

Smoke Signal



MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME LVI

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NO. 8

SOUTHERN MARYLAND FAIR SKIES COALITION Responding to Aircraft Noise Pollution

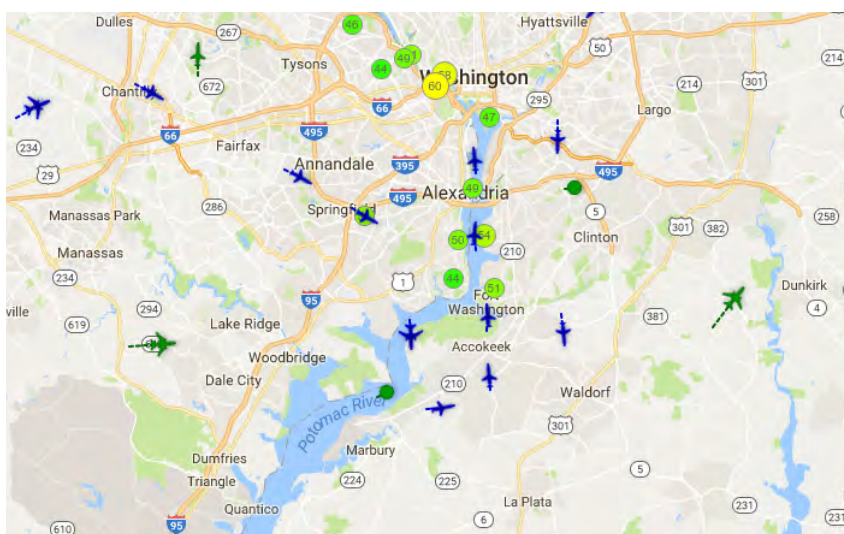
— Reuben Firmin

On Sept. 26, 2016 the Southern Maryland Fair Skies Coalition (<http://smdfairskies.com>) coordination committee met for the first time to establish goals and to begin planning pragmatic action.

In recent years as new aircraft guidance technologies have been rolled out, airplanes arriving at Reagan National Airport from the south have been following a more concentrated route as they pass over Accokeek, thus increasing the number of overflights per day that neighbors within the boundaries of this route contend with. This has been further compounded by an increase in the number of days that the airport operates with approaches from the south, making peace and quiet a rarer occurrence for those who live in this region of the Moyaone and Greater Accokeek.

The committee members—Kent Hibben (chair), Paul Jett, John Mitchell, Phil VanWiltenberg (representing GACA), and Reuben Firmin—agreed upon the following three goals for the present time:

1. **Seek an equitable distribution of aircraft passing over the region.** This encompasses a range of activity, including research and collection of data, engagement with political representatives, and community outreach.
2. **Learn from other communities and their experiences to guide our approach.** The introduction of NextGen* has been protested by communities near seemingly most



airports that have implemented it. Palo Alto, Phoenix, Baltimore, Brooklyn, San Diego, Boston, Chicago and others each have active community led groups, sometimes involving city governance and/or including litigation among their methods, who are protesting to the Federal Aviation Administration about the rollout.

3. **Formalize our coalition.** This was our first meeting as a committee; we seek to partner with other regional groups who are also focusing on Reagan aircraft noise.

There is a lot of work to do to make our case well, and we seek volunteers to assist in the effort. If you are interested in volunteering, or merely in staying informed, please navigate to <http://smdfairskies.com> and enter your details in one or both of the “Stay Informed” and “Get Involved” forms. Together we shall mitigate!

The committee plans an open meeting within the next several weeks as a further followup.

*According to the Federal Aviation Administration fact sheet on NextGen (Feb. 14, 2007): The Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) is a new national airspace system being implemented across the United States in stages between 2012 and 2025, transforming America’s air traffic control system from a radar-based system with radio communication to a satellite-based one.

Reminder: Guilford Challenge at Charles County Board of Appeals October 11



Traffic stacks up on Livingston Road in front of the Bryans Road firehouse to turn left onto Billingsley Road.

As described in the September issue of *Smoke Signals*, Guilford is the enormous proposed subdivision that would change the character of Bryans Road with 438 housing units, including 140 apartments and 171 townhouses. It is a leftover from the failed Cross County Connector that would have serviced it, and the now-rejected comprehensive plan that aimed to turn Bryans Road into a new urban center. It was approved by the Planning Commission without consideration of the impacts of increasing traffic on Billingsley Road by 60%, and inadequate answers to questions regarding harm to Mattawoman Creek. It also threatens a globally rare magnolia bog. Consequently, the Mattawoman Watershed Society and nearby landowners are challenging the approval of Guilford's preliminary subdivision plan.



