

Smoke Signal



MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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NO. 2

President's Note: **2019 Membership Dues**

— *Michael Leventhal*
MoyaonePresident@gmail.com

As every Moyaone Reserve property owner should now know, invoices for the 2019 membership dues have been mailed out. Before you begin to read the invoice, I need to make an important announcement and corrections:

Among my various shortcomings, it seems that my proofreading skills of these invoices were imperfect. There are two – not one, but two – errors that must be corrected: 1) For those invoices to property owners with houses, at the bottom of the page, under payment methods, the 10-month payment plan should have read: “10 payments of \$77 can be made each month” (not 10 payments of \$70); 2) For those invoices to persons owning a vacant unimproved lot, the membership dues should read \$150, not \$450. I totally take full responsibility for these errors and apologize to all.

That said, let me remind all of the Moyaone Reserve property owners that the Moyaone does not receive, nor seek, any federal, state, or county funding to maintain our gravel roads, the Wagner Community Center, the pool and attendant areas, or to pay the liability insurance that protects us from accidents on our community property.

This community is our responsibility. We all know that it is special, private, and precious. It is ours to protect and defend, as we have recently done, successfully, in fighting against the proposed compressor station by Dominion Energy at Barrys Hill Road. And it matters not if you live on one of our many gravel roads or ever use the community pool and Wagner Community Building. Being a part of a

community is about knowing that you are part of a larger defined area that allows you to live and enjoy a forest environment that is beautiful and not replicated anywhere else in this country. And each lot, in combination with all others, creates a unique protected area for all of the Moyaone residents through the scenic easements.

Over the twenty-plus years my family has lived in the Moyaone Reserve, I have heard many reasons why property owners do not wish to join the Moyaone Association. None of these reasons has ever justified why the upkeep of the gravel roads is their neighbors' problem but not theirs. None of these reasons has ever explained why the assets that enhance Moyaone property values – pool, picnic area, community building, etc. – are for others to maintain and support but not those who do not pay the yearly membership fee.

Being a supporter of a community is not solely based on how many of your neighbors you know

or how if you partake in community social events; it is being willing to ensure that the Moyaone Reserve continues to be a great place to live. For that to happen, true stewardship is required of each property owner. The Moyaone Association budget is not large, and the majority of the funds go to maintain roads, buildings, and the pool. Each property owner needs to contribute to the financial good of the whole.

I sincerely hope that as Moyaone Reserve property owners review their 2019 Membership dues, all will agree that this special place we call home deserves support from all of the property owners. I look forward to thanking everyone who pays their dues.

Continued on next page

Moyaone Represented in Capitol Hill Meeting on Aircraft Noise

—John Mitchell

Earlier this month, Moyaone Association President Michael Leventhal and I, along with three other people from the affected area, met with staff for Senator Chris Van Hollen to discuss the aircraft noise problem experienced by those in the arrival path of flights heading to DCA from the south. The meeting was arranged by Van Hollen's office in response to constituent complaints from our area.

We arrived early and, as luck would have it, Senator Van Hollen walked into his office just as I was checking in with his reception desk. As he came over to greet a constituent stranger, he recognized me from our days as associates at a DC law firm, back in the 1990s, and was gracious enough to delve into the substance of our reason for being there. "We need to fix that," he responded. He asked for the names of the two people we were scheduled to meet with, but by the time we met, four of his staff members showed up, including the Legislative Director and Policy Director. We were joined by someone from the offices of Cardin and Hoyer, but the meeting was led by Van Hollen's staff.

I was pleased with the outcome. They were generous with their time, heard us out, and (as might be expected from the presence of high level staff) turned it into a work session on how we might get the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to finally do its job. Michael brought along a letter that gave some history of the Moyaone and Piscataway National Park, and included references to statutory language where Congress recognized the adverse effects of aircraft noise over national parks: "the Federal Aviation Administration has the authority to preserve, protect, and enhance the environment by minimizing, mitigating, or preventing the adverse effects of aircraft overflights on public and tribal lands."

