
Smoke Signals - March 2026

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To: publicaffairs@moyaone.org

Fri, Mar 6, 2026 at 7:37 AM

The logo for "Smoke Signals" features the word "Smoke" in a bold, sans-serif font above the word "Signals" in a similar font. The letters "S" at the beginning of "Smoke" and "Signals" are stylized, with the top of the "S" in "Smoke" curving upwards and the bottom of the "S" in "Signals" curving downwards, creating a sense of movement or smoke rising and falling.

MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

MOYAONE RESERVE @ PISCATAWAY PARK

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

March 2026

President's Message

Hello neighbors and friends. Two important items to focus on as we head towards the May community meeting (stay tuned for more details).

The first is paying the annual dues. Paying dues not only gives you a vote at the May membership meeting but your dues go towards maintenance and grading of the roads and snow removal, gives you membership to the pool and access to everything at the Commons (community center, cook shack, sports court) and

one private use of these facilities. To date just 27% of the households have paid their dues. Thank you to everyone who has already paid their dues. To those who haven't, physical invoices will also be dropped in the mail. As a reminder, dues stayed flat at \$842 for an improved lot and \$164 for an unimproved lot. Payment can be sent via check, credit card (instructions on moyaone.org) or via monthly pro-rated ACH withdrawals (contact comptroller@moyaone.org for instructions).

Secondly, we are happy to announce we have a Nominating Committee! The nominating committee assembles a slate of candidates for all open Board of Director positions and a Financial Trustee position for the community to vote on at the May community meeting. Thank you to Paola Addamiano-Carts, Logan Kistler and Kaitlyn Palatucci for serving on this committee. The Board positions whose terms are up are: President, Vice President, Secretary and At Large. If you are interested in learning more about any of these or the Financial Trustee position, please contact the nominating committee. This is a great way to get involved in the community, share your strengths and perspectives to help shape the future of the Moyaone.

Lastly, if anyone has strong web skills we are looking to form an ad-hoc IT committee. Most duties revolve around our website – updating wording, links and payment processing for both membership dues and pool revenue. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to one of the Board members.

Thanks.

Karen Bell

Moyaone Association President

Upcoming Events

March 5, 630pm
Moyaone Association March Board meeting

March 7, 8-11am

Moyaone Commons Community Clean Up (details below)

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 18

Lynn Hollyfield @ Hank Dietles Tavern (details below)

March 22, noon

The Botanical Table potluck (details below)

March 28

Lynn Hollyfield opening for Abbie Gardner @ The Arts Barn in Gaithersburg

March 30 – April 3, 2026

AFF Spring Adventure Camp (registration open, details below)

April 11, 830-1130am

AFF Environmental Campus 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)

Moyaone Commons Community Clean Up

Saturday, March 7, 8-11 am

With the shift in the Polar Vortex Spring weather will be here as we:

- Clean up the Kitchen and Pavilion
- Clean up fallen trees
- Remove non-native plants
- Tidy up the grounds
- Split wood for the Pizza oven
- Plant some native plants

The health and tidiness of the Commons is supported by volunteer effort!

Please bring:

- Gloves
- Weed trimmers
- Wood Splitter
- Clippers
- Power Washer

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.) 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.

Mark Your Calendar- the Moyaone Homes Tour

Join us for the biennial Moyaone Homes Tour on April 25 from 1-5 pm. The tour will include 7 unique Moyaone homes featuring a variety of architectural styles and décor in a woodland setting. The tour will be followed by an after party and silent auction.

Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Advance tickets are available via <https://tinyurl.com/Moyaone2026HT>.

Farther Afield

3/18/2026

It's Just a Number

Hank Dietles Tavern

11010 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852

Hosted by Know1Else and the Songwriters Association of Washington

Michelle Murray, Eric Selby, Amoreena, Michelle Lockey and Lynn Hollyfield.

3/28/26

The Arts Barn in Gaithersburg

Lynn Hollyfield opening for Abbie Gardner!

311 Kent Square Road

Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Admission: \$32, Members \$22.

