

# Smoke Signal



MOYAONE  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

MOYAONE RESERVE @ PISCATAWAY PARK

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

September 2025

## President's Message

It's hard to believe September has arrived. It seems like just yesterday the Gators were winning their swim meets, kids and adults alike were frolicking in the pool trying to stay cool and families spending quality time vacationing. Fast forward and the cooler Fall temps have rolled in, kids are back at school and the Moyaone will be closing the pool for the season. The Pool Committee will be holding work parties mid to late September to winterize the pool and September 20<sup>th</sup> to put the main pool cover on – a tall order that needs many people to accomplish. Thanks to all on the Pool Committee, the pool staff and lifeguards and the swim team coaches for another successful season.

We wanted to bring to your attention, if not already aware, of two proposed

developments in the greater Accokeek area. Some might oppose these developments, some might be in favor of them. Whatever your thoughts on these are, we wanted to make sure you were aware of them as for good or bad, they will affect the Reserve. As Michael Leventhal has been following these developments closely, I asked him to provide an update below. Thanks Michael.

*-Karen Bell, President*

## Beyond Your Front Door

Living in the Moyaone Reserve is similar to living in a comfortable cocoon, relatively isolated in the Piscataway Park, surrounded by trees, accessible only along gravel roads, often hidden from our neighbors, and separated by our own brand of privacy. Our sense of a greater Accokeek is too often limited to shopping at the Giant or Weis; going to the post office, library, or the dry cleaners; getting carryout at B & J's; and filling up at the Accokeek Gas n' Go.

However, the truth of the matter is that there is a greater Accokeek out there, and changes being considered by the Prince George's County Planning Board and staff will affect all of us. While the Accokeek area was once part of the "Rural tier," it is now being viewed as semi-rural or developing by the County's planning department. The traditional character of Accokeek has been small family farms and modest single-family homes. Over the past 30 years, newer large and modest single family home developments, as well as a few townhouses, have been built in Accokeek. Still, all in all, the basic character of the area was small scale residential, with several remaining farms to keep a rural sense.

Now, two proposed residential projects are working their way through the planning process that everyone should be aware of. The first is the Signature Club East development that will have 8 multifamily multistory (apartment) buildings, ranging from 3 to 5 stories and include 300 rental units. This is proposed to be built to the west of the existing Signature Club development of single-family houses, across MD 228 from the Manokeek/Giant shopping center. This proposed development project will be nestled in among existing modest and single-family residential homes.

The introduction of a multi-building apartment complex development such as

the Signature Club West project can change the basic character and physical understanding of Accokeek. The conceptual site plan for this project was approved by the County's Planning Board on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Potential concerns are the consideration of limitations of basic public services: the water and sewer at the WSSC Piscataway treatment plant, the existing public school system, the delay time for police and emergency services, and the increase in an already serious traffic problem.

To learn more about this proposed project, Google the *PG Co. Planning Department, CSP-23002*. You can see the conceptual plan as well as read the staff report. Become a party of record by contacting Prince George's County Planning Department, which will allow you to be notified and to speak on this proposed project when it appears before the Planning Board with its detailed site plan (DSP).

The second proposed development to be aware of is the proposed Morton Farm development, a 84 plus acre property planned for 148 single family homes. This site is directly across from the Accokeek Post Office on Livingston Road. An initial archaeological survey has been completed, and it's been determined that some 33 acres of this development have been declared a conservation area. Because this survey is not being made available for public review, what is not known is if this set-aside is enough acreage to protect the significant archaeological resources and what protections would be applied to the conservation area.

This project is number S-24001. It has not yet been before the Planning Board, as far as I have been able to learn. This proposed project should also be part of your party of record application. In both or either of these cases, if you want to voice your opinion you can contact our County Council representative Sydney Harrison (District 9) as well as the County's at-large members: Jolene Ivey and Calvin Hawkins.

For those who oppose these developments, it can seem difficult to defeat these projects that currently seem to have Planning Department staff support, it can be done. The community has resisted and defeated several developments over the years: the proposed Walmart planned for where the Giant shopping center is now located; a Royal Farms gas station/convenience store proposed across from B & J's. Opposition to these projects is not based on not wanting change or development in our area but intended to support better conceived and smarter planning choices.

# Upcoming Events

**The next two Moyaone Association Board meetings will be the first Thursday of the month: October 2nd and November 6th. Come at 6:30 for informal talk and meeting starting at 7pm.**

## **Fridays and Weekends through September 20**

Mattawoman Creek Art Center (MCAC) features plein air and 'Mother' inspired works by several AAA artists @ MCAC gallery in Smallwood State Park

**September 13, 9am**

**Pool Work Party @ the Wagner Center**

**September 13, 9am-2pm**

[Charles County Youth Orchestra auditions](#) @ Christ Church, La Plata

**September 14**

[National Public Lands Day @ Piscataway Park](#)

9:30-11:30am Shoreline Clean Up

12-2pm Invasive Plant Removal

**September 14, 11am**

VEG Vegan Potluck (details below)

**September 20, 9am**

**Pool Work Party @ the Wagner Center**

**September 21, 2-4pm**

Accokeek Artists Alliance Sip n Share n Swap @ the Wagner Center

**September 24, 7:30 pm**

The Greater Accokeek Civic Association general membership meeting @ the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Hall, [16111 Livingston Road, Accokeek 20607](#).

