

From: Public Affairs Chair publicaffairs@moyaone.org
Subject: February 2025 Smoke Signals Moyaone Association newsletter
Date: February 10, 2026 at 4:07 PM
To: Kent Hibben KentLHibben@gmail.com
Bcc: accokeek.kim@gmail.com



Hello, Neighbors,
Complementing (and complimenting) Editor Julia Paaianen's MA Smoke Signals Newsletter postings at Moyaone.org, the narrative can also be emailed to the current roster of bcc's (PDFs again after this month, when my IT re-cooperates).
For questions/inputs, please email News@Moyaone.org.
For delivery questions, please email PublicAffairs@Moyaone.org.
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MAFA



MOYAONE RESERVE @ PISCATAWAY PARK
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

February 2026

President's Message

Happy February to everyone. I hope you've all been able to stay safe and warm through the recent unprecedented storm and the long Arctic blast that followed. As we all know, timing was critical with this storm. A big thank you to Tom Garcia and the roads crew for working around the clock to keep roads as passable as possible under extremely challenging conditions.

Thank you as well to the Public Affairs Committee—especially Kent—for the constant communication with the community, keeping everyone informed about road conditions, stuck vehicles, trash pickup, and USPS mail delivery.

While many residents were calling 311 to report that the lower portion of Bryan Point Road had not been plowed—and feeling frustrated that nothing seemed to be happening—what many did not realize was that abandoned vehicles were preventing plows from accessing the road. Once this information came to light, Alex Naar coordinated with AVFD to help clear the vehicles so the county could finally plow this section of BPR.

A big thank you to Alex for recognizing this safety issue and for helping ensure access for all the residents and community partners who rely on this part of Bryan Point Road. I'd also be remiss not to mention the many neighbors helping neighbors. This was a very challenging situation that could have been far worse if not for the strong spirit of cooperation within the community.

Once the snow and ice have cleared, the Roads Committee will survey road conditions and assess any damage to road surfaces. Targeted repairs will then be conducted as needed, including pothole repairs and road grooming. All involved sincerely appreciate everyone's safe and cautious driving during these perilous conditions.

The above is just one example of how membership fees directly benefit the entire community by ensuring we can pay our snowplow contractors and keep roads passable during severe weather.

An email was sent at the beginning of the month regarding the 2026 membership fee. After careful consideration of the current environment—and thanks to the hard work of the Board and committee chairs—the membership fees will remain the same as last year:

- **Improved Lot:** \$842
- **Unimproved Lot:** \$164

There are several ways to pay your membership fees. Please be sure to include a completed [Resident Membership Form](#) or an [Unimproved Lot Form](#), or list your property address so your payment can be properly credited.

Payment Options:

- **Check:** Mail a check payable to *Moyaone Association*
PO Box 113, Accokeek, MD 20607
- **Credit Card:** Follow the payment instructions on the moyaone.org homepage.
(An option is available to add an additional contribution for those who wish to give more.)
- **ACH:** Pay in ten installments by signing up for ACH withdrawals.
Complete the **ACH Form** and send it to the Comptroller, Joe Lapan, via email at comptroller@moyaone.org or by mail to PO Box 113, Accokeek, MD 20607.

Even though Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, officially predicting six more weeks of winter, let's hope the arctic temps and snow are behind us. As always, thank you for looking out for one another and for being such a supportive community. Stay safe and warm.

Karen Bell

Moyaone Association President

Upcoming Events

February 21

AF Community Voices Workshop Series: Education as Liberation

February 23-27, 10am-12pm

AF "Free-a-Tree" Invasive Plant Species Removal (details below)

February 25, 730pm

GACA general membership meeting (details below)

March 1

AF Training for Bluebird Monitors at Piscataway Park (details below)

March 5, 630pm

Moyaone Association March Board meeting

March 7, 5-8pm

Moyaone Fundraising Committee Chili Cook Off (details below)

March 14

Piscataway Park Spring Opening (details below)

March 14 from 1000am-1200pm

AAA Watercolor Meditation Workshop (details below)

March 20, 600-900pm

AAA Makers Meet-Up (details below)

March 22, noon

VEG potluck (details to follow in the March edition of Smoke Signals).

Stay informed about VEG events by joining the email list at

moyaoneveg@gmail.com!