Our focus was on the fact that although our area is less densely populated than some other communities, the complaints-to-density ratio is dramatically higher due to the noise levels of individual planes compounded by the irritation from repetitive flights (routinely 90 seconds apart) along the same flight path.

We will be following up with Senator Van Hollen's office as they prepare to contact the FAA. In the meantime, keep logging your complaints; the \$24 airnoise.io complaint button* is very efficient, I have found (and I have been clicking it each time a flight annoys me as I write this). It may also be helpful to contact Senator Van Hollen's office at (202) 224-4654 to thank him for his efforts to resolve this. Something along the lines of "I just called to thank the Senator for stepping up to try to address the problem of FAA inaction in alleviating noise pollution over Piscataway National Park, where I live."

Any solution will take a while to identify and implement, but the clock does not start ticking until the FAA takes the initiative to tackle the problem and seek a solution.

**An engineer in California was frustrated by the antiquated reporting ability for her airport, and developed this gadget that, with the press of one button (within range of your home's Wi-Fi) will search for which flight is closest to you, and reports it along with the time of day, airline, flight number and altitude. For more information, see the website: airnoise.io*

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President's Note

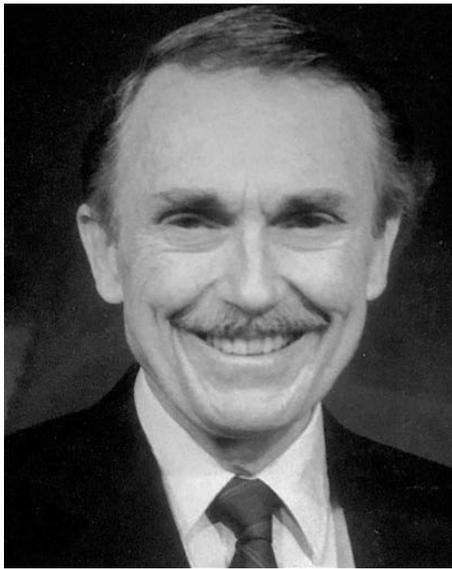
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Comptroller Resigns

It is with great regret that I report that Charlie Gaumond, the Moyaone Comptroller, has resigned effective the end of January 2019. Charlie took up the challenge of Comptroller, and did an admirable job.

The Board of Directors thanks him for his efforts.

For the time being, the Comptroller functions will be divided among the existing Board of Directors, and a search for a new Comptroller will begin.



Richard Mills

Longtime Moyaone resident Richard Mills passed away on January 17 at the Maryland Veterans Home in Charlotte Hall. He is survived by his wife Vivian and two sons. Dick and Vivian purchased their lot in Poplar Hill in 1962 after becoming acquainted with Moyaone through his brother Don and sister-in-law Martha, who had built their house in Cactus Hill several years earlier. Like Don and Martha, they were among the first to donate a scenic easement to the National Park Service.

When he first arrived in Washington in the 1950s after graduating from the University of California at Berkeley, Dick worked as an editor at the Library of Congress. In 1960 he and Vivian moved overseas, where he set up and managed schools teaching English as a foreign language in Laos and Greece. Returning stateside several years later, they lived in Northern Virginia before moving to Accokeek in 1971 and to their new house in Poplar Hill in 1980. He worked for several DC-area firms, writing innovative instructional materials before joining what became the U.S. Postal Service Management Academy, where he designed and tested training programs until his retirement in 1992.

Dick cherished his home in the Reserve: the diversity of flora and fauna, the quiet ambience of the woods, the way his beloved holly grove looked after a snowfall. After retiring, he enjoyed daily walks along the roads of Poplar Hill, watching birds and chatting with passing neighbors. He wholeheartedly supported the preservation of natural spaces. In that regard, he and the Moyaone Reserve were a perfect fit.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC Development, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, check payable to AFSC) or the Shenandoah National Park Association (3655 US Highway 211 East, Luray, VA 22835).

National Historic Register Nomination Update

— Rita Bergman

The process for having the Moyaone Reserve designated as a National Historic District is underway. The nomination is based on the presence of a unique collection of mid-century modern homes that span two counties in Maryland, and as another means to protect the Mount Vernon viewshed. Twelve property owners of mid-century modern homes have been contacted and several have already agreed to participate in the architectural research and documentation of their homes.

