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Smoke Signals - April 2026

1 message

MOYAONE ASSOCIATION <news@moyaone.org>
To: accokeek.kim@gmail.com

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MOYAONE RESERVE @ PISCATAWAY PARK

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

April 2026

President's Message

Moyaone Neighbors,

As we turn the corner to spring, we are gearing up for the Annual May Membership Meeting. This year's meeting will be held on **May 9th at 3:00**

PM at the Wagner Center.

As mentioned in the December/January *Smoke Signals*, important decisions are voted on by the membership at this meeting. A new Board of Directors will be elected, and each incoming board sets priorities for the year and develops the budget to be presented at the following December meeting.

The Nominating Committee—Paola Addamiano-Carts, Logan Kistler, and Kaitlyn Palatucci—is hard at work preparing a recommended slate of candidates for the next Board. The positions up for election this year are President, Vice President, Secretary, and At-Large. If you are interested in learning more about any of these roles, or the Financial Trustee position, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. Serving on the Board is a great way to get involved, contribute your skills and perspectives, and help shape the future of the Moyaone community.

As a reminder, only residents who have paid their 2026 membership fee are eligible to vote at the meeting. If you are a member in good standing but cannot attend, please consider assigning your proxy to a trusted neighbor.

In the coming weeks, please watch for a special email that will include the meeting agenda, slate of nominees, December meeting minutes, and proxy form.

If you weren't able to attend the Chili-Cookoff March 7th, you missed a good time. The Wagner Center was packed with full bellies, laughter and camaraderie. Thank you to all the chili makers, judges, volunteers and Moyaone Mashers for a fun filled afternoon.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the bi-annual Moyaone Homes Tour on April 25th. This special fundraiser showcases the unique homes and

gardens of our community. Thank you to the generous homeowners who are opening their doors and giving others the opportunity to experience the diverse architecture that makes the Moyaone so special.

The Chili Cook-Off and Homes Tour would not be possible without the incredible dedication of Fundraising Committee co-chairs Betty Mitchell and Nancy Weiman. Their countless hours of planning and coordination make these beloved community events a success year after year.

Through their hard work—and the enthusiastic participation of community members—the Fundraising Committee has played a vital role in supporting projects beyond the Moyaone budget, including making a significant contribution to the pool renovation.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Betty and Nancy for their commitment, leadership, and the positive impact they continue to have on our community.

Karen Bell
Moyaone Association President

Upcoming Events

Starting in April: Fridays 2pm, Saturdays and Sundays 11am and 2pm
Public tours of Piscataway Park (details below)

April 11, 830-1130am
AFF Environmental Campus Cleanup (details below)

April 11, 8am-1230pm
Moyaone Commons Work Party (details below)

April 11, 5-7pm
Contra Dancing at Christ Church

April 17-May 24
AAA Members show at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center

April 18
8am-1230pm
Moyaone Commons Work Party
9am
Moyaone Pool Work Party

April 18, 9am-noon
GACA Highway Cleanup (details below)

April 19, 1-4pm
Opening reception for AAA Members show at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center (MCAC)

April 25, starting at 1pm
Bi-annual Moyaone House Tour and social (details below)

April 25, 10am-2pm
AF Community Voices Workshop Series: Justice in Place (details below)

April 25, 12-3pm
AF Earth Day Open House at Piscataway Park (details below)

April 26, 10-1130am
AF Shoreline Cleanup (details below)

April 26
Katrina Mullins art demonstration at AAA Members show at the MCAC

April 27, 630pm
Moyaone Association Monthly Board Meeting

April 29, 730pm
GACA Annual Meeting at the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Hall

May 2, 5-7pm
Contra Dancing at Christ Church

May 9, 3pm
Moyaone Association Annual May Membership Meeting

May 15-17
AFF Women in Nature Camp (details below)

May 16, 2pm
Moyaone Mayfest (details below)

May 17, 230pm
Lynn Hollyfield at AAA Members show at the MCAC

May 24, 10-1130am
AF Shoreline Cleanup (details below)

June 28
AF Rivers and Roots Festival

July & August 2026
AFF Summer Adventure Camp (registration open, details below)

Moyaone Homes Tour



A fantastic tour is planned for this year, featuring rarely seen homes in a variety of architectural styles. This will be your opportunity to explore lovely historical homes, wander through unique residences, and enjoy the woods in spring.

Homes Tour, 1-5pm
followed by wine & cheese social with a silent auction

Registration & Sign-in at Moyaone Community Center

Admission

Prepaid tickets, \$35/person
(<https://tinyurl.com/Moyaone2026HT>)

At the door, \$40

(tickets at the door will be sold until 3:30pm)

Want to help?

Docents to greet and guide visitors are needed. Email BettyMitchell@protonmail.com to volunteer.

