
Smoke Signals - August 2026

1 message

MOYAONE ASSOCIATION <news@moyaone.org>

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To: accokeek.kim@gmail.com

**MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

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

August 2026

President's Message

Neighbors, it's been a challenging summer weatherwise, and I appreciate the efforts of community members to support each other, whether it be keeping an eye on pets during the heat, reporting and clearing fallen trees after storms, and monitoring our rainfall in a drought. It was a great weather night for a movie on the Moyaone Commons, to cap off a record-breaking successful Accokeek Gators swim season. Many thanks to John Gillespie for providing the AV equipment to make it possible.

As we're in the dog days of summer, with schools opening soon, we still have a few weeks of pool and I hope to see you there or at the Labor Day Potluck on September 6th!

Karen Heys
Moyaone Association President

Upcoming Events

August 22, 11am-1230pm
AF SAV Monitoring (details below)

August 26, 5:30pm
AF Liberty Tree Dedication Ceremony (details below)

September 6, 4pm (rain date September 7)
Moyaone Commons Labor Day Social Potluck (details below)

September 9, 9am
Pool winterizing work party

September 12, 9am-3pm
Charles County Youth Orchestra auditions (details below)

September 26
AFF Celebration on the Potomac (details below)

September 27, 12-2pm
Botanical Table potluck (details and RSVP info below)

Sept 19-20 and 25-26
AAA and AFF Land As Muse: Art Exhibition and Sale

September 19
AFF plein air painting event

September 26
AFF sculpting demo

October 4 and 18
AFF Moo-velous Milking Discoveries (details below)

October 18
AAA Sip 'n Share Membership Meeting

Pulse of the Pool

Happy end of summer! There are only a few weeks left in this year's season to take a swim. If you haven't had time to visit, I suggest you do so now that the swim season is over and our Gators wrapped another successful season. We now have newly renovated changing facilities that are ADA-compliant.

Labor Day is our final summer holiday weekend. Come down to the Commons for the holiday social potluck on **Sunday, September 6th**, starting around **4pm**. Monday, September 7th is the actual holiday, as well as the potluck social rain date if we get rained out on Sunday, and it marks the last day of the regular pool

season. The grill can be fired up. Everyone is invited to come down and enjoy this final summer holiday together. Bring a dish to share, and stay hydrated. These holiday socials are organized by the community for the community, so do not be shy - you can dive right in and get better acquainted with your new neighbors.

Our Pool Manager, Assistant Manager and the lifeguards whose profiles were published in last month's issue are getting ready to go back to school. They play a big part in keeping our pool safe and clean, which really helps us pass our regular county inspections. You too can lend a hand - if you see something, say something. Speaking of helping hands, we have a few community members who serve as pool operators in the late season and who will stand in for our seasonal staff. We appreciate them for providing much needed coverage. Also, there will be a sign board for patrons and members to write/share messages of thanks for the staff's excellent work this season. We will be presenting all seasonal lifeguard staff with small tokens of our appreciation.

After Labor Day we will be winterizing the pool. TopLine will be scheduled to winterize the pump room. We are looking for 20-30 volunteers for two (maybe three) September work parties. The first work party is scheduled for **Saturday, September 12th at 9am**, to put the brand-new custom pool cover on. The warranty is voided if the cover is dragged, so we need as many hands as possible to keep this new cover off the ground, intact and usable for the next 10+ years. If you can't make it at 9am, we will also be cleaning out changing rooms, clear off deck, drain & dry, stow & cover all deck furniture, chemicals, equipment. The second work party to complete all these tasks is scheduled for **Saturday, September 19th at 9am**. If you can come on those dates, or on Sundays or weekdays to assist with closing tasks, please reach out to Rhonda.

We welcome Roger Brul who has been actively managing the Pool's socials to the 2026 Pool Committee. ...And we want YOU! If you have any suggestions, have a special project, or want to share areas for improvement, reach out to any Board or Pool Committee member to arrange a time to discuss. We are also recruiting 2027 Pool Committee members, particularly, to manage Operations, and the three Holiday Socials. The Pool Committee meets the third Monday each month at 6 p.m. between the months of February and October. If you are interested in volunteering at the September work parties or joining the 2027 Pool Committee, email pool@moyaone.org to signal your area of interest.

Beyond Your Front Door

Things are fairly quiet at the moment, though the vision of shoes waiting to be dropped may not be far away. There is still nothing to report on the on-going planning process for either the Morton Farm project (TCP102925-0030) or on the Signature Club East project (TCT1-052097-03; CSP-23002). There has been no visible action on the Morton Farm proposed development. But there is talk that the Signature Club East project has been sold to another developer, who will redesign the project for only townhouses and no commercial buildings. On the face of it, this is a positive step forward, though maximizing the number of townhouses to be built could be problematic.

In the meantime, the Prince George's County Council has approved a two (2) year pause on considering data centers to be built in the County. Nonetheless, an ordinance was submitted to the Planning Commission to consider data centers in the County rural residential areas. This idea was opposed by the Planning Staff and the Planning Board voted their approval of the Planning staff report.