A Request for Proposals has been issued to four prospective bidders approved in advance by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). We expect to award a contract by mid-February. In the meantime, the paperwork has been submitted for grant funding to MHT and Prince George's County. Other organizations are also being contacted for funding, including Charles County, Preservation Maryland, and others.

The project is divided into two phases. The first is the research and documentation phase that will be completed by June 30, 2019 by the consultant selected from the competitive procurement mentioned above. The second phase is the preparation of the National Historic Register nomination itself, using the results from Phase 1. This should be completed no later than February 2020.

Thanks to Casey Pecoraro from the MHT and Howard Berger from PG County Planning Dept., who are guiding us in this process. Also, thanks to Mary Lee Phelps, Sheryl Romeo, and Michael Leventhal, who are providing support to the procurement and funding requests.

Real Estate News

— Sheryl Romeo, Sheryl Romeo Real Estate LLC

Welcome two new neighbors, Ringo Vine and Madeline Kochen. They've decided to give up beautiful, sunny California for the sometimes frigid mid-Atlantic. They are in a beautiful house, though, and are very excited about the neighborhood.



The Chili Challenge

WHEN: Saturday, March 23, 6 pm
 WHERE: Moyaone Community Center,
 2311 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek

Moyaone chefs, step up to the CHILI CHALLENGE. Prizes will be awarded for the best plant-based chili and the best chili with meat. Entering is simple. Just send an email to Mary Lee Phelps at mlgp42@msn.com. Enter all your best recipes. Admission for all chefs will be waived.

For those of you who want to just eat, drink, and catch up with neighbors, the admission is \$20 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Our master brewers will provide a variety of terrific beer. Admission includes all the chili, salad, bread, beer, wine and soda you can consume. This is a perfect time to catch up with friends and neighbors.

All proceeds from this event will support upgrading the Community Center bathroom. Hope to see you there.



Groundhog. Art by Sheila Cox.



An Exciting and Engaging Moyaone Coffee

—Mary Lee Phelps

The Moyaone coffee event on January 26 was a wonderful success with more than 75 people attending. This was a terrific opportunity to meet and catch up with your neighbors. Artists, plant-based cooks, writers and Moyaone Association Board members and Chairs attended and encouraged participation in community events. Door prizes were contributed by the Moyaone Fund Raising Committee, Accokeek Artists Alliance, and Cindi Rudzis.

Gift cards were distributed to furloughed federal workers and contractors. These gifts were made possible by the generous contributions from the following Moyaoners:

- Theresa Abell
- Rita Bergman & Nan Fremont
- Rhonda Hanson
- Karen Hoagberg
- Lynn Hollyfield
- Mike Huffman
- Sue Jones
- Dan & Samantha Katz
- Barbara & Paul Livingston
- Marion & Bob Mulholland
- Mary Lee & Harold Phelps
- Kay & Tom Powell
- Jon & Gayle Rietmulder
- Bill Robertson
- Anita Stephens & Jim Turner
- Eric & Susan Straus
- Amanda Truett
- Bud & Marilyn Wareham
- Nancy & Dave Weiman

An emergency fund for residents in crisis has been established with the remaining funds.

We hope to see everyone at the Chili Cook-off on Saturday, March 23. Moyaone brewers are busy making their special brew for the event.

County Executive Alsobrooks' Has Strategy To Make Indian Head Highway Safer

A statement from County Executive Angela Alsobrooks on January 25 outlined plans for improved safety on Indian Head Highway:

On another crucial note, I want to update you on safety and enforcement plans that are underway for Indian Head Highway (MD-210), a road maintained by the State Highway Administration (SHA), which is responsible for maintenance and improvements along this roadway. The Prince George's County Police Department District VII Command and officers will strive to make Indian Head Highway safer by employing "The Three E's of Traffic Safety," which represent Engineering, Enforcement and Education.

