

Smoke Signal



MOYAONE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2024

NO. 12

President's Message — December 2024

A major milestone is passed: the December Budget Meeting. I'd like to extend a huge thanks to the Board and committees for their help in drafting our FY2025 budget. And a huge thanks goes out to every Moyaone Association member who showed up in person or via proxy so that we could conduct business.

One item of business that was proposed by the membership and subsequently approved was an increase in the consolidated fee. The increase is to match the annual rate of inflation as given by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For this year, that equates to 2.6%. (This is the latest 12-month rate BLS has posted on their website at the time I sat down to write this message.) With a little rounding, fees will be as follows:

Lot Type	FY2025 Consolidated Fee
Improved lot	\$842
Unimproved lot	\$164

Paul Livingston stated that this increase in consolidated fee to match the inflation rate had been previously voted on and approved by the membership. No record of this vote — apparently made prior to May 2024 — was available at the December meeting, so a motion was made and voted on to approve it for this year. The Board has been tasked with reviewing minutes from several years of past May and December meetings to see when this change might have been made.

Obviously, the increase in fees increased our FY2025

FEBRUARY 5 BOARD MEETING*

6:30 pm social with light snacks

7 pm business starts

Wagner Center, 2311 Bryan Point Road

*There is NO board meeting in January 2025.

budget anticipated income from this source by a couple of thousand dollars. As discussed at the meeting, these monies have been distributed amongst the committees and administration. A copy of the approved budget with these modifications is attached on page 2 of this newsletter. Details of each committee's expenses are also shown.

Many volunteers were recognized during the December meeting. Simply by asking everyone to stand who is or had ever been on a committee or the Board or acted as a trustee, I was rewarded by seeing almost everyone in the Community Center stand up. And even though the crowd was smaller when I asked for those serving 100 hours or more this year, the number was still significant. Wow!

A special recognition went out to Stan Fetter who stepped down as Roads Committee Chair in November. Stan started as Roads Chair in 2001 and served off and on (mostly on) in that capacity until now. All the former presidents who were in the room and who had worked with Stan came forward to help us have a visual on just how many administrations Stan has served under. Thank you, Stan, for all you have done for our community.

As the year comes to a close, the Moyaone Board wishes each of you a joyous holiday season and all the best for the year ahead.

— Paola Addamiano-Carts

Moyaone Association Board of Directors

President — Paola Addamiano-Carts

President@Moyaone.org

Vice President — Mike Nelson

VicePresident@Moyaone.org

Secretary — Karen Heys

Secretary@Moyaone.org

Comptroller — Linda Witkin

Comptroller@Moyaone.org

Director-at-Large — Holly Wagner

DirectorAtLarge@Moyaone.org

FY2025 Budget/Approved			
Budget Code	Description of Code	Revenue	Expense
Membership Fees			
4001	Consolidated Fees	\$ 108,756	
4002	Unimproved Lot Fee	\$ 2,565	
4004	Contributions	\$ 2,200	
	Total	\$ 113,521	
Pool			
4610	Pool Memberships (non res)	\$ 21,000	
4620	Guests and Parties and donations	\$ 1,500	
4625	Swim Lessons	\$ 1,500	
4660	Swim Team	\$ 250	
2004	Camps	\$ 3,750	
5310	Pool Wages		\$ 48,000
5315	Payroll Taxes		\$ 4,800
5320	Chemicals		\$ 4,500
5322	Pool Supplies		\$ 3,000
5325	Pool Water		\$ 1,015
5330	Pool Maintenance & Repairs		\$ 2,500
5350	Insurance		\$ 976
5370	Pool utilities SMECO (5441)		\$ 4,000
5375	FiOS (Verizon)		\$ 500
5390	Licenses & Permits		\$ 800
5395	Misc Expenses/Administration		\$ 990
	Sub Total for Pool with Revenue	\$ 28,000	\$ 70,091
	Total for Overall Budget		\$ 43,081
Roads			
TBD	Subcontracting Snow, ROW, Leaves		\$ 10,000
5001	Contract Labor		\$ 20,000
5005	Maintenance/Gradall		\$ 5,000
5010	Materials		\$ 10,000
TBD	Fuel & Oils		\$ 5,000
TBD	Admin/Misc		\$ 1,185
	Total		\$ 51,185
Buildings & Grounds			
5110	Maintenance		\$ 6,000
5140	Utilities SMECO (4441) + Propane		\$ 2,000
5150	Trash Removal		\$ 1,100
5170	Supplies		\$ 300
TBD	Tree Removal		\$ -
TBD	Security		\$ 1,500
	Total		\$ 11,155

