# Smoke Signals - November 2026

1 message

**MOYAONE ASSOCIATION** <news@moyaone.org> Wed, Nov 11, 2026 at 8:45 AM
To: accokeek.kim@gmail.com




MOYAONE RESERVE @ PISCATAWAY PARK

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

November 2026

## President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

October was a wonderful reminder of the generosity and community spirit that make our neighborhood special. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, energy, and talents throughout the month. From helping with seasonal projects to bringing neighbors together for our Halloween party, your efforts made a difference. A special thanks to everyone who helped plan, set up, run, and clean up after the celebration.

Our Pool Committee also extends its appreciation to everyone who lends a hand at the pool opening and closing work parties. We are equally grateful to the many volunteers who help maintain and improve the pool and Commons—from grinding down uneven pavement and weeding beds and planters to mowing the grass and touch-up painting. Whether you take on a large project or pitch in with a small task, every little bit helps. Thank you for keeping these shared spaces welcoming and well cared for.

I'm also pleased to announce that the Board has selected Michael

Leventhal as our new Roads Chair. Please join me in thanking Tom Garcia for his many months of leadership and for the time he has devoted to our roads despite the demands of his job. We're grateful that Tom will remain involved as a roads captain for Popular Hill Road. Please give Michael your consideration and support during this transition as he takes on this important role.

To all our volunteers, thank you for showing up for your neighbors and our community. Your contributions are appreciated.

Warmly,
Karen

president@moyaone.org

# Upcoming Events

November 14, 530pm
Ferguson Outdoor Learning Center Twilight Treats & Trails (details below)

November 17, 630pm
Meeting for the proposed new Adventist HealthCare Hospital at the Accokeek Public Library (details below)

November 18, 730pm
Greater Accokeek Civic Association membership meeting at the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Hall

November 20-21
AAA Winter Market at the Wagner Center (details linked and below)

November 22th 12-3pm
Plant-Based Thanksgiving Potluck (details below)

December 4, 1030am
AF Monthly Storytime: A season for rest (details below)

December 4, 7pm
Messiah Sing-Along Concert at Christ Church, La Plata (details linked and below)
*Rehearsals are every Wednesday in November, 6-7pm*
*Final rehearsal December 1, 7pm*

December 6
Santa at the Ferguson Outdoor Learning Center (details below)

December 6
Hygge at the Park with the  Accokeek Foundation

December 6, 2-4pm
AAA Sip & Share Membership Meeting at the Wagner Center

## The Roads Report

At the October 14th monthly Moyaone Board meeting I was asked if I would be the new Roads Chair. I accepted, and began to orchestrate the following work:

1) enlisted Leon Tallman, the Moyaone grader operator for 25 plus years, to come back to work on the Moyaone roads;

2) talked to Ben Grenoble, the current grader operator, who will work with Leon to get the roads in good condition while the good weather continues;

3) blew leaves from all of the Moyaone roads;

4) graded all of the Moyaone roads and re-established the ditches along the roadbeds;

5) have new material worked into the roads at Hidden Valley, Bonds Retreat, Steamboat, and West Auburn;

6) put the grader and gradal, parked at the Moyaone Commons, into operational condition (new tires, batteries, hydraulic pumps and lines, clean out the cabs, etc.); and

7) begin to clean out culverts throughout the Moyaone roads system.

By mid-November, as the leaves finish falling, there will be another leaf blowing off the roadbeds. After that, one more grading of the roads, weather permitting. will be scheduled.

I would also like to reinstate the Road Captain system for each Moyaone neighborhood. The job of a Road Captain is to travel the road in each neighborhood at least twice a month, making notes of the road condition.

Information on draining, potholes, culverts, trees that should be cut down, etc. should then be sent to the Roads Chair. There will be a meeting of all Roads Captains before the big spring and fall road work.

I know there are Road Captains in some neighborhoods, but need to know if

these people still want to do it. Should you wish to be a Roads Captain for your neighborhood, or to continue as a Roads Captain, simply email me of your interest at all.leventhal@verizon.net. I already have one recruit:  Tom Garcia has volunteered to serve as the Roads Captain for Poplar Hill. Thank you Tom.

Travel safely, and please drive slowly on our dirt roads.

*Michael Leventhal*

## Beyond Your Front Door

Please mark on your planners/calendars the pre-application neighborhood meeting for the proposed new Adventist HealthCare Hospital being planned for Fort Washington.  This meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17th, starting at 6:30 pm at the Accokeek Public Library (15773 Livingston Road, Accokeek).

This proposed project (PRE-APP-2026-0025) has been planned for many years. The existing Adventist HealthCare Hospital, located behind the Swan Creek Shopping Center on Livingston Road, has become outdated in many ways and is too small in the number of beds needed for our area.  While the existing hospital has been greatly improved over the past several years, it cannot provide  all of the necessary services we need in its limited space.  The existing property does not allow for the necessary expansion to take place, and thus a move to a new nearby property is required. It is important for all of us to be conversant on what is being planned by Adventist HealthCare for its new hospital complex.  We need to know what issues surround this important local project, and what we can do to try to advance it from a plan to a reality.