**October 4**

Pinot on the Potomac (details below)

**October 4**

MCAC fundraiser Fun Run

**October 6-10, 10am-12pm daily**

[Invasive Plant Removal @ Piscataway Park](#)

**October 11- November 23**

**Smithsonian Institution's *SPARK! Places of Innovation* traveling exhibition @ the Accokeek Foundation (details below)**

**October 18**

Accokeek Artists Alliance wreath-making workshop (registration open)

**October 25, 10am-12pm**

[Invasive Plant Removal @ Piscataway Park](#)

**November 1**

Moyaone Community Halloween Party

All are welcome.

Want to help plan? Reach out to Karen Heys 301-832-5550.

**November 2, 10-11:30am**

[Shoreline Clean Up @ Piscataway Park](#)

**November 21-22**

AAA Winter Market

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**From the Association**

## Pulse of the Pool

We hope you had a good summer and swim season. Labor Day marks the end of our pool season. The first work party will be Saturday, **September 13th** starting at 9am, to put on the main pool cover and begin end-of-season maintenance tasks and stowing deck furniture. This big task requires about two dozen pairs of sturdy hands. The next work party is scheduled for Saturday, **September 20th** starting at 9am, as we have several families wanting to participate at the later date. Save the date and stop by on either date – the weather should be beautiful.

We will continue scheduling work parties to give everyone the opportunity to help put our pool to bed for the winter. Additional tasks include hosing down the bathrooms, mats, deck furniture and deck itself, weeding and trimming, stacking and putting away deck furniture, clearing out any items that might attract pests, and securing/winterizing both pools and the pump room for the winter. We keep our pool in good condition for next season, our costs down and enjoy some fellowship by doing all of this together. Please RSVP to Rhonda or Hsini ([pool@moyaone.org](mailto:pool@moyaone.org)) so we can plan.

One development to report and a request...our pool covers are aging out and are in need of replacement. Last year anonymous donors offered to pay for a new pool cover for the baby wading pool. We recently received updated quotes, and this weekend we finalized the purchase of the wading pool cover, which will arrive in three weeks and be installed by the end of September. Until it arrives, we will cover with the tarp. Once it arrives, we will arrange for installation of the anchors.

### September Roads Report – 2025

**Bottom Line Up Front:** The roads are in good shape. Major annual maintenance is caught up, and for now, everything is both on schedule and on budget.

**The Work Behind the Roads** If you've driven through the community lately, you've likely seen him: Mr. Ben Grenoble at the wheel of a grader, or shovel in hand, shaping the land beneath our tires. With a steady hand and a knack for the work, Ben has stepped up as our equipment operator — deftly renovating the roads that connect our neighborhood.

This fall, the focus has been on fundamentals. Roads were carefully shaped, ditches cleared, and drainage improved. The results are visible: even after heavy rains, erosion is under control. And in a small but satisfying act of resourcefulness, gravel washed down to the bottom of Bonds Retreat and Cactus Hill was reclaimed and put back into pothole

repairs — a reminder that good stewardship is often about reusing what nature leaves behind.

### **The Machines That Make It Possible**

The CAT Motor Grader is humming along, soon to be refreshed with clean fluids and a thorough scrub before its next tour of duty. It's a workhorse, and it shows. The GALION Motor Grader, on the other hand, remains parked. But that choice isn't about neglect — it's about priorities. With limited time, the team has chosen to keep attention on the roads themselves, rather than sidelining hours for equipment repair.

### **Looking to the Seasons Ahead**

Soon, leaves will begin to fall, and the call will go out for volunteers. With a powerful new pull-behind blower that can be hitched to almost any vehicle, leaf removal should be both effective and — dare we say — fun. Take your opportunity to “Shoot the Breeze”. Afterward, freshly shaped roads will be dressed with new gravel, timed perfectly with the fall grading cycle.

### **Dreams Deferred, but Not Forgotten**

Not everything could move forward this season. Special projects, bright ideas on paper, have been delayed by the sheer press of work during this year's relentless monsoon season. Still, the energy is there. Community funding and support have already been pledged, and those ideas — the ones shared at the annual meeting — remain on the horizon. They just need more hands, more time, and a little more breathing room.

### **A Community Effort**

The roads are, in the end, a shared resource. They are the paths that carry us to each other — to homes, to gatherings, to everyday life. Feedback has been heartfelt and constructive, and the invitation remains open: share your thoughts, lend your hands, or simply send a note of encouragement. For those who wish to take part, the door is always open:

[Roads@moyaone.org](mailto:Roads@moyaone.org).