Welcome & Membership			
TBD	Operations		\$ 512
	Total		\$ 512
Public Affairs			
5230	Public Affairs Media		\$ 200
5250	Partner Memberships		\$ 210
	Total		\$ 410
Administration			
5235	Property Tax (Wagner/Pool Bldgs)		\$ 1,200
5240	Website		\$ 375
5290	Insurance		\$ 6,324
5710	Accounting Fees		\$ 4,000
5760	Credit Card Processing		\$ -
5765	Quickbooks Fees		\$ 2,000
5795	Misc.		\$ 369
TBD	Verizon Fios		\$ 1,500
TBD	invoicing		\$ 200
	Total		\$ 15,968
Other			
4901	Mortgage Income (Cottage)	\$ 2,290	
4995	Other Revenue	\$ 10,700	
	Carryover from FY2024 into 2025	\$ -	
5800	Annual Capital Improvement Account (CIA) savings		\$ 2,000
	Total	\$ 12,990	\$ 2,000
Capital Projects			
cap exps	Capital Improvements		
	Total		
Total Revenue		\$ 126,511	
Total Annual Expenses			\$ 124,311
Total Capital Projects			
Net Income			\$2,200

Moyaone Association Consolidated Fees

The Board will be sending out paper invoices in Jan/Feb 2025.
 Additionally, payment details are available
 on the **Moyaone.org** website.

The New PG County Elderly Tax Credit

— Michael Leventhal

At the Moyaone Membership meeting last week, there was not enough time to fully outline the various property tax credits available to residents in Prince George's County. So here is a brief outline on the several tax credits available to offset your County property tax bill:

Elderly Tax Credit: This credit was originally passed for tax year 2023, and amended recently for tax year 2025. In the original law, a tax credit equal to 20% of one's property tax bill would be given if: you are over 65 years old; have lived in your principal dwelling for 10 straight years; and your property is less than \$500,000 in County assessed value at the time you apply for the credit. The 20% credit would be reduced by any other credits you might have, such as your Homestead Exemption credit and Scenic Easement credit. The new amended law changes some of these eligibility factors. The new law is still for property owners over 65 and their property still must be under \$500,000, but they now must reside in their dwelling for 25 years and that the 20% credit would not be subject to one's Homestead Exemption credit. All those who applied for this credit back in 2023 will be under the old requirements of having lived in their house for 10 years. If you applied in 2023, your application will be carried forward and there is no need to reapply. This credit is good for 5 years. Contact the Director of Finance to apply for this credit.

There are other tax credits one can take advantage of in Prince George's County. There is a Homestead Exemption tax credit; a Scenic Easement tax credit; and a Forest Stewardship tax credit. The Scenic Easement tax credit is only for those properties that gave their scenic easement to the National Park Service (NPS), and did not charge the NPS for the easement agreement. The Scenic Easement credit formula is based on the value of your land, divided by 100 and then divided by 2. This credit must be applied for to the Director of Finance, if it is not showing up on your property tax bill already.

The Homestead Exemption tax credit is for people living in their principal residence. It is not automatically put on your tax bill. If it is not listed on your property tax bill, contact the Director of Finance to find out the eligibility requirements and how to apply.

Lastly, there is a tax credit for those property owners who would qualify for a Forest Stewardship Plan placed on their property by the Maryland Forestry Service. To qualify, contact the Maryland Forestry Service and ask if they can come to inspect your woods and develop a Forest Stewardship Plan. There is a small cost for their inspection, and you need at least 5 acres of land. Once a stewardship plan is done, you must contact the Director of Finance, show them your Forest Stewardship Plan agreement and a credit will follow. This credit will also reduce any Elderly tax credit you would receive.