March 30 – April 3, 2026

AFF Spring Adventure Camp (registration open, details below)

April 11, 830-1130am

AFF 38th Annual Potomac River Cleanup (details below)

April 17-May 24

April 19, 1-4pm opening reception

AAA Members show at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center

April 25

Bi-annual Moyaone House Tour

April 25

AF Community Voices Workshop Series: Justice in Place

May 15-17

Women in Nature Camp at Alice Ferguson Foundation

July & August 2026

AFF Summer Adventure Camp (registration open, details below)

From the Association

Annual Chili Challenge Cook-off

Saturday, March 7, 5–8 pm



Come on down! Join your friends and neighbors at the Moyaone Community Center ([2311 Bryan Point Rd.](https://www.moyaone.org/2311-Bryan-Point-Rd)) on Saturday, March 7th, from 5 to 8 pm for the annual Chili Challenge Cook-off.

We encourage you to come earlier to have the best choices of plant-based and meat chili with all the trimmings, cornbread, dessert, and wine. In addition, the Moyaone brewers will be providing samples of their specially brewed beer. If you're a chef and planning to make your favorite variety of chili, be sure to fill out an application. Please use this [weblink](#) to submit your entry form for the chili competition: Chili Cook-off Application. There will be prizes for the best plant-based chili and for the best chili with meat. Note that all chef entries must arrive at the Moyaone Community Center between 3:00 pm and 3:45 pm on the day of the event.

Tickets are \$25 per person; children over age 10 (and under 16) are \$10, children under the age of 10 are free when accompanied by a paying adult. Admission will be waived for all chefs entering the challenge. Tickets are available via our Square Site: <https://tinyurl.com/chilichallenge2026>. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. Proceeds will be used to make improvements to the Moyaone Association's Wagner Center renovation.

The 2026 poster made by Cindi Rudzis will be available for sale at the event on

March 7th.

We are looking for judges to select the winners! If you would like to volunteer as a judge, and have a preview tasting of some of the wonderful dishes, please email bettymitchell@protonmail.com.

Coming up: the Moyaone House Tour

On April 25 is the bi-annual **Moyaone House Tour**. We are looking for houses to show. If you are interested in including your house on this year's tour, please let any member of the committee know, or email bettymitchell@protonmail.com.

Beyond your front door

Last we left the Signature Club East project, it was passed by the Planning Board as submitted (seven 3 to 5 story apartment building; three 2-story commercial buildings; and the majority of all of the existing trees removed to make building easier). This was appealed to the District Council (the Prince George's County Council with another hat on) and had been remanded back to the Planning Board based on compatibility and signature tree issues. On January 15, 2026, the Planning Board held a meeting concerning the remand. The developer and those opposing the project spoke, along with the Planning staff. The Planning staff had prepared a paper explaining why the original submitted project was indeed compatible and perfect. The developer tried to make a case that the original concept was now being changed from apartment buildings to townhouses. The Planning Board did not care about the proposed change and forged ahead with this case as it was originally remanded back to them. At the end of all arguments by both parties, the Planning Board Chair and Vice Chair read rather long statements in support of the original development plan. It was obvious that their statements of support of the Planning staff report were not a spontaneous comment developed at the end of the arguments made before them. They were well crafted and written prior to all arguments in the case. It was a "done deal" before the case was ever discussed.

What happens next is that the Planning Board report of their approved action from their remand hearing will go back before the District Council. At that time the developer will ask that a change in focus be allowed, replacing the apartment building concept to a townhouse development. At present, the plan is for 140 townhouses, which is too many for the small acreage that is proposed, even though it is the maximum allowed by zoning right. It is hoped that the developer will meet with the community before the next District Council hearing in order to talk about reducing the number of proposed townhouses. No dates have been announced for the District Council meeting, nor is it known when/if the developer will meet with the community. More to come as it is known.

The Morton Farm project, a development of 140 single detached homes across from the Accokeek Post Office on Livingston Road, held a very well attended and memorable community meeting on January 14th at the Accokeek Public Library. After brief introductions, representatives of the Piscataway Nation spoke about the importance of this property to their history and culture. They were adamant that no development should be allowed on the archaeologically significant site and that more should be done to protect the archaeological significant resources there. While there were other issues raised —traffic, landscaping — the meeting ended with the owner of the land, Mr. Morton, giving a scathing rebuke of Caruso Development and his dealings with them. Needless to say, those in favor of this project — the developer's attorney, the developer's representative and their public relations staff —were shellshocked by the comments from the public.

