* are available to entertain and enlighten (and to stuff stockings)! Contact: KentLHibben@Gmail.com for TMR; ABarnes@accokeek.org for TPD; TCullen@fergusonfoundation.org for ASM or HBA; and KGardinerPowell@gmail.com for *After Alice*.



HOSTED BY THE DIRT ROAD DAMSELS



a very merry
MOYAONE
a holiday celebration





join us at the
MOYAONE COMMONS

2311 BRYAN POINT RD, ACCOKEEK, MD 20607

**DECEMBER
16th, 2023**

**4:00 PM TO
8:00 PM**



KIDS CRAFTS • TREE DECORATING • MUSICAL
PERFORMANCES • BONFIRE • HOT DRINKS • CAROLING &
SING-A-LONGS • FIRED PIZZA OVEN • BRING YOUR OWN
PIZZA FIXINGS & HOLIDAY DISH TO SHARE



FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT KATHLEEN GOTZMER
301-609-0570 OR DIRTROADDAMSELS@GMAIL.COM

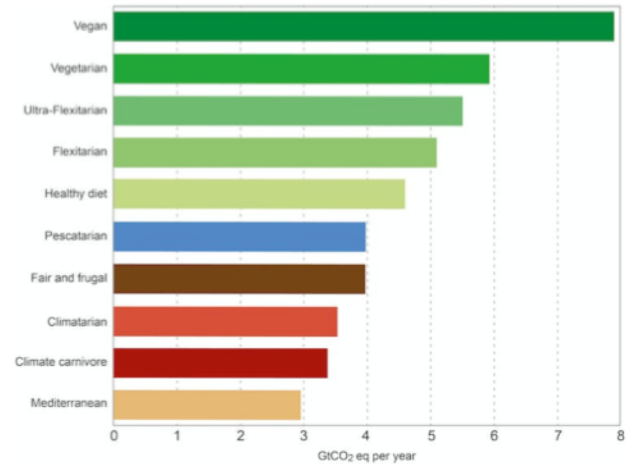


"Uprooted." Watercolor art by Moyaone artist Frances Taylor.



At left: Gatherers for a lip-smacking early Thanksgiving meal together, hosted by Nan Fremont and Rita Bergman. VEG (Vegan Eating Group) meets every other month for a potluck at a Moyaone's home; the next one is Sun., Jan. 14. Come (to) one, come (to) all. For details, please email: MoyaoneVEG@gmail.com

How much CO₂e (in billions of tonnes, or Gt) would be saved if the whole world switched to each of these diets. Terms as defined by CarbonBrief. Data: IPCC.



Did You Know That Going Vegan Could Help Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions?

Phasing out animal agriculture represents “our best and most immediate chance to reverse the trajectory of climate change,” according to a new model developed by Patrick Brown from Stanford, and Michael Eisen of the University of California, Berkeley.

Based on the model, published in the open-access journal *PLoS Climate*, phasing out animal agriculture over the next 15 years would have the same effect as a 68% reduction of carbon dioxide emissions through the year 2100. This would provide 52% of the net emission reductions necessary to limit global warming to 2° Celsius above preindustrial levels, which scientists say is the minimum threshold required to avert disastrous climate change.

Societal attitudes toward food are far from fixed, said Brown. “Five hundred years ago, nobody in Italy had ever seen a tomato. Sixty years ago, nobody in China had ever drunk a Coke. Mutton was once the most popular meat in America,” he said. “People around the world readily adopt new foods, especially if they are delicious, nutritious, convenient and affordable.”

The scientists have made all of the raw data they used, as well as their calculations and the computer code used to carry out the calculations, publicly available so that others can make up their own mind.

“The great thing about science is that, in the end, it all comes down to whether the conclusions are supported by the evidence,” Brown said. “And in this case, they are.”

Dear Herby,

It's almost 2024, and while I hate New Year's resolutions, I honestly would like to improve my diet. I already don't eat red meat most of the time but I tried going vegan a few years ago and stopped after a few months. I still like the idea, for my health and for the planet, but for some reason I didn't stick with it. What would you suggest?

— Yours truly, One Foot In

Dear One,

Happy New Year to you! It's great that you want to change your diet in 2024, and you are certainly not the only person who tried going vegan overnight and found it challenging. But I'm wondering when you tried to make the switch, because going vegan has gotten SO much easier. Many restaurants now include vegan options, and there are many plant-based alternatives in grocery stores. Trying some of these products can be a good place to start!

There are also a slew of great cookbooks and websites with plant-based recipes that appeal to every palate—omnivores, vegans, and everyone in-between. The *Washington Post* and *New York Times* regularly feature such recipes.

I might also suggest you make a gradual shift. You could set a goal—like a certain percent plant-based by 2025—and keep moving in that direction. Try a one-day-a-week approach and keep increasing it, or transition to being a vegetarian and then gradually eliminate animal-based foods. You could also try a structured step-by-step program from an online vegan organization. Here are a few helpful resources:

[VegNews article on going vegan](#)

[10 Tips for Going Vegan](#)

[10 Weeks to Vegan](#)

All best wishes for a healthy, happy 2024! —Herby

p.s. Don't get discouraged. Any move towards plant-based, however small, is a step in a positive direction!

Have a question you would like to pose to your friendly Moyaone VEG contingent? Please email MoyaoneVEG@gmail.com. We'll do our best to reply personally to all, either directly or via *Smoke Signals*.



“Christmas at the Creek” Returns

Sun., Dec. 17, 4–6 pm

This treasured holiday tradition returns, a beautiful benefit concert for the Fort Washington Food Pantry. Performers include Lynn and Keely Hollyfield, with Dave Abe, Steve Wolf, and Jimmy Brink; Jody Marshall, Paul Nahay, and Susan and Jim Queen.