Those residents in Charles County do not get any tax credits for their scenic easements, nor do I know if they allow tax credits for elderly residents or the Forest Stewardship Plans.

News from the Greater Accokeek Civic Association

— Judy Allen-Leventhal

On Saturday, December 7, Greater Accokeek Civic Association (GACA) volunteers decorated the holiday tree in front of B&J Carry Out in the heart of "downtown" Accokeek. Special thanks goes to Barry Young, owner of B&J's, for donating the beautiful 13-foot fir tree as well as providing the electricity to light it throughout the holidays. Also, a special "shout-out" to GACA Board member Roger Midgette for this year's special sparkle of new multi-colored lights.

GACA would also like to announce approval of its application to the Maryland-National Capital Planning Board Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) program for The Accokeek Gateway Project. The Planning Board approved the project on December 5. Upcoming protocol actions include the Planning Department issuing a Notice to Proceed letter to the consultant, after which the project can begin after the first of the new year.

The Accokeek Gateway Project will bring together a broad base of stakeholders, including property owners, community members, state MDOT, and Prince George's County DPWT representatives, and political leaders from both the state and county, to evaluate the complexities of Accokeek's "gateway": MD 210 from Farmington Road to MD 228 and MD 373/Livingston Road from Keller's Market to the U.S. Post Office.

Key concerns of the project will be improved pedestrian safety and coordinated road maintenance. The Accokeek Gateway Project is a direct result of recommendations of the Accokeek Heritage Tourism Project, which pointed out "that Maryland 210 divides Accokeek into two parts, and, in some respects into two communities . . . [despite that] a shift in mindset is suggested to not consider MD 210 as a divider but instead to focus on the highway as a gateway to Accokeek. From this perspective, MD 210 and the intersection with MD 373 (Livingston Road) presents an opportunity to communicate to visitors that they have arrived at a special place and that their presence is welcome."

Pulse of the Pool

— Hsin-i Russell
Chair, Pool Committee

Even though public users only visit the pool during the three summer months, the same few — and not enough of the rest of us — within this community are volunteering all year round. Community is created by doing, so let us “dive in.” There are myriad small and big ways you can support this effort:

1) We need more households to pay the consolidated fee — If you value “community,” you should invest in it. The more fees that are paid, the lighter the burden on each one of our households.

2) We need more folks to patronize the pool — Be neighborly, come down, say hi, take a dip, and if you don’t want to swim, make yourself useful by doing something you enjoy — perhaps it’s tidying, picking up litter, weeding the deck, leaf-blowing, pruning, etc.

3) We need to hire seasonal staff and solicit outside memberships in March — you can help distribute flyers to advertise more widely. The more outside memberships, the more revenue we can add to the budget.

4) We must pass the county inspection in May — you can help by applying for permits, conditioning, or repairing pump room equipment, spiffing up the buildings and setting out and cleaning the deck furniture.

5) We need a volunteer pool operator with lifeguard certification to help us cover shifts in the early morning and at the end of the season.

6) We organize work parties to open the pool in April and to close it in late September — we could use a communications coordinator to organize them, or you can just lend a hand and some muscle on the day of!

7) We are always looking for energetic souls to join our committee as well as the other committees that shape this community. The more voices, the better the outcomes.

If you do not have the time, you can provide support with monetary donations. A neighbor once told me that the consolidated fee is a floor, not a ceiling. Our pool is aging, there is definite wear and tear, and we need additional funds not in the current budget for 1) a modern pool vacuum, and 2) a cover for the baby pool.

We are also recruiting 2025 Pool Committee members. The Pool Committee meets the third Tuesday monthly at 5:30 pm between the months of February and October (the rest of the months are optional). If you are interested in joining the 2025 Pool Committee, email russelhc@yahoo.com, or moyaonepool@gmail.com, and we’ll add you. Thank you for supporting our community pool, and I wish you a merry and bright holiday season!

Moyaone Association Pool Committee Survey

Pool memberships are included in the Moyaone Association consolidated fee. We enjoyed a successful 2024 pool season, keeping costs under control and generating revenue well above projections. But there is always room for improvement, so we want to know what you think.