There is more fun yet to come. On February 25 at GACA's (Greater Accokeek Civic Association) regular membership meeting, starting at 7:30 in the meeting building at the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department

7:30 in the meeting building at the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD), the representatives of this proposed project will make another public presentation and take questions from the community. This is another opportunity for everyone to voice their views about this proposed development. After this meeting, the project will be heard by the Planning Board at their March 5th meeting. Please sign-up to be a party of record and to speak at this hearing in Largo.

As if your civic involvement dance card is not already full, there are other issues to be aware of and to take action on. The first is the "Listening" sessions by the County Council on the FY 2027 County budget. The session dealing with our area was held on February 6th from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Hillcrest Heights Community Center (2300 Oxon Run Drive, Oxon Hill 20745). Hopefully, residents of the Moyaone took this opportunity to tell the County Council what you believe should be given consideration in the upcoming County budget. Not being able to attend this meeting, I submitted a written comment raising the following issues: resurfacing Livingston Road; allowing the AFVD to spend the money it raises to maintain and purchase fire and EMS equipment; to make the AVFD meeting hall the emergency warming center that it is supposed to be — no beds; no generator; etc.; to pass County ordinance that prohibits any approved data center from using or accessing water from our aquifers...it will affect all of our wells if this is allowed.

Second, the Planning Board is advocating a change in our zoning to all data centers in areas currently zoned Agricultural Residential (RA) and Estate Residential (ER). To this end, the Planning Board has scheduled a meeting for February 26 at 10 am to receive public comment on LDR-016-2026 for the purpose of repealing the exemption from detail site plan review for qualified data centers. This is also being planned to be taken up by the County Council, date unknown. However, at the County Council Listening meeting on February 3rd, the Council Chair stated that she would not be introducing this proposed legislation.

This may or may not be the end of this issue. It is important for those who see the danger in this proposed ordinance/zoning change to go to the Planning Board meeting to voice their opposition. This will change the very landscape around us over time. For those not up to date on what the downsides data centers cause, a quick google search will get you the information. Google, data centers and PG Co. Md..

Michael Leventhal

Pulse of the Pool

The Swimmers

i.

Soft strong scoop of the palms, a forehead
breaking water, followed by the body
of a child. More than the hop and dive,
this is the moment she trains herself

to look out for: something from nothing,
a shadow under the water's skin
turning wet and real, emerging. Hourly
the dull shriek of the whistle, unheeded,

a dance of feet against the surface
and with each stroke the water-tousled crowns
drowned then surfacing, alive, alive,
alive. Behind her the lockers beam

their proprietary gleam, flecked with what
the swimmers' hands deliver from the deep.
Marauding joy like the push of water,
high, scouring sunlight, a tanq of bleach.

ii.

Her youngest already seventeen,
these days she finds the house too quiet –
at least, that's what she tells them when they ask.
The pool knows nothing of quiet, laps

incessantly with a tide of children
released from towels flung carelessly by.
Repeatedly she wipes the reddish tiles
though at the end of the hour like clockwork

they pour back inside, lithe as fish, and
her locker-room becomes a shallow sea.
These are her catch. For them she will lay out
the mats over and over, make ritual

of repetition. She knows their seasons
and tempers, how they itch for the water,
shiver when hauled onto land. In the shade
of the hill she squeezes her towels dry.

iii.

Never the superstitious sort, she pays
little heed to those who say there must
be something amiss. *Mm zai si! Brave*
of them to knock down the temple – for this!

Braver, she thinks, the ones who come to test
the depths, their wagers of thirty cents left
clinking on her counter. No matter their
peals of laughter, joy rising afterwards,

it is the quick negating plunge that stays
most difficult, the leap to silence
that all children at first are scared of.
And then to do it ten, a hundred times,

to weave between the waking and the dead
a line sinuous as earth, the water
making way... She shuts her eyes, listens
for their slippered feet like cards being shuffled.

iv.

Watching, the hours turn to days, days months.
She becomes accustomed to the water's
pull, the way it holds her gaze, like a lure.
On wet afternoons the building empties

and there is only the spell of water
crowning on water, the top of the pool
a cloud-scattered field put out to flower.
At the unguarded end of the year

it is the same, the whole complex silent,
except now a calmness takes the surface
that is of a kind with daybreak
announcing itself along the corridor.

Still in the dip and swell she sees them,
their long arms partitioning the air
and every last niche on the wall behind

packed again with all their dry belongings.