Donations for the silent auction are still welcome! Email james.finger@gmail.com for more information.

Share our [flyer](#) to help make the event a success!

Moyaone Commons Work Parties

Keeping the Commons mowed, tidy, trimmed, weeded and presentable takes work. A lot of work. The Commons need your help. Beyond the Pool, it takes an estimated 1000 hours of volunteer effort, year-round, to keep up with everything. Simply, all forms of help/skill are welcome. Perhaps you can trim the playground once a month. Or you want to weed a special section of the Commons. Maybe you can help cut and split wood for the pizza oven. Or you can show up and support others who are working.

Next Workdays:

Saturday, April 11th 8:00 am to 12:30 or so.

Saturday, April 18th, 8:00 am to 12:30 or so.

RSVP alex@accokeekvfd.org

Happy to meet with anyone other days/times.

Come One Come All to Moyaone's 2026 Mayfest

May 16th, starting 2pm

Singing and Dancing

Maypole

Garden plants for sale

Tea and Cake

Later on - Pizza Oven will be on - bring your toppings!



Pulse of the Pool

The Moyaone Pool Committee is preparing for another pool season. We open Memorial Day weekend and close Labor Day weekend.

The first work party went so well, thanks to two dozen of your neighbors showing up and lending us their hands! We've got new pool covers for both pools, so less algae and gunk in the water. We're also getting a new pool vac (thanks to Fundraising Cmte) so removing debris will be less burdensome.

The next work party is Saturday, April 18th starting at 9am. We will be water cycling, adding chemicals, power washing the deck and furniture, setting up chair stands, and whatever else needs doing. If you can't make that, I suggest reaching out to Rhonda to coordinate add'l tasks.

We are in the process of selecting and onboarding the 2026 Pool Manager and Assistant Pool Manager. We are still looking to hire PT LGs. Email moyaonepool@gmail.com for a lifeguard interest form.

We will be debuting new bathrooms this summer. New paint, new tile, new fixtures, new design and ADA compliant stalls. If you haven't been down to the pool in a while this summer is the perfect time to come and check it out! Our schedule and hours are posted on the moyaone.org website.

Beyond your front door

The basic planning process — site plan reviews; planning staff reports; the developer or his attorney making a presentation on the proposed project; objections and/or praise from the surrounding residents on the proposed project — is anything but a rewarding experience for many of

the participants and those quietly listening to the discussions. While there are local venues where these proposed projects get a public sounding, the official work is done at the Planning Commission meetings in Largo... and generally at mid-morning on a weekday. During this process some concessions are made by the developer, some by those objecting to a proposed project, and the results are generally a mixture of frustration and some satisfaction.

So let's start with the proposed Signature Club East project (TCP1-052-97-03; CSP-23002), the original proposal for 7 low-rise apartment buildings and 3 commercial buildings. The case was reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission, appealed to the District Council, reheard and reapproved by the Planning Commission, and then sent back to the District Council. Along the way, the developer, due to the strong objections of the surrounding residents, decided to substitute the apartment buildings with townhouses. There were still issues with the elimination of the signature trees and a lot of the mature tree canopy on the site, as well with the proposed number of townhouses (140) to be built. Because of these changes, the developer must now resubmit a new site plan for the Planning Commission to review.

This proposed project is still being refined. The number of townhouses may be pared down to 120 units. A six foot high fence will be installed along the north property line, with new wider tree buffers to its neighbors. And the proposed 3 commercial buildings may be replaced with townhouses. There are still the issues with the signature trees and tree canopy on the site. It is a project in flux, and there should be another public comment meeting to allow the area residents an opportunity to express their views on the expected project changes. No date has been given for any new public meeting.

The other major development project that is important to the Accokeek community is the proposed Morton Farm project (TCP1-2025-0030).

Here too some concessions have been made, but not enough to change the issues with building density and traffic. On the good side of the ledger, the proposed conservation area — some 33 acres of significant archaeological findings — will be deeded over to the Piscataway Nation. Initially this area was to go to the Prince George's County Parks Department, who had no plans nor funds to manage this important land. While the Piscataway Nation has not yet said what its plans are, at least the resources will be in the hands the decendants of the resources buried there.

On the other side of the ledger, the plan to build 140 detached single family houses in a close grouping and all of the drains on various infrastucture and new traffic that comes with this project was approved by the Planning Commission. The solution proposed by the project's traffic engineer is modifying the lights at Livingston Road and Indian Highway for traffic going east and west along Livingston Road to change from a signal allowing east/west traffic to move at the same time to a signal that only allows east and then west traffic to move separately.