POOL HOURS

2024 pool hours, rules and fees for non-Association members can be found at <https://www.moyaone.org/pool/>. Pool hours include both family recreation time (with one lap lane) and adult swim time (all lap lanes), but not all Association members take advantage of these times. That’s fine, of course, but if you are not using the pool because your schedule does not match ours, we would love to hear about it.

OTHER POOL USE

Our pool has been used for swim team, for training, for swimming classes, and for entertainment. The pool committee is interested in ways of maximizing the value of the pool both to Association members and to the broader community, as well as increasing revenue to help defray the cost of pool operations. Consider the possible uses you believe to be of greatest value, such as Red Cross certified lifeguard and water safety instructor courses, advanced swimming courses, non-swimming activities (water exercise, water yoga), or reserving the pool (with lifeguards) for private events.

Please provide your feedback below. After providing responses, give to a Pool Committee representative, or email to moyaonepool@gmail.com.

For adult lap swimming hours , would you make better use of the pool if the hours were different, and if so, how?	Rank the following possible pool uses (with 1 being most valuable to 5 being least value): — Red Cross certified lifeguard and water safety instructor courses — Advanced swimming courses — Non-swimming activities like water exercise, water yoga — Reserving the pool (with lifeguards) for private events — Other _____
For family recreation hours , would you make better use of the pool if the hours were different, and if so, how?	Write in additional comments or questions here:

Optional: your name & contact info _____



Artists Alliance Plans Events for 2025

— Lona Powell

The Accokeek Artists Alliance (AAA) had an amazingly successful Winter Market this year (see photo above)! We are so grateful for our art-loving community and thank everyone so much for supporting local artists!

For our next event, AAA is planning a 'Sip and Share' general meeting on January 19, 2025, at the Wagner Center (2311 Bryan Point Road) from 2 pm until 4 pm. On February 8, 2025, we will repeat our popular Valentine's Day art exchange, also from 2 pm until 4 pm at the Wagner Center.

Further down the road we are planning workshops in Shibori (that's a Japanese dying technique) with Peggy Reichard and cold wax painting techniques with Daniel Wise.

To get in on the fun, just join up. We welcome new members, who can join via the AAA website at: accokeekartistsalliance.com.

December 14th
4-8 PM

A very merry
MOYAONE
a holiday celebration

Kids Crafts + Tree Decorating + Music + Caroling
 + Sing-a-Long + Bonfire + Hot Drinks + Fired Pizza
 Oven-Bring your own toppings & a Holiday Dish to share

Moyaone Commons Hosted by the Dirt Road Damsels
 2311 Bryan Point Road For Questions Contact: +
 Accokeek, MD Kathleen Gotzmer at 301-609-0570
 DirtRoadDamsels@gmail.com

Save the Date!

Annual Moyaone
Weihnachtsmarkt

Dec 21st, 2024
1-6pm

2311 Bryan Point Road
<https://lunactias.wixsite.com/weihnachtsmarkt>



Join us for the next VEG
Potluck on Sunday
January 12, 11 am–2 pm.
Newcomers welcome!
RSVP to:
MoyaoneVEG@gmail.com

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

Winter Celebrations à la Vegan

Winter holidays always bring to mind an abundance of comforting food and drink. There are so many festive traditions to celebrate during the chilly season, how about trying some new delicious and compassionate dishes at your feasts this year?

CHRISTMAS: December 25

The Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.



Source: connaisseurveg.com

Christmas gatherings are often centered around hearty celebratory meals that bring family and friends together. Traditional desserts such as gingerbread cookies, pies, and fruitcakes bring indulgence to the festivity.

- [Vegetable Wellington](#) (above)
- [Butternut Pecan Sweet Potato Casserole](#)
- [Caramelized Brussels Sprouts](#)
- [Spiced Fruit Christmas Wreath](#)
- [Sugar Cookies](#)

HANUKKAH: December 25, 2024–January 1, 2025

An eight-day "festival of lights" in the Jewish faith commemorating the retaking of the Temple in Jerusalem from oppressors.