By Theophilus Kwek, QLRS Vol. 24 No. 2 Apr 2025

Call for Pool Opening Volunteers and Seasonal Help

The Pool Committee is seeking volunteers to help us open the pool this May. Areas include: staffing & daily operations, camp liaisons, pool & pump maintenance, communications (pool members, weather/closing updates), holiday socials, desktop publishing/advertising, vision planning, permits and inspections, and work parties to prepare the pool, water and deck furniture. We are also hiring seasonal part-time help including a Pool Manager, Assistant Manager and several Lifeguards. If interested in volunteering or in part-time summer employment, email pool@moyaone.org.

From your Neighbors

Air-noise openings on the DCA Community Working Group for Accokeek

Have you ever had to pause a conversation or had your quiet time interrupted due to airplane noise? For several years, Moyaone residents appointed by the Prince George's County Executive have represented the Accokeek area on the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Community Working Group (CWG) established in response to community concerns regarding aircraft noise from flights in and out of the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) affecting residential areas in the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland.

Prince George's representatives from the Moyaone have succeeded in avoiding "solutions" that simply move the noise from Virginia to Maryland. Most recently, Prince George's County helped fund an initiative to hire a consultant, working under the direction of CWG representatives from Prince George's County and Virginia, to help develop solutions for lasting improvements for the entire south side of DCA.

There are two openings (primary and alternate) for Prince George's County Accokeek air-noise positions on the CWG. Individuals interested in serving are encouraged to contact our current primary representative, Bill Parker, at Parkerbilla@gmail.com. Selected applicants must be Accokeek residents and provide a resume for County Executive approval.

The CWG is designed to inject broad-based community input into airport noise-related discussions, and to move the noise discussion beyond the airing of individual and neighborhood complaints toward a cooperative effort to identify practical solutions and recommend those solutions to the MWAA for submission to the Federal Aviation Administration or other applicable entity for consideration. To learn more, go to the [CWG web page](#) or navigate to Flyreagan.com then **About the Airport** then **Aircraft Noise** Information for an overview of efforts to address aircraft noise around DCA and the role of the CWG.

For a future with cleaner air and quieter skies, let's keep a strong Moyaone voice on the CWG!

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 if you want to be included.

Sampling Data On Sewage Spill Released By Potomac Riverkeeper Network

On January 19, a six-foot diameter 60-year-old sewage pipe near Lock 10 ruptured and raw sewage surged into the Potomac River at the rate of 40 million gallons a day. Stay up-to-date on the Potomac Riverkeeper Network's advocacy and water sampling efforts [here](#).



[Watercolor Meditation Workshop](#)

Saturday, March 14 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Moyaone Community Building ([2311 Bryan Point Road](#))

A relaxing morning of art & meditation led by AAA Member, Jan Buelow. Open to artists of all levels. [Registration deadline FEB 28](#).

Makers Meet-Up

The inaugural event in January was a hit, so we're doing it again!

Friday, March 20 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm at the Moyaone Community Building ([2311 Bryan Point Road](#))

Accokeek Artists Alliance Members Show at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center

April 17 - May 24

Opening Reception - Sunday, April 19 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Registration details coming soon!

Member Shows

Maria Barga - [Mattawoman Creek Art Center, Marbury MD](#)

"Murky Water at Smallwood State Park" is just one of many paintings by Maria Barga showing in the MCAC Members Gallery from Jan 30 - Mar 28. MCAC hours are 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Fri-Sun.

Daniel Wise - [North End Gallery, Leonardtown, MD](#)

"Cedar Crossing" is one of two new paintings by Daniel Wise on display at the North End Gallery Invitational Show from Feb 3 - Mar 1. Reception: Friday, February 6 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm



38th Annual Potomac River Cleanup - April 11, 2026



Join your friends and neighbors on April 11, 2026, as we come together to clean up the banks of the Potomac River. In its 38th year, the Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, spearheaded by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, will take place on the shores of Piscataway Park from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Volunteer registration opens on February 16 at <https://www.fergusonfoundation.org/potomac-river-watershed-cleanup/>.

Women in Nature Camp at Alice Ferguson Foundation

The Alice Ferguson Foundation is excited to announce a new weekend overnight program for women: Women in Nature Camp. The camp will be held May 15 to May 17, 2026, and includes two overnights at our beautiful riverside campus. It will blend outdoor exploration, hands-on experiences, creative expression, and restorative moments, giving participants a space to breathe, reflect, and have fun. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.fergusonfoundation.org/women-in-nature-camp/>

Registration for Spring and Summer Camps Now Open!