Pulse of the Pool

Community Pool Seeks Seasonal Pool Manager

Location: Moyaone Reserve, Accokeek, MD ([2311 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD](#))

Pay Rate: \$20+/hr, commensurate with pool management experience
Accepting applications through 3/30, or until position is filled

The Moyaone Pool is an outdoor, family-friendly community pool located in serene Piscataway National Park. The pool is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Work starts in May with limited hours to prepare the pool for opening and through the week after Labor Day, to winterize the pool. The Pool Manager is responsible for the overall operation of the pool, including maintaining pool chemistry and equipment, and managing staff, programming, finances, and administrative duties.

Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Recruit, train, supervise, and evaluate staff,
- Maintain water quality, proper disinfection, and water balance,
- Keep equipment in good working order and make minor repairs as needed,
- Provide a safe recreational environment and enforce pool rules,
- Comply with Prince George's County Health Department and state regulations,
- Purchase equipment and supplies,
- Maintain records of pool usage and maintenance,
- Ensure that all income and expenditures are accurately recorded,

- Coordinate camp visits and swim programs.

Requirements:

- Prince George's County Pool Operator's License valid at time of interview
- First aid/CPR/AED certifications
- Lifeguard certification-
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Good problem-solving skills and the ability to troubleshoot problems
- Computer literacy, including Microsoft Office
- Background check

For a list of 2026 position description and duties, or to apply, send resume with qualifications, references, contact information, and salary requested to pool@moyaone.org.

We are also 1) hiring lifeguards to start the week before Memorial Day and 2) soliciting instructors for our summer water exercise and yoga classes! To apply for seasonal lifeguarding, email pool@moyaone.org for an application form. To submit a proposal for an aquatic exercise class or to request list of requirements to be an instructor, email pool@moyaone.org.

Pool access is a benefit of your 2026 Association fee. We hope you can join us for work parties scheduled tentatively for April 18th and 25th. And then get ready to swim! For those who reside outside the bounds of the Moyaone Reserve, we will soon be opening up our web portal for 2026 pool memberships.

Feel free to share our [Pool Flyer](#) with anyone who may be interested in a membership!

Beyond your front door

The proposed Morton Farm project (TCP1-2025-0030), is taking on some new exciting aspects. The applicant's lobbyist, as well as the builder, his attorney, traffic consultant and the archaeologist for the project all came

to the February 25th Greater Accokeek Civic Association (GACA) meeting at the AVFD hall. The overview remains the same: an 84 acre site with 145 detached homes squeezed into that portion of the property (48.85 acres) located adjacent to the proposed conservation area (35.7 acres). The traffic consultant in explaining his method for how this project will mitigate the increased traffic created by these new homes, said that he studied only the intersections from MD 210 down Livingston Road to the Accokeek Post Office. What was missing from the study was all of the traffic along Livingston Road that goes in and out of businesses along the roadway, such as BJ's Carryout and the new Accokeek tire store. It is especially at the 210 and 373 juncture where traffic gets backed up and causes issues to this already busy failed intersection. The traffic consultant did not seem to want to revisit the study area with this broader focus. The archaeologist described his team's approach and what areas were determined to be significant and what areas did not have the same amount of pre-archaic, archaic, historic "findings." He also said that he had not reached out to the Piscataway Nation, the rightful historical owners of the artifacts located on the site.

The project attorney reported that the developer was to meet with representatives of the Piscataway Nation the next day (February 26th). The outcome of that meeting is that the developer is now willing to cede the conservation area (35.7 acres) to the Piscataway Nation rather than to Prince George's County's Parks Department as initially planned. Because of this development, the project developer has asked the Planning Board for a one week continuance before hearing this case. Rather than the scheduled March 5 Planning Board hearing on the proposed Morton Farm project, the case will be heard on March 12th. The time requested was to further explore how to make the Piscataway Nation the recipients of the proposed conservation area.