The concert takes place at St. John’s Episcopal Church at Broad Creek, 9801 Livingston Rd., Ft. Washington. Suggested donation is \$25. Also, please bring a non-perishable item for the Food Pantry. The Ft. Washington Food Pantry serves 120 to 150 families PER WEEK. Come join us and support this worthy cause.



Turkey Trot 2023

Thanksgiving marked another terrific day for the annual Moyaone Turkey Trot! Thanks to all our friends, neighbors, and dog pals for coming out. Also, much thanks to Matt Schwaller, Nan Fremont, and Carol Cox for helping with posting and collecting signs at the end.

— Rita Bergman



CCYO Holiday Concert, Sat., Dec. 9

The Charles County Youth Orchestra (CCYO), directed by Dr. Osman Kivrak, will perform a holiday concert on Sat., Dec. 9 at 5 pm at the Kris Kringle Market at the Charles County Fairgrounds in La Plata. The program will include holiday favorites as well as popular classical composers such as Handel and Pachelbel. CCYO’s performance at the Kris Kringle Market will be followed by fireworks at 6 pm. The concert is free but there is a \$5 charge (free for 10 and under) to enter the Market at the Fairgrounds.

The Market is located at 8440 Fairgrounds Rd., La Plata. For more information about the Kris Kringle Market, call (301) 932-1234

CCYO Auditions

Mid-year auditions for all CCYO ensembles will be held Sat., Jan. 13 from 10 am to 1 pm at Christ Church, 112 Charles St., La Plata. Information about auditions can be found at: <https://www.charlescountyyouthorchestra.org/auditions>

CCYO presents two large concerts and numerous smaller concerts each year, a two-week Chamber Music Festival, a Concerto Competition Concert as well as masterclasses and sectionals for students in all four of CCYO’s ensembles. This past season CCYO ensembles have performed at the Port Tobacco Courthouse, Alice Ferguson Foundation, Nanjemoy Community Center, Indian Head Village Green and at Christ Church, La Plata where they performed a very successful concert to raise funds for victims of the Turkey–Syria Earthquake.

CCYO is one of the largest youth organizations in Southern Maryland, providing music education and performance opportunities for talented young musicians ages 8 to 18 in Charles, Prince George’s, St. Mary’s, and Calvert counties.

For more information, please contact Dr. Osman Kivrak (301 375-7109; charlescountyyouthorchestra.org). Charles County Youth Orchestra, Osman Kivrak, Director, with Encore Band, Takako Mato, Director; Encore Strings, Teri Lazar, Director; and Prelude Strings, Dennis Murphy, Director.

NOTICE

To give away: 54-volume set of *Great Books of the Western World* from Homer to Freud. About 7 feet of shelf space. 2720 Hidden Valley Road. For more information, please call 301 283-2161.

Happy Holidays from the Alice Ferguson Foundation



What a year — overnight programs returned and have filled our calendars, Spring Fest made a revamped comeback, and final preparations are being made to connect even more children, teachers, and community residents to nature through our school programs, summer camps, professional development, and community events throughout the next year. One thing is for sure — We couldn't do it without YOU, our wonderful Moyaone neighbors and friends. From all of us at the Alice Ferguson Foundation, happy holidays! We can't wait to share what's in store for 2024. See you soon!

Become a Member of the Alice Ferguson Foundation

Join our member community! With five tiers with exclusive perks, swag, and more opportunities to visit Hard Bargain Farm, there's something for everyone.

Memberships make excellent gifts for your loved ones too!

Scan the QR code below with your mobile phone or visit [this link here](#) to check out membership benefits and become a member today!



Office Volunteer Needed

Do you have spare time and skills to share? We're in search of a dedicated volunteer to lend a hand with mailings and other tasks around the office, 1–2 times per month.

[Sign up here](#) and we'll be in touch! Thank you!

Alice Ferguson Foundation, 2001 Bryan Point Rd.
fergusonfoundation.org

Join the Moyaone Community Garden

Located on the Moyaone Association grounds, next to the Wagner Center building, is the Moyaone Community Garden.

Moyaone Association members in good standing (who have paid their annual consolidated fees) can inquire about the availability of plots. To find out more about fees and garden policies, please send an email message to:

moyaonegarden@gmail.com



Buildings at the Accokeek Foundation were festively lit for its recent "Winter's Eve" event. The Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park is located at 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek; info@accokeek.org.

SEASONS GREETINGS from the ACCOKEEK FOUNDATION!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Accokeek Foundation's work in Piscataway Park in 2023. Whether you attended an event, volunteered your time, donated, or helped share the message of the park with your friends and family, we appreciate you! We look forward to another year of stewarding this special place with you in 2024.

P.S. Send us your park story! We want to hear from you about why Piscataway Park is so special.

[Click here to share.](#)

Important Updates:

The Visitor Center & Gift Shop will be closed for the season starting Sunday, December 10. Please join us on Saturday for holiday shopping and special discounts on specific items. The Gift Shop will re-open mid-March, but keep an eye on our calendar and social media for some special winter events and activities in January and February.

The park gate hours are currently 7 am to 5 pm. At 5 pm, park gates will be locked, so please ensure you plan your visit accordingly.

Volunteer!

Citizen Science Opportunity: The Accokeek Foundation Stewardship Team needs help collecting soil samples from our 20 fields. This amounts to over 50 acres of land that needs to be covered. Tools, training, and a brief intro to soils will be provided. Dec. 11–15, Dec. 17–22. End Date could change depending on number of volunteers. Please note that this is a physically demanding opportunity and will require stooping, digging, lifting, and walking distances of up to ¼ of a mile. Please contact volunteers@accokeek.org to participate.