Adventure camps at the Alice Ferguson Foundation are all about discovery, adventure, and connecting with nature. Our day and overnight camps offer children the chance to explore the outdoors, meet friendly farm animals, and get hands-on with science and the environment. Whether at our Spring Camp or one of the 7 weeks of Summer Adventure Camp, each week is filled with fun, learning, and new friendships. It's the perfect place for curious kids to grow, play, and make lasting memories. Space is limited – [check out the camp details here](#) and save your camper's spot today!

Clothes Donations Needed!

The Education Team at the Alice Ferguson Foundation is seeking donations of kids' sweatpants (sizes for ages 5–15). These sweatpants will be kept on hand for students who have a little too much fun during outdoor learning—whether that means an accident, getting their clothes wet, or muddy. Your donation helps ensure every child can stay comfortable and continue participating in our programs. To coordinate a donation, please contact education@fergusonfoundation.org. Thank you for your support!

Hay Elevator For Sale

The Alice Ferguson Foundation has a hay elevator for sale. For more information on the elevator, please email ejohnson@fergusonfoundation.org.

Seeking a Facilities and Land Manager

Are you looking for a position that combines strategic oversight with hands-on work? The Facilities and Land Manager at Alice Ferguson Foundation is responsible for the safe, efficient, and strategic maintenance of the Foundation's 220-acre campus, which includes buildings, trail systems, and a diverse mix of

550-acre campus, which includes buildings, trail systems, and a diverse mix of natural landscapes. The ideal candidate will plan, prioritize, and manage maintenance and land stewardship activities. If you are interested, please visit <https://www.fergusonfoundation.org/join-our-team/> for more information and to apply.



ACCOKEEK
FOUNDATION
at Piscataway Park

Thank You: Weathering the Storm—Together

January's snowstorm was a powerful reminder of the strength, generosity, and neighborly spirit that define the Moyaone community. As we all navigated challenging conditions, we are deeply grateful for the many ways neighbors showed up for one another.

As a nonprofit operating partner of the National Park Service, the Accokeek Foundation is responsible for the daily care and maintenance of Piscataway Park's visitor amenities. This includes staffing the park year-round; educating school groups and visitors; caring for rare breeds of livestock; maintaining trails, Potomac River access piers and docks; and stewarding historic buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries, along with modern public facilities. During extreme weather events, this responsibility becomes even more complex particularly as we await critical NPS support to repair facilities including the former onsite caretaker housing that once provided immediate, around-the-clock access.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Cindi Rudzis, who generously walked snow-covered trails to check on the animals while our staff worked to safely dig out and reach the park. We are also grateful to neighbors who helped free cars trapped along Bryan Point Road, especially Alex and Axel Naar, and to the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department for their service and support. Special thanks as well to Kent Hibben for his vigilance, steady communication, and willingness to assist, helping ensure safe passage for so many during difficult conditions.

We weathered this storm together, and we are profoundly thankful to be part of a community that looks out for one another and for the park we collectively call home.

—Anjela Barnes, Accokeek Foundation Executive Director



Revolution Then & Now Workshop Series

Thank you to those who braved the cold for the Reimagining Revolution: Community Voices workshop on Saturday, January 24th!

In 2026, the Accokeek Foundation will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States and the 50th anniversary of the Trail of Self-Determination. This workshop series centers community voices in shaping these commemorations and invites participants to reflect on the past, connect with the present, and help create a shared future during this landmark year.

Couldn't make it last Saturday? Save the date for upcoming workshops:

The Greater Accokeek Civic Association (GACA) next general membership meeting will be held at **7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Hall, 16111 Livingston Road, Accokeek 20607.** The featured presentation will focus on the **Morton Farm proposed development** to build 148 single family homes on 84 acres of property across the street from the Accokeek U.S. Post Office along Livingston Road. The Archeology Phase I report completed for the project has identified an archaic base camp, precontact artifacts, and some historic artifacts. G.S. Proctor and Associates will lead the presentation. To become a Person of Record for the proposed Morton Farm project and receive updated information about the application go to the [Prince George's County Planning Department website's "Person of Record" form](#); click in the red box "to register to become a Person of Record"; in the blue box click "Go Register" and check "Become a Person of Record"; complete the Application information using Preliminary Subdivision Plan number 4-22067 "Morton Farm" and then "Submit."

The February 25 GACA program agenda will also include regular GACA topics of community interest. Everyone is always welcome at GACA meetings, whether you're an association member or not.