The time should also be used to create a more accurate traffic study and for the developer to scale down the number of houses being planned that fits in better with Accokeek's rural nature. Making such arguments to the Planning Board is important, even if not always a successful route. Sending all suggestions to the project attorney, Mr. Ed Gibbs of Gibbs &

Haller, could make an inroad with the developer. If they know there will be a large and vocal crowd at the Planning Board hearing, they may be willing to accommodate the recommendations from the neighborhood. And, everyone interested in this project needs to sign up on the Planning Board web site to become a party of record and to speak on the matter.

The other proposed development project raising concerns in the broader Accokeek community, the Signature Club East proposal (TCP1-052-97-03; CSP-23002), had been remanded by the District Council (the County Council wearing that hat) back to the Planning Board to discuss the objections that had been raised by opponents to the proposed project. The Planning Board hearing on the remand was held on January 15th. The original Signature Club East proposal was for seven 3- to 5- story apartment buildings (300 units) and three 2-story commercial buildings. At the Planning Board hearing, the attorney for the proposed development offered an amendment to the site plan, proposing 180 townhouses to be substituted for the low rise apartment buildings. Notwithstanding this proposed change, the Planning Board refused to accept this site plan change since it was not part of the District Council's remand of the original proposed development. For several hours, Planning staff gave its position on the matter, and the attorney for the developers and the attorney for the opposition gave their presentations. As an observer of this hearing, it really did not matter what was said. In the end, the Planning Board members read their findings, which would have had to be written well in advance of this hearing, given how long their ruling was and in citing various rules and regulations. So much for a real public process that is based on fairness and facts.

The entire matter now goes back to the District Council, which will hear what was said and decided upon at the January 15 Planning Board hearing. Hopefully, the arguments made by the opponents to the project will get a more favorable hearing at this March 23, 2026 meeting of the District Council. Again, it is another opportunity to see how planning decisions are made that affect our community. However, the developer has filed an amended site plan eliminating the low-rise apartments and substituting them with 180 townhouses. While this is a major

improvement, the proposed project still has major issues, concerns, and flaws. The number of trees (both signature trees and general canopy) that are proposed to be cut down is still far too many. The traffic mitigation plan is not going to do anything with the additional vehicles being added by this project. The number of townhouses being proposed are too many, creating a crowded urban sense, without adequate green space to soften the buildings. The developer will need to come back to the community to explain the new focus, and hopefully will respond positively to some of the critical comments to make this new proposed project more compatible with our community.

Lastly, Prince George's County has not yet published its draft FY 2027 budget. There is no way to know if any of the comments made by local residents during the listening sessions held by the County Executive or the County Council will be reflected in the new budget. As we say around here, hide and watch.

Michael Leventhal

Preparedness Corner

The late January storm that brought the National Capital Region to a halt certainly had an impact on the Moyaone. Roads and driveways were impassible for days. As bad as it was it could have been worse. We could have lost power for many hours or days. Amazingly we did not get more snow to add to the snowcrete. The storm stretched from the Central U.S. to the Northeast and up into Canada. Over 170 deaths have been attributed to the storm.

In the Moyaone, Bryan Point Road was not fully open for over five days. This was the result of two stuck cars in different locations that prevented the County plows clearing the snow the first and subsequent days.

Fortunately, there were no serious fire or EMS calls during this time. The Moyaone Community Center, a possible point of common refuge was not accessible. The prospective underground fire water tank would also not have been accessible. During the storm, the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department worked to clear Bryan Point Road along with other Accokeek roads. We also discussed the very pressing need for a water tanker, on wheels, for exactly these kind of scenarios.

During the storm, and the following days of digging out, communication from the County and State was nonexistent. Other communities in Accokeek were not plowed for days. Several Moyaone residents have reached out wanting to discuss this storm and other potential threats to our community safety. Please let me know if you are interested in a facilitated preparedness discussion including a collaborative after action review of the storm.