As noted in the beginning of this article, there is rarely a complete victory for slowing down/changing/removing these new development projects that are eroding the quality of our semi-rural community to an increasing developing suburban outpost. We can hope for the best, but we seem to be left with partial victories. Nonetheless, it is important to continue to raise our voices, speak up at public meetings, be a party of record, and ensure that our concerns are not just heard but are listened to.

Michael Leventhal

Preparedness Corner

Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department Updates

The new \$1.1 million AVFD fire engine is very close to being placed in service. Some key features of the new engine: It carries 750 gallons of water, 50 percent more than the County standard engines. This was a specification AVFD required to support fire operations in non-hydrant areas such as the Moyaone.

The fire station siren, not used in recent times, fell onto the fire house during the last big storm. The kitchen, which had recently been remodeled and is used 24/7, suffered the most damage. Repairs will be made after mold/water mediation and insurance approval.

AVFD came out against the Morton Farm development at one of the recent PG Planning meetings. The comment the Planning Board made in response was to mention that the County Fire Department had "approved" the plans. The AVFD response was simple: The County approved the plans as technically meeting Code. AVFD opposition was/is based on several key local factors: Traffic on Livingston will increase and as 90 percent of all fire traffic is out of the firehouse to the left, the intersection at 210 and Livingston will become more challenging and result in response delays. Further, AVFD believes that an increase of population will result in an increase in calls for service. We are very busy as it is.

The County has finally agreed to increase the level of EMS care on its primary fire engine running out of the AVFD firehouse. This is good news. Pressing issues of concern: Condition of Livingston Road. It has caused thousands of dollars of damage to fire and EMS apparatus. The County has not yet approved

AVFD's request to purchase a new ambulance and a fire/water tanker.

You might have received an AVFD Fundraising letter. Any questions, please let me know.

Driving Safety

With the arrival of warm weather, it seems as though speeds on Bryan Point Road have increased. A big reminder that the speed limit is 30 MPH and less when there are people, bikes, dogs and deer on the road. Recently, several Moyaoners have been brushed back while navigating BPR on foot. This week my son and I were nearly hit by a bright yellow car, driver holding a phone directly to their face, that drifted into the opposite lane. We learned minutes later that another neighbor, walking a dog, was also almost hit. Please slow down. Doing the math the number of seconds you think you might save by speeding is miniscule. And certainly, not worth hitting someone. And, sadly, yes, it is us, the Moyaone, along with outsiders, who speed.

Cheers,

Alex Naar

alex@accokeekvfd.org

Bat Box Workshop

Anyone interested in a Bat Box making workshop please contact John Hollyfield at hollyfield1@comcast.net

Our intrepid Buildings and Grounds Chair will be setting up a weekend

workshop whereby we cut out the parts for a Bat Box and assemble it during the workshop and hopefully take one home!

The workshop will only be held if there is sufficient interest.



The Accokeek Artists Alliance (AAA) had another successful “Makers Meetup” in

March. Many of us enjoyed the companionship of other makers while we each worked independently on our projects. It was quite inspiring to see what others are doing.

The big event this month, that we've all been waiting for, is the AAA show at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center (MCAC) from April 17 until May 24. The opening reception on Sunday, April 19, from 1 – 4 is not to be missed!

This year we have a record number of artists participating so the show should be great, with more diversity than we've ever had. The following special events are planned for the show: A string quartet from the Charles County Youth Orchestra will play at our opening reception on April 19, visitors will get to see an artist in action, our own Katrina Mullins, on Sunday, April 26, and we will have a fantastic concert by AAA's award-winning singer-songwriter, Lynn Hollyfield, at the gallery on Sunday, May 17 at 2:30. Please join us for all these events – and tell your friends! MCAC is open on Fridays and weekends from 11-4. The art center is located inside Smallwood State Park on Chicamuxen Road (Rt. 224). There is no park fee for visitors to the art center. To join AAA or to find out more about our activities, check out our website at AccokeekArtistsAlliance.com



Volunteer with us at our Land Stewardship Event on April 11, 2026

We invite our Moyaone neighbors to join us on **Saturday, April 11, from 8:30–11:00 AM** for our Spring Land Stewardship Event. This year, instead of our traditional shoreline cleanup, we'll focus on hands-on projects around our environmental campus—caring for trails, green spaces, and outdoor learning areas. Volunteers will also help prepare cleanup kits for local schools that support ongoing stewardship efforts beyond our campus.

There will also be an open house to learn more about our programs, camps, and upcoming event celebrating Maryland 250. Hope to see you there!

>>> 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/>



Women in Nature Camp at Alice Ferguson Foundation

Reconnect with the outdoors, try something new, and spend a weekend surrounded by nature and community at Hard Bargain Farm. From hiking and creative activities to campfires and farm experiences, it's the perfect chance to slow down and recharge.