### **A Note from the Editor**

Please note that, due to Wordpress being difficult, most posts do not have images this month. Any future help with Wordpress would be welcomed! Reach out at [news@moyaone.org](mailto:news@moyaone.org).

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# From your Neighbors

### **Calling all Gamers**

The Table Top Games group is still meeting monthly. We meet once a month to play various games and are considering adding a second day to play a role-playing game such as D&D. We schedule about two weeks ahead of time so contact Doug Ciskowski at [Dciskowski@yahoo.com](mailto:Dciskowski@yahoo.com) if you want to be included.

### **Vegan Eating Group Bi-Monthly Potluck**

Join us for the next vegan potluck on September 14th at 11am at the home of Jan and Bill Parker. Contact us at [moyaoneveg@gmail.com](mailto:moyaoneveg@gmail.com) to RSVP and/or join the email list.

### **For sale:**

Impex Kayak, Trek Bicycle, Thule Bicycle Rack

Prices negotiable

Contact Rhonda at 301-266-2406 (call or text)

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Accokeek Artists Alliance (AAA) members had great fun at our Ink Making workshop in August. Participants all took home ink and many ideas for further ink making explorations.

In September AAA will have a Sip 'n' Share 'n' Swap meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Wagner Center from 2 to 4.

This month's show at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center (MCAC) features plein air and 'Mother' inspired works by several AAA artists. That show is open Fridays and weekends through Sept. 20 at the MCAC gallery in Smallwood State Park. AAA members have also formed a team to participate in the MCAC fundraiser Fun Run on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Also on October 4<sup>th</sup>, look for art donated by AAA members in the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Pinot on the Potomac Silent Auction. There are still slots available for AAA's Fall Wreath Making Workshop

on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. Registration for this will close on Sept. 27 and there are a limited number of slots so don't miss out! Later in the season, AAA art of all kinds will be for sale at our popular Winter Market on November 21 and 22. Sign up for workshops or membership at <http://accokeekartistsalliance.com>



### **Pinot on the Potomac Tickets**

Gather your friends and raise a glass! The Alice Ferguson Foundation's Pinot on the Potomac returns Saturday, October 4 with unlimited wine tastings, delicious cuisine, live music, a silent auction, and sunset views over the Potomac. Every ticket helps us connect students and communities to nature.

Tickets went fast last year - Reserve your table or tickets today!

[www.fergusonfoundation.org/pinot](http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/pinot)

We can't wait to see you there!

### **Twilight Treats & Trails**

Looking for the perfect fall evening outdoors? On **November 15 & 16 at 5:30 PM**, step into a starlit adventure with **Twilight Treats & Trails**. Wander along our wet meadow boardwalk and wooded paths on a guided night hike, then unwind by a crackling campfire with gooey s'mores in hand. Experience the wonder of nature as day transforms into night - this unforgettable adventure is calling your name!

>>> [Book your adventure here!](#) <<<



ACCOKEEK  
FOUNDATION  
at Piscataway Park

This season of change invites reflection, and I am deeply grateful for the sense of community that makes the Moyaone Reserve and Piscataway Park so special. Last month, John Mitchell beautifully reminded us that our collective purpose goes far beyond any single organization—it is about protecting the land, honoring its history, and fostering a shared vision for the greater good. The Accokeek Foundation is honored to carry this work forward in partnership with you, our neighbors.

Looking ahead, we are excited to share that after years of preparation, the Accokeek Foundation will host SPARK! Places of Innovation from October 11–November 23. This Smithsonian Museum on Main Street traveling exhibition, presented by Maryland Humanities, highlights the creativity and resilience of rural communities across the nation.

To bring this exhibit to life, we will be seeking volunteer docents to help welcome and guide visitors during open hours. We also invite you to join us for shoreline cleanups and other upcoming volunteer opportunities that protect and sustain our park. Together, with your continued support, we are ensuring a vibrant future for this remarkable place.

—Anjela Barnes, Accokeek Foundation Executive Director

## **Greater Accokeek Civic Association September 2025 News**

The Greater Accokeek Civic Association (GACA) next general membership meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24, at the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Hall, [16111 Livingston Road, Accokeek 20607](#).

The featured guest speaker will be Lezael Rorie, the Vice President, Distributed Energy & Sustainability for SMECO. She'll be able to answer citizen concerns that have been increasing over the last year about rising electricity bills and data centers impacts. The program agenda will also include regular GACA topics of community interest (for example, representatives from Prince George's County Police) and an update on The Accokeek Gateway Project (focused on MD 210 from Farmington Road to MD 228 and MD 373/Livingston Road from Keller's Market to the U.S. Post Office).

Everyone is always welcome at GACA meetings, whether you're an association member or not.