In the near-term a few quick reminders

- Make sure your driveway is accessible – Vegetation cleared (14 foot wide by 14 foot high).
 - Address is readable in Snow
 - Wildland Fire
 - Before everything greens up we are in a period of increased fire danger.
 - Avoid outdoor fires on windy, dry days. One of the emergency calls post snowstorm was for a brush fire in the Moyaone.
 - Think about creating defensible space around your homes.
- See: [Firewise Living in Maryland](#)

Cheers,

Alex Naar

alex@accokeekvfd.org



The Accokeek Artists Alliance (AAA) completed their very successful Valentine's Day Art Exchange last month, and now the AAA has again planned a busy month, starting with a Watercolor Meditation Workshop with Jan Buelow on March 14 from 10-12. Next, our first "Makers Meetup" was so successful that we have scheduled another for March 20, from 6-9 in the Wagner Center. This is where members can gather and work on whatever they want to in a convivial atmosphere.

Currently, we are signing members up to participate in our group show, "Accokeek Artists Alliance Recent Works" that will hang in the Mattawoman Creek Art Center in Smallwood State Park from April 17 until May 24th. This will be a show that everyone will want to attend! Mark your calendars for the opening reception on April 19, from 1-4. More news on several extra events associated with this show will be provided as the show gets closer. For more about AAA and how to join and get in on the fun see our webpage at <https://www.accokeekartistsalliance.com>



Hello All!

The Spring Equinox being a time of new beginnings, the VEG (Vegan Eating Group) folk were inspired to try on a new name: The Botanical Table. This

reflects what we create and share — vibrant, seasonal, plant-based food enjoyed in one another's homes.

Whether you are a “seasoned” plant-based gourmet, a newcomer to plant-based eating, or simply a curious soul wanting to join your neighbors in delicious feasting, do sign on to an upcoming (bi-monthly) pot luck meal.

The first Botanical Table gathering of 2026 will be:

Sunday, March 22

Noon

1520 Laurel Drive - home of Jan Goldstein and Steve Teske

Theme: ASIAN!

Cook or carry in, as long as it's plant based

ALL AGES WELCOME. RSVP's to hosts appreciated - jgoldfish7@gmail.com.

Don't hesitate to email with any questions or concerns.



A Change in Plans for the 38th Annual Potomac River Cleanup - April 11, 2026



Due to current conditions impacting the Potomac shoreline, this year's April stewardship event will pivot from our traditional river cleanup to land stewardship projects around our environmental campus. Volunteers will help care for trails, green spaces, and outdoor learning areas - all located away from the shoreline - ensuring the property remains safe and welcoming this spring.

While the format is changing, the purpose stays the same. This situation is a reminder that environmental challenges can hit close to home - and that stewardship starts right here in our own backyard. Taking care of these shared spaces helps preserve the natural character that makes the Moyaone such a special place to live.

Join us Saturday, April 11, from 8:30 - 11:00 am at the Alice Ferguson Foundation's environmental campus. Sign up to volunteer here: <https://www.fergusonfoundation.org/potomac-river-watershed-cleanup/>

We will continue monitoring updates from [DC Water](#) and the [Maryland Department of the Environment](#) and will share any changes as new information becomes available.

Women in Nature Camp at Alice Ferguson Foundation

This International Women's Day, we're celebrating the power of women connecting with nature -and each other.

From March 8-15th only, enjoy \$25 off registration for our Women in Nature

Camp, May 15-17, 2026. This immersive weekend invites women to unplug and recharge through guided hikes, farm experiences, creative workshops, and meaningful time outdoors.

Use code WOMEN2026 and secure your spot before this limited-time offer ends.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.fergusonfoundation.org/women-in-nature-camp/>

Registration for Spring and Summer Camps Now Open!



There's something special about summer at Hard Bargain Farm. The Alice Ferguson Foundation's day and overnight camps give kids the chance to explore the outdoors, meet the animals, and enjoy hands-on nature experiences right here in our Moyaone community. With Spring Adventure Camp and seven weeks of Summer Adventure Camp, it's a wonderful way for children to connect with nature close to home. Space is limited - [check out the camp details here](#) and save your camper's spot.



ACCOKEEK
FOUNDATION
at Piscataway Park

Join us for the “*Revolution: Then & Now*” Community Voices Workshop Series

Thank you to those who attended the first two workshops in the *Revolution: Then & Now* Workshop series!

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.