On a separate project, the Sphere entertainment center, planned for the land across from MGM, has been approved by the County Council. What has not been determined is what benefits the Sphere will offer south county — Oxon Hill, Fort Washington, Accokeek.  It is hoped that the County will ask owners of the Sphere, Madison Square Garden Entertainment, to assist with such large projects as the funding for a rail line across the Wilson Bridge or with funding for the proposed new Adventist HealthCare Hospital in Fort Washington.

Lastly, Tamara Davis Brown won the November 3 election to become the new District 9 Representative to the County Council.  While she will be only 1 of 11 Council votes, it is hoped that she will be a strong voice and force for District 9,

which includes Accokeek.

*Michael Leventhal*

## Pulse of the Pool

It is the season of thanks. I am thankful for this 2027 Pool Committee: Paola Carts (socials); Thann Bennett (mechanical/maintenance); Roger Brul (communications/social media); Marc Cruz (mechanical/maintenance and recovering from summer surgery); Jake Ellena (B&G liaison); Linda Gorsuch (HR/operations); Ben Grenoble (Roads liaison); Rhonda Hanson (mechanical/maintenance); Lindsay Laws (HR/operations); John Mitchell/VP (Board liaison); JR Rudzis (mechanical/maintenance); Warren Weber (mechanical/maintenance); and Nancy Weiman (HR/operations). Thanks to the Moyaone Board and all the Committee Chairs!!! When you see him/her, know they are putting in lots of their time to ensure that our pool and this community is the best it can be. Share what you appreciate about this community. I am always surprised and delighted by the depth and breadth of skills and interests!

Massive thanks to all the community volunteers for helping to put the pool to bed this year. We announced work parties for September and then October, and the right folks simply showed up. With two dozen sets of strong hands and backs we vacuumed the fallen leaves then lowered the water level, cleaned out the appliances, locker and storage rooms, stowed and covered the deck furniture, lane lines, ladders and guard chairs. Topline came out and winterized our pool pump room. Then, we maneuvered the custom pool cover in place (it's a brand-new install this fall and we hope it lasts decades like the previous one). Turtles were freed from the confines of the pool deck, frogs fished out of the wading pool, and abandoned bird nests removed from the rafters. Some sweat equity and fellowship on a gorgeous autumn day seems a small price to pay to ensure this community asset opens again next summer.

Speaking of next summer we've prepared our draft budget and are now looking for pool help. Starting January 1 st we start preparing for the 2027 pool season. First, we are looking for candidates for our top three management positions – Pool Manager, Assistant Pool Manager and Pool Operator. These are paid, seasonal positions. Second, we are looking for community volunteers to either guard or act as pool operator during early morning swim. Due to budget constraints we are not able to use paid staff; however, we are considering various scenarios such as using a combination of volunteers who are either reimbursed for lifeguard or pool op certs or paid a goodwill hourly rate. Finally,

we are seeking summer holiday social co-chairs; there are three summer holidays and it's always been a tradition to gather at the pool and Commons but we need several volunteers to lead the setup and cleanup. We've been without a Social Chair for several years now, but we're also feeling it's time to get organized due to the influx of new families to the Moyaone.

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ACCOKEEK ARTISTS ALLIANCE

The Accokeek Artists Alliance hosted a Sip & Share Membership Meeting and Art Supplies Swap on October 8th at the Cactus Hill home of Amanda Truett and Frank Pipitone. Artists shared their projects—from custom house numbers and jewelry to local pigments and turned wood bowls. Some scored new-to-them art supplies and all enjoyed an afternoon of artistic camaraderie with appetizers, wine, and a beautiful piano solo by Frank.



Please join AAA for the last Sip & Share Membership Meeting of 2026 on Sunday, December 6 from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Wagner Community Building. This meeting will feature a fun holiday party complete with an exchange of wrapped knickknacks and baubles. This meeting is open to all AAA members and those interested in joining.

**Get Ready to Shop Local!!** The AAA Winter Market is set for November 20-21 at the Wagner Community Building. We have over 20 local artists and craftsmen represented at this year's market. The Winter Market is always a wonderful event for the community and a great opportunity to get ahead of holiday shopping. Specifics are noted on the flyer included in this edition of Smoke Signals or visit Accokeek Artists Alliance.

AAA always welcomes new members, if you'd like to join or perhaps gift a year-end membership to friend, go to the AAA Membership page for more information.

**Get to Know What We Do as a Moyaone Community Partner**

Many of our neighbors know us as the farm down the road, but the Ferguson Outdoor Learning Center is also a nonprofit organization that works with local public school systems to give thousands of students hands-on opportunities to learn outdoors each year. From our campus here in Accokeek and neighboring Piscataway National Park, students explore forests, wetlands, waterways, and farm life while building their understanding of the natural world.

As a nonprofit, we are proud to be part of this community and to share this special place with our neighbors and local schools. As a member of our community, your support is critical to helping us keep this land open, cared for, and accessible to our community and to the thousands of students who learn here each year. Together, we can ensure that this remarkable place continues to be a resource for our neighbors and the next generation.

We welcome our community to get involved and support our school and community programs.