Source: [The Vegan Atlas](#)

A celebration during which gifts are given, and each day candles on a candelabra known as a Menorah are ritualistically lit. Culinary traditions center around traditional potato pancakes, known as latkes, typically served with applesauce and/or sour cream, and sugar-coated jelly-filled donuts, known as sufganiyot. Here are recipes for these favorites:

- [Latkes](#) (above)
- [Sour cream](#) (above)
- [Sufganiyot](#)

YULE: December 21–January 1

A celebration of the winter solstice



Yule is a festival that celebrates the winter solstice and the return of light and warmth, representing renewal and hope. Historically a Scandinavian holiday, today it is celebrated by neo-Pagans and Wiccans. However, since Yule traditions were incorporated into Christmas celebrations, many people celebrate Yule without being aware of it. The most common ways of celebrating it include decorating interiors with evergreens, burning candles or Yule logs, and feasting.

- [Chocolate Yule Log](#) (above)
- [Stuffed Butternut Squash](#)
- [Wassail](#)
- any of the Christmas recipes above!

KWANZAA: December 26–January 1

A celebration of African and African American culture, history, values, family, and community.



Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits" in Swahili, is anchored in seven principles which are celebrated, one per day, with the lighting of candles. First celebrated in 1966, it aims to inspire Black people to be united, self-determined, accountable for their communities, financially invested in Black-owned businesses, purposeful with their lives, creative and full of faith. It is not tied to any particular religion.

Kwanzaa is often brought to a close by Karamu, a communal feast featuring such culinary delights from the African Diaspora as black-eyed peas, peanut soup, collard greens and jollof rice.

A collection of typical Karamu dishes can be found here:

- [African American recipes for Kwanzaa](#)

HERBY is taking the month off, but looks forward to getting your questions for the January edition. Send to MoyaoneVEG@gmail.com.



CCYO Announces Holiday Concert on December 14

Saturday, December 14, 5 pm at the Kris Kringle Market, Charles County Fair Grounds, 8440 Fairgrounds Road, La Plata MD

The Charles County Youth Orchestra (CCYO), directed by Dr. Osman Kivrak, will perform a holiday concert on Saturday December 14 at 5 pm at the Kris Kringle Market at the Charles County Fairgrounds in La Plata. The program will include holiday favorites and music by popular classical composers Handel and Pachelbel. Fireworks will follow CCYO's performance at the Kris Kringle Market at 6 pm. The concert is free but there is a \$5 charge (free for 10 and under) to enter Kris Kringle at the Fairgrounds.

The Charles County Youth Orchestra, Osman Kivrak, Director; includes Encore Band, Takako Mato, Director; Encore Strings, Teri Lazar, Director; and Prelude Strings, Gabrielle Stanback Satterthwaite, Director.

Mid-year auditions for all CCYO ensembles will be held February 8 from 9:30 am to 12 pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 112 East Charles Street, La Plata. Information can be found at: charlescountyyouthorchestra.org/auditions

CCYO presents two large concerts and numerous smaller concerts each year, a two-week Chamber Music Festival, a Concerto Competition Concert, 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, Kris Kringle at the Fairgrounds, Indian Head Village Green, and Christ Church, La Plata.

CCYO is one of the largest youth organizations in Southern Maryland, providing music education and performance opportunities for talented young musicians ages 7–18 in Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Calvert counties. For more information, please contact Dr. Osman Kivrak, CCYO Director (charlescountyyouthorchestra.org; 301 375-7109).



Lynn Hollyfield and daughter, Keely, performed at the Wagner Center in November.

Folk Project Streaming Tuesdays Presents Lynn Hollyfield, December 17

I'll be doing a Streaming/OnLine Concert on Tuesday, December 17, 7–8 pm. It's free with artist tips encouraged. Come join me! This is a prestigious Folk community out of New Jersey. I'd love to have you there with me! Ticket links are below.

I appreciate all who came out to the Community Concert at the Wagner Center on November 17, with the potluck following. It was a great success!

Thanks for the continued support and Happy Holidays!

—Lynn Hollyfield

“The [Folk Project] series have been presenting every week since the beginning of the pandemic as a way to provide entertainment to our audience and income to performers. Streaming also enables seniors and disabled performers to stay actively engaged in the Folk community. Our concerts are free one-hour concerts, with all tips going directly to the performer. The concerts are from 7–8 pm ET.”