Save the date for our last workshop in the series, *Justice in Place*, on April 25th.
Registration is free and open to all on our website: <https://www.accokeek.org/event-list>

Save the Date: Spring Opening on March 14th

Ready to celebrate the end of winter? Kick off the beginning of spring with us. Join us on March 14th for the relaunch of our public programming. Choose between a guided hike on our serene trails, a craft using native plants in our garden, or an engaging Story Time for the little ones. Save the date and watch for registrations to open on our website soon.

The Visitor Center will also reopen for the season on Saturday, March 14. Starting then, the Visitor Center hours are Wednesday-Sunday from 10 am to 4

pm.

We are currently seeking volunteers to help staff the Visitor Center and Gift Shop in Piscataway Park. Volunteers serving in the Visitor Center will act as Accokeek Foundation representatives and provide front line customer service through visitor engagement, ensuring a positive orientation experience for guests. We particularly need volunteers who are available 1-2 weekend days each month. If you are interested or would like additional information, email Casey Harlow at charlow@accokeek.org.

Accokeek Foundation Hiring Garden Program Coordinator

The Accokeek Foundation is seeking a Garden Program Coordinator. The Gardens Program Coordinator is responsible for the planning, care, and interpretation of the Accokeek Foundation's native and heritage demonstration gardens, which showcase the rich agricultural and cultural heritage of Southern Maryland. This role blends horticultural expertise with a deep appreciation for the region's Indigenous, African, and European food and land stewardship traditions. As part of the Programs team, the Coordinator supports educational and interpretive programs and contributes to the overall visitor experience in Piscataway Park. [Learn more on accokeek.org](https://www.accokeek.org).

Accokeek Foundation Hiring for Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Intern

Love the environment? Get paid to restore it! The Climate Corps is a one-year term of stipend-supported service, starting each August, that places young adults (ages 18-25) with non-profit organizations or government agencies for a full-time service experience in the environmental field.

Interns placed with the Accokeek Foundation will work with the Stewardship team in designing a much-needed system for tracking and monitoring natural resources and tracking stewardship work trends. Apply today at cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/apply/

The deadline to submit an application is Friday, March 6, 2026 at 4pm EST.

A New Volunteer Opportunity Is Coming to Piscataway Park!

The Accokeek Foundation and the Potomac Riverkeeper Network are partnering to bring water quality monitoring to the park! We hope that this will yield valuable data to park residents and visitors on the state of frequented

waters. As a volunteer you will be collecting weekly samples at our site and taking them to the Sea Dog floating lab at the National Harbor. You are also invited to hang around to help analyze the samples if it interests you! Training will be held in late April with sampling beginning in May. If you would like to be a part of this opportunity, please email Evan Quinter at evan@prknetwork.org letting him know that you want to volunteer for the Accokeek Foundation site.

Community Update: Potomac River Water Quality Advisory at Piscataway Park

To our community members, volunteers, partners, and frequent visitors,

The Accokeek Foundation is issuing this update to ensure everyone who relies on Piscataway Park and the National Colonial Farm has current information about an ongoing public and environmental health concern affecting the Potomac River.

Official Health Advisory:

Due to an ongoing sewage spill into the Potomac River, the Prince George's County Department of Health is advising the public to avoid contact with untreated sewage in the Potomac River until further notice.

This advisory applies to areas where people may access the river, including National Harbor, Fort Washington Marina, National Colonial Farm, and other nearby marinas.

Please avoid any direct contact with river water until clearance is given by DC Water. For updates and details on the overflow and planned sewer line repairs, visit: <https://www.dewater.com/about-dc-water/media/news/update-excavation-site-extended-around-damaged-section-potomac>

Steps the Accokeek Foundation Is Taking:

1. **Posted clear signage** at river access points throughout its area of responsibility in Piscataway Park, including fishing areas and shoreline trails
2. **Coordinating with the National Park Service** to ensure consistent messaging and monitoring across all park properties
3. **Monitoring wildlife** and river conditions daily, documenting observations to understand potential ecological impacts

4. **Advocating** for better coordinated emergency communication protocols across the DMV region to prevent this kind of information gap in the future