Too many lives have tragically come to an end on MD-210. We must never forget these individuals and their families that will forever mourn the loss of their loved ones. We are employing new enforcement efforts in 2019 that entail officers from District VII regularly patrolling and enforcing traffic laws. The goal of the enforcement effort is to change driver behavior along the roadway with an increased presence and by ticketing violators. Emphasis will be on targeting speeding motorists, aggressive drivers and distracted drivers. Currently, officers have been issuing a large number of tickets and written warnings to violators. Safety along the highway is a priority and I want to make it abundantly clear that reckless behavior will not be tolerated.

In addition, legislation has been introduced in Annapolis by Delegate Kris Valderama (District 26, Prince George's County) to amend the current bill which governs the location and operation of the stationary speed camera on 210. I fully support the delegate's bill which calls for a speed camera that can be moved to different locations along the roadway, as I believe it will greatly assist in reducing the speed of motorists in that specific stretch of road. Operations conducted by the Special Operations Division targeting impaired drivers, aggressive motorcycle operators and commercial vehicles will remain a major part in the strategy to make the roads safer for motorists and pedestrians. Cooperation with the Maryland State Police in enforcement efforts will continue.

Educating — the public on the importance of safe driving habits will be emphasized throughout the year. Efforts are underway to get middle school aged children involved in developing slogans to push out the driver's safety message. Funding and cooperation from the Maryland Highway Safety Office will be sought to help us get the message to the communities around the MD-210 area as well as to those that use the roadway.

Measuring Success — we strongly believe that reducing the speed of motorists will have the greatest impact on reducing the number and severity of crashes. A request

Report on the Coordinated Hunt 2018

— Holliday Wagner

This past summer, many residents saw more deer and noticed increased damage from deer to gardens, tree saplings, and many plants under 6 feet than seen in recent years. Despite what we observed in deer behavior, the National Park Service (NPS) preliminary count for the deer census in Piscataway Park was only slightly above that in 2017.

Hunters registered with the Coordinated Hunt harvested 44 deer this season in contrast to the 60 harvested in 2017. In numbers similar to last year, 101 landowners gave permission to the Coordinated Hunt to hunt their properties. Thanks to hunter donations, venison from 8 deer went to local food pantries.

When the Coordinated Hunt began in 2007, the NPS census counted 174 deer per square mile. Several in the community had contracted Lyme Disease, a number had collisions with deer, all gardens without tall fences were chewed up, the Piscataway Park and the rest of us had clear views below 6 feet to our neighbors, box turtles were hard to find, ovenbirds were not nesting locally. That summer there was a bad drought. Many deer died of EHD, a hemorrhagic disease; they were thin and scruffy looking. They were seen eating algae out of the Potomac because the drought had decimated their usual food.

Now, 12 years later, the NPS census is about 54 deer per square mile (preliminary). That is still many more than what researchers have determined to be sustainable by the environment, which ranges from 10 to 25 per square mile. Has the Coordinated Hunt had any effect on the population? The NPS biologist who conducts the deer censuses in the National Capital Parks says that the Coordinated Hunt has reduced the number of deer during the 12-year period. Parks without deer control either within or in neighboring areas continue to have very high populations of deer. If you would like to see what that looks like, visit Ft. Washington.

has been made to have a speed trailer that monitors, records and reports the driving practices of those that pass it. These trailers can generate reports that show the average speed during various times of the day, calculate average speed and percentages of vehicles traveling at excessive speed. A 30-day report generated early in the year compared with a year-end report will show if our efforts to reduce speed were effective in making this roadway safer.

Homegrown Coffeehouse

**Sat. Feb. 19 presents
Bumper Jacksons Duo,
Kathleen Huber opening**



Doors open at 6. Opening Act: 7:15–7:45 pm, Kathleen Huber. Main Act 8–10 pm. Admission: \$12. More info: 240-305-0876. National Colonial Farm, 3400 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek. Adult Education Building. Lite fare served: homemade soups, bread and cheese (served 6–7:30 pm); desserts, tea and coffee (all evening).