Western Charles County is home to an endangered magnolia bog.

At press time, it remains unclear if the general public can speak. But please attend to support the challenge to Guilford on Tuesday, October 11 at 7 pm before the Board of Appeals at the Charles County Govt. Bldg. in La Plata. Learn more at www.mattawomanwatershed.org or contact Jim Long, 301-283-0447.

Moyaone Association Board

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Photo: National Colonial Farm, Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park.

National Colonial Farm Presents “Bring on the Dark: Energy Conservation Past to Present”

Free; exhibit opening day event for all

Saturday, October 22, 11 am–3 pm

In colonial times, families woke and slept according to the natural light. Today we've overridden nature's rhythm with technological advances, but at what environmental cost? On October 22, enjoy this free event with activities that highlight the past, present, and future of energy conservation while breathing in the crisp fall air at the National Colonial Farm.

- Dip candles and listen to fireside tales with costumed interpreters on the farm
- Give the watt-o-meter a crank to spot energy-hogging appliances
- Learn how to do an energy audit of your home with PEPCO engineers
- Discover how energy is made from plants and waste
- Create and launch your own air-powered rocket
- Perfect for Girl Scout Juniors working towards Get Moving Journey, Playing the Past Badge; Brownies — start your Household Elf Badge!

“Bring on the Dark: Energy Conservation Past to Present” is a Green History interpretive exhibit open Saturdays and Sundays on the National Colonial Farm beginning October 22 through December 11, 2016.

For more information, call 301-283-2113 or visit the website (www.accokeekfoundation.org/green-history). The National Colonial Farm is located at the Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek.



The Alt Washingtonia Schuhplattlers are a traditional part of Oktoberfest at the Hard Bargain Farm. Photos: Alice Ferguson Foundation.

Celebrate Oktoberfest 2016 at Hard Bargain Farm

The Alice Ferguson Foundation opens its doors Saturday, October 8 from 1:00 pm until 6:00 pm for its annual Oktoberfest at the Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center. We will have great German food (prepared by Euro Bistro) and imported beer; the Alt Washingtonia Schuhplattlers will entertain you and invite you to dance with them; hay wagon rides to the Potomac River, kids' activities at the log cabin, squeeze apple cider with an old fashioned cider press, visit the barnyard, and so much more! And Doris will still be there (along with her Strudel!).

It's fun for the whole family, and proceeds will support our environmental education programs.

Admission is \$15 at the gate, children 10 and under free. Foundation members will still be able to purchase tickets online for only \$10! Please print your ticket and bring it with you.

See you at Oktoberfest!

Tickets: <http://bit.ly/2ckwXRP>. For more information, see the website (fergusonfoundation.org) or call 301-292-5665.

AD

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SEND NOTICES FOR *SMOKE SIGNALS* TO:

Ruth Gaumond, 301-292-1189; moyaoneneeds@gmail.com

Next DEADLINE: Tuesday, Oct. 25 for November 2016 issue of *Smoke Signals*



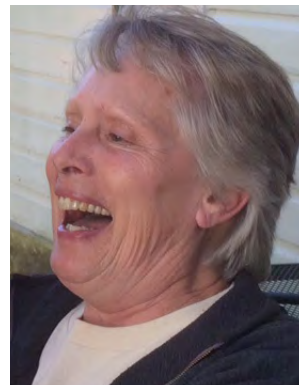
A Big Thank You!

You—the Moyaone Community and the Alice Ferguson Foundation—pulled off a wonderful retirement/leaving Accokeek party in my honor at the pool in September. I was overwhelmed and deeply touched by how many came, by your well wishes, gifts, great music, and kind words.

We have lived in Accokeek for almost 36 years, raised our family here and made so many good friends.

I cannot thank you enough for all your friendships and support I have received over these years. I am grateful to have been part of this amazing community. And because of that, it is very difficult for me to leave. I will miss you! But I have been told one never really leaves Accokeek (I see a lot of evidence of that!). So I'm sure I will be back sometime for a visit and catch up with you.

Fondly, Doris Sharp



SAVE THE DATE: 4th Annual Moyaone Thanksgiving Day 5K Turkey Trot

**Thursday, November 24
8:30 am (sharp)**

Meet at the Wagner Community Center, 2311 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek. Walk or run with your friends, guests, neighbors, and dogs. Join us for a cup of apple cider before heading home!