Join us May 15-17, 2026 for a memorable weekend in nature. <https://www.fergusonfoundation.org/women-in-nature-camp/>

Register today for Summer Adventure Camp

Summer at Hard Bargain Farm brings families together year after year. Children ages **4–13** explore nature, try new activities, and grow in confidence—whether they're just starting out or ready for more independence through experiences like fishing, kayaking, and overnight camp. It's a place where every child belongs, right here in our Moyaone community. **Spots are limited, and popular weeks are filling fast—now is the time to secure your camper's place.**

[Check out the camp details here!](#)



ACCOKEEK
FOUNDATION
at Piscataway Park

April 25: Join us for the final “*Revolution: Then & Now*” Community Voices Workshop

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 25 from 10am – 2pm. “Justice in Place,” will examine the role of stewardship in empowering communities. Participants will engage in discussions and hands-on activities that explore the connection between community and stewardship.

Registration is free and open to all on our website:

<https://www.accokeek.org/event/details/revolution-then-now-justice-in-place>

April 25: Earth Day Open House

Celebrate Earth Day with us in Piscataway Park on **Saturday, April 25 from 12-3 pm.**

Enjoy family friendly outdoor activities, shop earth-friendly gifts at the gift shop, and hit one of our seven nature trails along the Potomac River. This event is free admission and open to all.

Weekend Public Tours of Piscataway Park

Join one of the Accokeek Foundation's educators to learn about the land, the people, and the history of Piscataway Park. Starting in April, public tours will be offered on Fridays at 2pm, and Saturdays and Sundays at 11am and 2pm. Tours will meet inside the Visitor Center. Please dress for the weather and purchase your ticket here:

<https://www.accokeek.org/event-list >

Save the Date: June 28 *River and Roots* Festival

Save the date for our Saturday, June 28th festival, a celebration of shared history and heritage in Piscataway Park! Bring the family to enjoy food, fun, and the beauty of this landscape while hearing stories of the past. This America 250 event is funded in part by the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network.

Upcoming Volunteering Opportunities

The Accokeek Foundation stewardship team has two shoreline cleanup

opportunities scheduled this spring, including on the weekend of Earth Day:

- Sunday, April 26, 10am – 11:30am
- Sunday, May 24, 10am – 11:30am

Sign up to volunteer at a shoreline cleanup here:

<https://volunteer.bloomerang.co/volunteer/#/shift-selection?k=njcr5ytl2frkg8 >

We are also partnering with the Potomac Riverkeeper Network to bring a new water quality monitoring volunteer opportunity to Piscataway Park! If you would like to be a part of this opportunity, please email Evan Quinter at evan@prknetwork.org to let him know that you want to volunteer for the Accokeek Foundation site.

Greater Accokeek Civic Association

Spring 2026 Highway Clean-Up



Sponsored by the Greater Accokeek Civic Association(GACA) in cooperation with the Alice Ferguson Foundation

SATURDAY, April 18, 2026
9 A.M. TO NOON

Meet at the GACA Welcome Center in the Weis Shopping Center, located between Accokeek Drug and Subway, at 9:00 a.m. or any time between 10 and

noon to check in and pick up trash bags, vests, and gloves. Please dress appropriately for the weather and to pick up trash. This is a great way for students to earn Community Service Hours!

For more information contact Dan Donohue 301-641-8770

Additional Partner Organizations

A partial list of the neighboring organizations which the Moyaone Association is a partner with, through its annual memberships through MAPA is below. Please consider expanding on their effectiveness, and mutually benefiting your, and their tomorrows...

Accokeek Artists Alliance: <https://www.accokeekartistsalliance.com/>

Accokeek Foundation: <https://www.accokeek.org/about>

Alice Ferguson Foundation: <https://www.fergusonfoundation.org/>

Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department: <https://accokeekvfd.org/>

AMPCreeks Council: http://s525533305.onlinehome.us/?page_id=9

Bryans Road Volunteer Fire Department: <https://www.brdfd.com/>

Conservancy for Charles County: <https://conservecharles.org/>

Friends of the Accokeek Library: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofaccokeeklibrary/>

Greater Accokeek Civic Association: <https://accokeekcivic.wixsite.com>

Indian Head Highway Area Action Council: <http://www.nonprofitfacts.com/MD/Indian-Head-Highway-Area-Action-Council-Inc.html>

Mattawoman Watershed Society: <https://www.facebook.com/MattawomanWatershedSociety/>

Mount Vernon Ladies Association: <https://www.mountvernon.org/>

- please note that many of these organizations are connected with MAPA through mutual personnels' connections; requests of each, to have current website info available - results will be shared forward here...

Any questions, please reach out.

Kent Hibben, Public Affairs Committee Chair publicaffairs@moyaone.org