Bumper Jacksons are hot and sweet, painting America's story from the streets of New Orleans to Appalachian hollers. The group began as a duo, a city-meets-country experiment between songstress Jess Eliot Myhre and banjo player Chris Ousley. In five short years, Bumper Jacksons built their brand around a brassy seven-piece, lighting up dance floors across the country and receiving multiple honors as the Mid-Atlantic Arts Association's grant recipients as well as "Artist of the Year" & "Best Traditional Band" at the Washington Area Music Awards.

For those who know the Bumper Jacksons as the larger ensemble, the duo show draws from the same sources as the full-band version, but it comes to a more intimate, heartfelt, and storied conclusion. Jess and Chris rely on their back porch stage presence and multi-instrumentalism to add the variety that one expects from anything associated with the Bumper J's: the washboard, clarinet, guitar and harmonies you know are joined by ukuleles, banjo and upright bass.

Kathleen Huber. Singer/songwriter Kathleen Huber is a former member of Ladies Done Waiting, a trio with repeat appearances at the Washington Folk Festival, and the duo Song Garden which released the CD, Bluebird Dragonfly, in May 2018. Lyrically rich and deeply felt, her songs are delivered in her characteristic vocal style, soothing and sultry. Smokey and full. Classic. Kathleen is now working on a solo CD project scheduled for release in mid-2019.

Join us at: *Eight Hands Wellness*

Enjoy our newly remodeled studio and treatment room with beautiful wooded views of scenic Piscataway Creek.

- Rejuvenate with YOGA
beginner–intermediate–yin–private groups, workshops
 - Relax with BODYWORK
Swedish–deep tissue–hot stones–relaxation
 - Reenergize with PILATES
beginner–intermediate–private lessons
 - Restore with ANTI-AGING
skin rejuvenation–hydration–acne treatments–sun damage
- Ask about our other Four Hands
- *home organizing, elder care, catering, and gift certificates*

For more information: 301-266-5585
14408 Farmington Creek Road, Accokeek, MD 20607
mariafemia@hotmail.com • <http://mariafemia.weebly.com>



AART Read-A-Thon
February 14 (Valentine's Day) through
March 2 (National Read Across America Day)

Celebrate the love of reading and support AART to provide free school readiness programs to 4-5 year olds in need!

www.allagesreadtogether.org

Michelle Sullivan, Executive Director of All Ages Read Together, lives in the Moyaone. If anyone participates in a book club or just wants to make a resolution to read more and give back, here is the perfect opportunity to read for a GREAT cause! Check All Ages Read Together out at www.allagesreadtogether.org. If you have additional questions about the read-a-thon, contact Michelle directly at michelles@allagesreadtogether.org.

Therapeutic Series on Yoga for Healthy Aging

From Asana to the Yamas (and Niyamas), yoga offers tools and techniques that can help us age with increased health and vitality, a compressed morbidity (defined as the excess of life span over healthy years), extended independence, and equanimity. Using those tools and techniques is the subject of the upcoming therapeutic yoga series: Yoga for Healthy Aging.

The series will cover a number of topics, including:

- using asana (physical postures) to build endurance, strength, proprioception/balance, flexibility, and agility;
- adjusting the practice to fit your body, regardless of your yoga experience or physical condition;
- how to break down your practice so it can be woven throughout your day;
- using yoga tools and techniques (pranayama, mindfulness, meditation, mudras, and more) that can help move us from the sympathetic ("fight, flight, freeze") to the parasympathetic ("rest, digest, repair") nervous system, so we are better able to manage stress and alleviate pain, anxiety, and depression; and
- an introduction to Yogic philosophy touching on questions as old as humankind.

Classes will be held in the Moyaone on Fridays, 4–5:30 pm, beginning Feb. 22. The cost for the 10-week series is \$75; included in your tuition is a copy of the book: *Yoga for Healthy Aging*, by Baxter Bell, MD and Nina Zolotow. For more information, additional readings, or to register, please visit <https://returning2balance.com> or email Theresa@returning2balance.com

Accokeek Foundation and Alice Ferguson Foundation: Ongoing Partners with the Moyaone Association

I join those who are pleased to see both the Accokeek Foundation (AF) and Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF) focused on maintaining and furthering the growth of decades of partnership with the Moyaone and surrounding communities. As 2019 blossoms, AF builds on the string of Lisa Hayes' all-inclusive heritage and future-farming successes, with Laura Ford at the helm. And Mandie Foster steers AFF forward, furthering Lori Arguelles' legacy of all-encompassing environmental science.