>>> Join us for our upcoming events!

**Fall School Programs at the Ferguson Outdoor Learning Center**

We're delighted to share a few highlights from our work with our local public schools!

Our Bridging the Watershed program has been running for over 20 years and continues to connect middle and high school students with hands-on environmental science, including students from Charles County Public Schools. Despite the loss of federal funding from the National Park Service, we secured alternative private foundation funding in order to provide these field experiences to local students at no charge. Students step outside the classroom to investigate local ecosystems, collect real scientific data, and learn how their everyday actions can help protect the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay watershed.



We're also excited to welcome Prince George's County fifth graders back for overnight programs! During their time with us, students explore trails and wetlands, discover what lives in our streams, meet our farm animals, and experience nature in ways that aren't always possible during a typical school day. When the sun sets, they gather with classmates around the campfire and

experience the excitement of spending a night away from home. For many students, the experience is filled with firsts, building confidence, curiosity, and memories they'll carry with them for years to come.

There's a new little face on the farm! We recently welcomed a new calf, an exciting addition that will help us continue our popular cow-milking program. This hands-on experience gives visiting students a chance to learn about dairy farming, agriculture, animal care, and where their food comes from.

**Last Call for Twilight Treats & Trails!**

Don't miss your chance to explore our trails after dark! Join us on Saturday, November 14 for an evening of adventure as we head out on a guided twilight hike, then gather around the campfire for some well-earned s'mores!

Grab your family or friends and join us at 5:30 PM for this one-hour outdoor adventure. Tickets are $20 per person or $60 for a family of four with code FAMILY26. Kids under 5 are free!

**Registration is closing soon, so don't miss out!**

>>> Save your spot today!

**Santa is Coming to the Barn!**

We've got a special visitor heading to the Moyaone this holiday season! Santa is making a stop at our Blue Barn on **Sunday, December 6**, and we'd love to see some familiar faces and new ones, too!

Enjoy a private visit with Santa while photographer Mike Buscher captures those special holiday moments. Each $125 family session includes a collection of professionally edited photos, individual and sibling portraits, and unlimited digital downloads.



Stick around afterward for hot chocolate, a stop at our North Pole mailbox, and a chance to say hello to some of our farm animals!

Even better, **$25 from every reservation supports outdoor education for children!**

**Reservations are open, so book your family's visit with Santa today!**

**>>>** Book your Santa Session!

**Our Programs Wish List**

Have a few things around the house that your family no longer needs? We'd love to give them a second life during our programs!

Here's what we're looking for:

- Costumes and dress-up accessories
- Birthday party supplies: Paper hats, crowns, streamers, and small party favors
- Swimming goggles
- Children's sweatpants and shorts: All youth sizes welcome! These are especially helpful when students or campers need a change of clothes during their visit.
- If you have something to donate, send us an email camp@fergusonoutdoor.org to coordinate a drop-off. Thanks for helping us put these items to good use!

ACCOKEEK FOUNDATION at Piscataway Park

**Monthly Storytime Program**

Join the Accokeek Foundation on the first Friday each month at 10:30am for Storytime in their Education Center! Geared towards ages 0-5, reading, singing, dancing, and practicing fine motor skills will take place all while learning about the park, history, and the world we share. The last two sessions of the year will be November 6, with a theme of giving thanks and December 4, where the focus will be a season for rest. The Accokeek Foundation would love to have you and any little ones who'd like to join!

**Save the Date: December 6 Winter's Eve: Hygge at the Park**

Winter's Eve returns to Piscataway Park on Saturday, December 6. Celebrate the season with a cozy evening in the park. Visit the barnyard, enjoy winter activities, sip hot cocoa, and shop unique items from local artists and small businesses at the gift shop.




**Messiah Sing-Along Concert**

**December 4 at 7:00PM**

**To Be Held At**

**Christ Church**
**112 Charles Street**
**La Plata, MD**

Looking for a chance to sing with live symphony orchestra? Come to the Charles County Youth Orchestra's Messiah Sing-Along Concert on December 4 at 7 PM at Christ Church, La Plata.

The Charles County Youth Orchestra will perform selections from Handel's oratorio "The Messiah" and the audience is invited to sing along in several of the great choruses including "For Unto Us a Childs is Born", "Glory to God" and the iconic "Hallelujah" chorus. Vocal scores will be available for use by audience members. In addition to the Messiah, CCYO will perform holiday favorites from the Nutcracker ballet and popular carols including Greensleeves and the Ukrainian Bell Carol.

If you would like to learn how to sing the choruses before the concert, rehearsals

are every Wednesday in November from 6 to 7 at Christ Church, La Plata and the final rehearsal with orchestra is December 1 at 7 pm. Now is your chance to explore this musical masterwork in depth!

The concert is free-donations are accepted. Christ Church is handicapped accessible.

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

## Botanical Table

Plant-Based Thanksgiving Potluck



Hosted by Sheryl Romeo and Matt Schwaller
Sunday, November 22th 12-3pm
3108 East Ridge Road

Bring your favorite vegan Thanksgiving dish
RSVP to sheryl@sherylromeo.com

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