Nonetheless, the ugly head of data center development is still alive and further legal protections are needed from both the State and County that 1) prohibit the use of any potable water...either directly from underground aquifers or from any commercial or municipal water source to protect our aquifers and wells from going dry; and 2) to prohibit any government official (State/County/Municipal) or government employee (State/County/Municipal) from entering into any Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA) that would allow data centers to be built without public information/discussion and disclosure. While I have written and discussed these approaches with our State Representatives and County Council members, it would be great if more community members would add their voices, making my solo into a larger chorus.

Several public meetings that were held between Smoke Signal issues, were 1) the State Highway Administration (SHA) showing their proposed plans for remaking the intersections of Palmer/Livingston Roads with MD 210; and the remaking of the intersection of Old Fort Road with MD 210; and the remaking of the intersection of Old Fort/Oxon Hill/Livingston Road. These proposed plans were outlined in the last Smoke Signals. It is important that everyone become familiar with these proposed plans and voice their opinion on them.

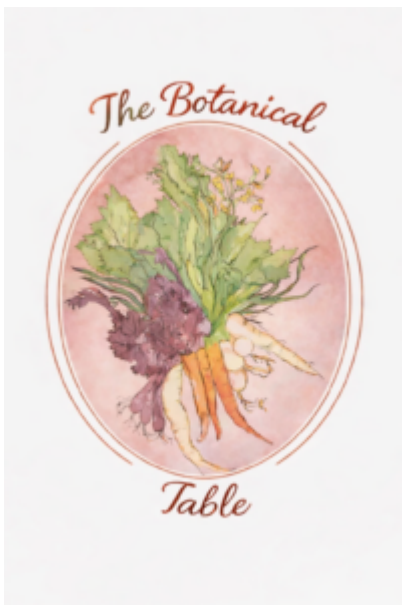
2) A meeting was sponsored by the MD 210 Safety Committee in June on traffic safety on Indian Head Highway/MD 210. The objective of the meeting was to address the recent tragic activities on MD 210 and present solutions. This

meeting was well attended and a larger working group set up to work on legislation to address possible/feasible solutions. And

3) The second public forum for the Design Charrette along the Livingston Road commercial corridor in Fort Washington. The consultants of this project presented their initial design recommendations and got feedback from the public. Sometime in the fall, the consultants will have another public meeting to present their final recommended designs for the commercial strip of Livingston Road between the Oxon Hill/Old Fort Roads intersection to SunnyBrook Tavern at MD 210.

Michael Leventhal

The Botanical Table



Please join us for the September plant-based Botanical Table potluck at the home of Amanda Truett and Frank Pipitone 3100 East Ridge Road

Sunday, September 27th 12-2pm

Kids and kin are welcome! No pets, please.

For more information or to join our list, contact us at MoyaoneVEG@gmail.com



Marbling Workshop On June 20th, fiber artist and AAA member Carol Heil taught eager participants the classic method of marbling papers and fabrics based on Turkish Ebru. Everyone produced unique and beautiful marbled paper and silk to take home, along with the basic supplies and knowledge to continue marbling on their own.



Our members gathered to share their art and enjoy each other's company at our July 26 **Sip 'n Share Membership Meeting**. Members and potential members snacked and sipped wine while participants unveiled their latest creations, including pottery, paintings, marbled quilting, a beautiful song, and even a surprisingly realistic felted cat.

Looking ahead, AAA is collaborating with the Alice Ferguson Foundation for the **Land As Muse: Art Exhibition and Sale on Sept 19-20 and 25-26**. Come see works at the Cafritz Living Building celebrating Maryland at 250 and the theme "Land As Muse" at this juried show, which features 20 artists from the DMV. Also don't miss the plein air painting event with wet hanging and awards on Saturday, Sept 19th, and a sculpting demo by Lona Powell on Saturday, Sept 26. See <http://accokeekartistsalliance.com/events/land-as-muse> for more details. This fall, we will hold another **Sip 'n Share Membership Meeting on Oct 18th** at the home of Amanda Truett and Frank Pipitone.



Celebrate Maryland 250 with the Alice Ferguson Foundation

This September, we invite our Moyaone neighbors to celebrate the history, beauty, and creative spirit of the place we all call home during our **Maryland 250: Land as Muse** series.

This special series brings together art, history, film, and community through a variety of events at the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Highlights include an Art Exhibit & Sale with the Accokeek Artists Alliance, a screening of *Lenore* followed by a Q&A with film producer Susan Gervasi, an opening reception unveiling new public art installations including stained-glass panels by Moyaone resident Cindi Rudzis, and a free Maryland 250 Historical Exhibit exploring the people and stories that have shaped this landscape.

The series concludes with **Celebration on the Potomac on Saturday, September 26**. Join us and explore the farm's historic buildings while enjoying locally-sourced food and Maryland wines and craft beer in a one-of-a-kind celebration of history, community, and place. We are excited to feature local wines from Port of Leonardtown Winery, craft beer from Mully's Brewery, and a curated tasting hosted by the Maryland Wine Association.

Whether you've lived in Moyaone for years or are new to the community, we hope you'll join us in celebrating the past, present, and future of this remarkable place.

>>> [Learn more and purchase tickets today!](#)

Moo-velous Milking Discoveries - October 4 and 18

Join us this fall for Moo-velous Milking Discoveries at Hard Bargain Farm!

Come and meet Moolan, the newest member of our family! Set against the picturesque backdrop of Hard Bargain Farm, this experience is led by our fabulous farm staff who will take you through the milking process, Moolan's daily routine, her nutritional needs, and the importance of sustainable farming practices. Now's your chance to milk a cow in this udderly unique, hands-on experience.

Dates: October 4 and October 18 – Both sessions begin at 5 PM

Experience: 1 hour

Group: Up to 4 people/session

Fees: \$20 per person or \$60 per group of 4. Children under 5: free.

To redeem the group discount, please use the code FAMILY26 at checkout.

>>> [Save your spot here!](#)

It's a wonderful way to spend time outdoors, and it makes a thoughtful gift or outing for someone special.



Liberty Tree Event

In honor of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, please join us for a Liberty Tree Dedication Ceremony. As part of the statewide Maryland Liberty Tree Project, the Accokeek Foundation is honored to dedicate this recently planted Tulip Poplar Liberty Tree, a direct descendant of Maryland's original 1775 Liberty Tree. Please join us on

Wednesday, August 26th at 5:30 p.m. [Please RSVP here.](#)

Upcoming Volunteering Opportunities

Visitor Center

Love history, nature, and connecting with people? Join the Accokeek Foundation as a Visitor Center volunteer and help create meaningful experiences for visitors to beautiful Piscataway Park.

We are currently seeking volunteers to serve as welcoming ambassadors in our Visitor Center, with a particular need for individuals 18 or older who are

available on one or two

Saturdays each month. Contact Casey or express interest at charlow@accokeek.org.

Gardens

Do you enjoy working in the garden or have you always wanted to learn? We are always looking for volunteers to help with everything from pulling weeds, planting, and pruning to propagation and compost management. We are starting work on the Heritage Garden by solarizing the beds and planning for next season. This includes plans for a fiber and dye garden in front of the Visitors Center. These spaces tell the story of the land and our community. We would love to have you be a part of the team tending to these stories. You can sign up to volunteer here: <https://volunteer.bloomerang.co/volunteer/#/joinparty?k=62zh75lsswp9uu>

Water Quality Monitoring

We are excited to introduce a new volunteer opportunity! The Accokeek Foundation and the Potomac Riverkeeper Network are partnering to bring water quality monitoring to Piscataway Park! We hope that this will yield valuable data to park residents, fishermen, and visitors on the state of park 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!

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.

SAV Monitoring

Monitor Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) with us! During the months of July and August, staff and volunteers will venture into the Potomac SAV beds to collect data on the SAV growing there. Data collected from this summer's citizen science opportunity will help scientists choose from sites that will benefit the most from restoration efforts. This opportunity also contributes data towards the larger Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers Monitoring Program which helps protect the larger Chesapeake watershed. Join us on August 22nd from 11-12:30.



Auditions for 2026-2027 Season

Auditions for the Charles County Youth Orchestra's 2026–2027 season will take place on September 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Christ Church in La Plata. Musicians of all levels and instruments—except piano—are warmly invited to audition. Audition information, requirements, and sign-ups are available on the Charles County Youth Orchestra website: <https://www.charlescountyyouthorchestra.org/auditions>

CCYO offers four ensembles: Prelude Strings for beginning string players, Encore Strings and Encore Band for intermediate musicians, and the Charles County Youth Orchestra for advanced players. Annual membership is \$185 for any ensemble—less than \$6 per week—and financial aid is available. CCYO students come from Charles, St. Mary's, Prince George's, and Calvert counties.

Each year, CCYO presents two large concerts, six smaller concerts, a two-week Chamber Music Festival with four chamber concerts, a Concerto Competition Concert, and masterclasses and sectionals for students in all four ensembles. This past year, CCYO performed at the Port Tobacco Courthouse, the Maryland Veterans Museum, Kris Kringle at the Fairgrounds, the Village Green in Indian Head, Christ Church in La Plata, and the Alice Ferguson Foundation.

CCYO was recently spotlighted in an online film by the Charles County Arts Alliance and featured on WTOP radio. Two CCYO string quartets also advanced as finalists in the prestigious Washington Performing Arts Society Misbin Chamber Music Competition in Washington, D.C.

The Charles County Youth Orchestra is sponsored in part by grants from the Charles County Arts Alliance, the Charles County Charitable Trust, and the Maryland State Arts Council, along with generous individual donations.

Submitting to Smokes

Want to submit an article or event for Smoke Signals? Send it to news@moyaone.org. If you have images you'd like to include, please send them as their own attachments.

Smokes generally goes out the first week of every month, but feel free to send items for the next issue any time. (However, I'm not able to monitor the email every day, so please be patient if you don't get a confirmation right away!) If you have something more pressing that you want to share to the community, please reach out to Kent Hibben, our Public Affairs Committee Chair, at publicaffairs@moyaone.org.

Julia Paajanen
Editor