— Gary Pratt, Producer

Get your tickets: <https://aftontickets.com/LynnHollyfield2>

Folk Project website:
<https://folkproject.org/mec-events/lynn-hollyfield/>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/3489776921314973>



Turkey Trotters Undaunted by Rain

— Matt Schwaller

It was an enthusiastic group of neighbors and their dogs that met up on Thanksgiving morning to brave the damp for the 12th annual Moyaone Turkey Trot. Following a group photo we all set out along pavement, gravel, and trail on a 5k (ish) route through the scenic fields and forests of the National Colonial Farm and its surroundings. A great way to work up a healthy appetite!

Many thanks to Anjela Barnes and the Accokeek Foundation for continuing support of the annual Turkey Trot. And a big shout-out of thanks to Dave Cremer for making a new set of signs for this year's event. ... Nobody wants to get lost in the woods and the signage always helps (but doesn't necessarily guarantee) to keep us on track. Also, the old signage (below left) had become somewhat depleted and decrepit over the years. The new signs (on the right) are a welcome improvement.



FITNESS CLASSES

Interested in getting fit this winter? Classes are available on Zoom from the comfort of your own home or in a small, intimate studio in Accokeek. I've had my practice in **Dance, Pilates, and Yoga** for 25 years. All ages welcome.



if you are interested in joining or just have questions, please reach out by text or email to Maria:

Text 301-266-5585 (fastest response)
Or email mariafemia@hotmail.com

- Sunday — Intermediate Yoga, 9:30 am
- Tuesday — Pilates, 9:30 am
- Wednesday — Intermediate Yoga, 9:30 am
- Thursday — Pilates, 9:30 am

Zelle, Cash, or Check welcome for payments:
10-class pack, \$150; walk-ins, \$18 per class.



RUSTIC ASIAN CABINET for sale

50" long x 22" wide x 34" tall. \$40 OBO.
Text Ruth at 202-257-8924, or email: rugomo@gmail.com.



Happy Holidays from the Alice Ferguson Foundation!

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the Moyaone community that supports our mission to connect people with nature. This holiday season, may your days be filled with joy, warmth, and cherished moments with loved ones. We look forward to sharing more memorable moments together in the year ahead, creating meaningful experiences and fostering a love for the environment. From all of us at the Alice Ferguson Foundation, we wish you a peaceful and happy holiday season!



News Updates from the Accokeek Foundation

This Visitor Center and gift shop are now closed for the season. Join us when we re-open in March. If you have any questions about visiting the park during the off-season, visit www.accokeek.org/visit or email us at outreach@accokeek.org.

Also, please excuse our mess and additional facility closures over the next couple of months as repairs are made to the park's water system. We anticipate repairs to be completed before we re-open in the spring.

Happy holidays from your friends at the Accokeek Foundation!

*Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park
3400 Bryan Point Road*

Exciting News from Hard Bargain Farm! Say hello to Rosie, our new Jersey dairy cow and lead educator of our cow-milking program! This beloved program has inspired nearly 500,000 kids since the 1970s, helping to teach them where their food really comes from.

Even bigger news? Rosie is expecting a calf in spring 2025! To prepare for her Big Day and beyond, we've launched Rosie's Motherhood Fund to help cover her specialized care. Your gift ensures Rosie continues to inspire young minds about farming, animals, and nature. Of course, if you prefer, you are welcome to give to all our programs, including Rosie!

Join Team Rosie and make a difference today!

Donate now: bit.ly/AFFTeamRosie

Become a Member of the Alice Ferguson Foundation

Join our member community, featuring five tiers with exclusive discounts and access to visit our beautiful property. Hard Bargain Farm is the perfect place to spend quality time in the great outdoors and make unforgettable family memories that will last a lifetime.

NEW FOR 2025! Our Outdoor Experience Package features unique experiences in nature every season — cow milking, night hikes, birding, and more!

Scan the QR code or visit fergusonfoundation.org/membership to join the AFF family!



All current members have received an invitation to our Annual Holiday Member Party on Sunday, December 15.

*Alice Ferguson Foundation, 2001 Bryan Point Road
fergusonfoundation.org*