An accurate listing of our triumvirate's year-full of open activities and warm welcomes are respectively at Accokeek.org, FergusonFoundation.org, your membership mailings (*hint, hint*), and right here in *Smoke Signals*.

Please join AF and AFF, their colleagues, and their members and neighbors (that's us, folks), in shaping their story, and ours also, favorably forward.

— Kent L. Hibben

Dear Neighbors: Here are some of the upcoming events at the Accokeek Foundation and at the Alice Ferguson Foundation

*Mandie Foster, Interim Executive Director,
Alice Ferguson Foundation
Laura Ford, CEO, Accokeek Foundation*

Accokeek Foundation

Season Opening, Piscataway Park Visitor Center & Gift Shop, March 19

Starting Tuesday, March 19, the Visitor Center and Gift Shop will be open Tuesdays–Sundays, 10 am–4 pm. Stop in to pick up an updated trail map, book a guided farm tour (Mondays & Fridays), rent gear for a nature adventure, or pick up some handmade and artisan crafts and novelties.

Lattes with Lambs, Sat., April 6, 10 am–2 pm

Meet the National Colonial Farm's new baby lambs and calves at the 5th annual Lattes with Lambs barnyard festival! Enjoy coffee & donuts, sheep shearing demonstrations, milking demonstrations, wool spinning demonstrations, a 4-H livestock show, and live music. This year will also feature the wedding of farm favorite, Sir Nigel the sheep, to the lovely ewe, Lady Aster.

Coming soon!

Land and River Conversations: Exploring Race & Culture through Stories from the Earth

Be part of the conversation about the complex relationships that have shaped our region and continue to influence our interactions with one another and with the

environment. This series will share non-traditional perspectives to help us gain a deeper appreciation for the complicated history that is reflective of our region and our country's experience. Topics will include landscape conservation, culture, history, and specifically connectedness of Native Americans and African Americans to this landscape.

For more information, visit accokeek.org/events. *Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek*

Alice Ferguson Foundation

Hard Bargain Farm Amphitheater. *Yes, But I Have To.* Feb. 15–18, 7:30–10:00 pm

Join us for the debut of Addison Janney's latest play *Yes, But I Have To*. Something has gone horribly wrong. There has been fear and travel and loneliness and death and now winter. Emily and Grafton, a young couple temporarily stranded in an abandoned cabin in the mountains, are in the process of being distilled down to their barest selves.

Potomac River Watershed Cleanup Site Leader Training

This year, we are hosting three FREE training sessions for trash cleanup site leaders, one in Maryland, one in Virginia, and one in the District of Columbia. Each workshop will equip you with the tools to lead a successful community trash cleanup and the practical supplies needed to conduct a cleanup event. See our website for more details on these locations.

Sat., Feb. 16, 10 am–12:30 pm, Washington, DC
Sat., Feb. 23, 10 am–12 pm, College Park, MD
Sat., March 2, 12–2 pm, Arlington, VA

Hard Bargain Children's Garden Volunteer Days

Join us for a Saturday in the garden! Volunteers and friends, you're invited to come and help out at the Children's Garden from 10 am to 12 pm on the third Saturday of each month, March through August (Please note: April's date is the FIRST Saturday of the month). The Children's Garden is a space we use to teach schoolchildren about plants and where their everyday food comes from. We need help weeding, mulching, planting, and more to help this outdoor classroom grow. New volunteers and all skill levels welcome!

First date in 2019: March 16, 10 am–12 pm

The 31st Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup will be on Sat., April 13.

Link to list of upcoming events: http://fergusonfoundation.org/events_list/
Alice Ferguson Foundation, 2001 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek