

Smoke Signal



MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME LVI

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NO. 1

President's Note

*Jon Rietmulder
moyaonepresident@gmail.com*

Thanks to all of you who attended the December membership meeting where we approved the 2016 budget. A power outage at the community center, with darkness approaching, proved to be a very effective tool for moving the meeting along quickly! After the meeting the unusually warm weather was welcomed as we all enjoyed the wine and cheese social outside around the tiki hut with special party lighting provided by truck headlights.

For those of you who missed the meeting, here's a quick summary of issues from last year and items we hope to address this year. Early last year there was a tree-cutting incident along Bryan Point Road that many believe was a violation of the scenic easements. In May the Board met with Christine Smith, the new National Park Service Superintendent for our area parks, and we stressed how important it is to our community that the scenic easements are enforced. Though it may be at a glacial pace, we continue to be assured that the matter is still under active investigation and we will continue to press for enforcement of the easements.

John Hollyfield shared plans for a new cook shack with us in May and now that structure is complete. Many thanks to John and all the folks who helped create this beautiful and functional addition to our grounds. Over the summer we also had a large tree limb fall and do some damage to playground equipment and pool

fencing. We are still awaiting final insurance payments but we expect to be made whole and replace the play gear.

We have begun the process of dressing up our website. We have added the ability to take online dues payments and contributions. You may still pay your dues via check, and we don't pay any credit card processing fees that way, but you now have the convenient option of paying with credit card online.

In 2016 we will be moving our accounting system to QuickBooks Online, enabling better visibility and easier reporting for the Board and committee chairs. We are planning to step up our dues collections activity and have a real membership drive. We all need to do our fair share to support our community.

In response to some thefts at the community center, cameras were recently installed there. During the meeting an overwhelming majority of attendees supported placing cameras at strategic locations along roads within the Moyaone Reserve. Clear policies detailing who, and under what circumstances, could access these images would be included. In 2016 we will look at our options and figure out how to best implement cameras on our roads.

Addressing the incessant noise from aircraft heading to Reagan National Airport is high on the agenda for the coming year. As we attempt to get our elected representatives to take up our cause, please continue to file noise complaints when you hear that racket overhead. Go to <https://complaints.bksv.com/dca> or call **703-417-1204**.

Last, I know there has been some contention recently regarding the managed hunt. I want to stress that this is not a Moyaone Association activity. We don't control it, we don't sponsor it. However, I am working to get some folks together, hunting and anti-hunting, to hold a public forum, with various expert speakers, regarding wildlife and forest stewardship. More on this to come. We will never all agree on the best way to manage wildlife. We can all agree to discuss the issues in a civil and respectful manner, a manner befitting the Moyaone Reserve.

Moyaone Association Board

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SEND NOTICES FOR SMOKE SIGNALS TO:

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

Next DEADLINE: Feb. 9 for FEB. 2016 issue of *Smoke Signals*

Recommendations for



Alex Naar, Moyaone resident
and member, Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department

As was mentioned at the Moyaone Association meeting in December, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) a \$230,000 grant to replace an old mini-pumper fire engine. The new fire engine is being built and is expected to be delivered later this year. The original mini-pumper was acquired some 20 years ago, primarily to give firefighters access to houses in Accokeek that might not be easily accessible by standard fire vehicles either because of narrow, steep driveways and/or during stormy weather events. The new mini-pumper will be better equipped to meet these challenges.

Last week a house on Jamies Way was destroyed in a structure fire. Fortunately, no one was hurt. The nearest fire hydrant to the house was over 4,000 feet away. While the cause of the fire is not yet known, this tragedy reminds us to look at fire safety again and what we can do to be better prepared for fires and other emergencies.

Inspect Your Home

Outside

Is your driveway properly marked with your house number?
If you share a driveway, is it clear which drive is for which house?
Can a fire truck/ambulance easily get to your house?
Are there outdoor fire hazards, such as piles of debris, overhanging trees, or obstructed exits?

Inside

Check electrical outlets, cords, and appliances for overload and other safety issues

Smoke detectors – some key points:

- Replace entire detector every 8–10 years or sooner
- Replace batteries twice a year
- Test monthly
- Install in every bedroom and on each floor of the house
- There are several types of detectors: Individual, battery-powered; Hard-wired, linked (one goes off, they all go off); Battery/hardwired/wireless (linked to security system dispatch)

Carbon monoxide detectors – consider installing

Fire extinguishers - ideally on every floor and know how to use them
Sprinklers: If your house has them, do they work?

Emergency Plan

- Do you have an escape plan?
- Identify key documents and place in safe location

When to Call 911

- If you are not sure if you should call 911 or not, the best decision is to call 911 and let the dispatcher route your call to the correct entity.
- Firefighters, EMTs, and police officers would much rather

come out and find out they are not needed than be called too late.

- Note: Calling from a cell phone in the Moyaone may connect you with PG, Charles or Fairfax counties. Help the 911 dispatcher, who may be unfamiliar with Accokeek, with location and best routes.

Working with the Moyaone Association, AVFD would like to drive/walk through the Moyaone and identify access and water supply issues. The plan would be to bring a large fire truck, the current mini-pumper and the ambulance and meet with residents on site. Ideally this would be done neighborhood by neighborhood. Findings from these tours would greatly help with the fire department's ability to efficiently respond to emergencies.

These tours are different from the Fire Safety Advisory Inspections offered by the Prince George's County. However, these inspections can also be done at the same time: <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/Fire/Services/FSE/RequestSmokeAlarm/Pages/default.aspx>

If you are interested in partnering with AVFD in working on a comprehensive emergency pre-plan of the Moyaone, or have any questions about the new mini-pumper or AVFD in general, please let me know. Additionally, we always welcome new volunteers. For more information, contact Alex at: Alex@alexnaar.com

Suggestions for Driving in Snow; Snowplower List for 2016

While the Accokeek area has not had any snow this year, weather forecasters predict cold temperatures for the rest of the winter. If driving any time when snow and ice are on the roads, please:

1. Go (slowly) DOWN Cactus Hill Road and DOWN Bond's Retreat Road, and DOWN Apple Valley, instead of UP. That could save you from ending up in the bushes.
2. In snowy conditions, park your car at the road end of your driveway, leaving room for emergency vehicles to get by to your house.
3. NEVER put salt onto the gravel roads. It will destroy them, and result in expensive repairs.

Please be advised that our Moyaone Reserve Roads snowplower, Paul Lincoln and his team,

1. is directed only by the Roads Chair, Stan Fetter (S.Fetter@Fetter.net);
2. cannot be retained for driveways;
3. DOES try to keep the driveway openings, as possible, as he plows the roads. Please work with us, if there should be a snow-heap left in your way (see #1).

Below are available driveway plowers who have said they are again available for individual hire. Note that the roads crew and the Moyaone Association are not involved in sponsoring any particular driveway plower choice. We focus only on the gravel roads of the Moyaone Reserve.

Troy Ackers, 240-882-4298

Jim Boone, 240-832-3591

Dennis Gilroy, 301-775-6743 or 301-743-2232,

Shane LaBrake, sjlabrake@verizon.net, 301-758-6474,
301-203-8954



Sammy (left) was fostered by Moyaone resident Emily Barnes, and adopted 6 months ago. At right are Rocky and Mila, adopted by Emily from Last Chance animal rescue a year and a half ago.

Consider an Animal Shelter When Getting a Pet

by Emily Barnes

Are you thinking of getting a dog? Please consider adopting one from a shelter instead of using a breeder/individual. My name is Emily Barnes and I live in the Moyaone. All of my pets came from shelters; my husband and I also foster animals through Last Chance Animal Rescue, an organization that takes in animals that are within days of being euthanized. They stay at our house for 2 to 4 weeks until they get spayed/neutered, and then we bring them to local PetSmarts to be available for adoption. It's a lot of work (lots of cleaning up and feedings), but it is more than worth it when they are adopted by someone eager to give them a great life.

The reasons to adopt from a shelter are many:

- 1) Shelters have almost all breeds. If you're looking for a specific type of dog, they're there waiting. Breeders often purge their animals at shelters when they're not adopted for one reason or another. Pure-bred dogs also end up in shelters for other reasons (death of an owner, problems with landlords, being under-prepared for the amount of care a dog needs ...).
- 2) Upwards of 2.5 million perfectly healthy dogs and cats are euthanized every year in the United States because there are not enough homes for them. You are literally saving a

life when you adopt. When you buy a dog for sale, whether from a breeder or an individual, you are encouraging them to keep breeding, when around the corner animals are being euthanized.

3) Shelter pets, because they are a mix of breeds, do not have the high incidence of genetic problems that plague pure-breed animals (e.g., Boxers and German Shepherds with hip dysplasia, or Great Danes and Labrador Retrievers with cancer).

Potential dog owners often worry about the temperament of a shelter animal—they think that the animals are there for a reason. Shelters do their best to test the temperament of animals and it is in their best interest to share all they know about the animal with you. Animals that show aggression are most often euthanized. If you are looking for an animal that is good with children, tell them that. Animals, like people, are resilient. Once they are given proper care and exercise, they are every bit as predictable as a pure-bred animal.

Please consider shelters when looking for a new pet. The website **petfinder.com** is a great resource for finding the animal you are looking for. We live in a virtual dog haven here in the Moyaone. Please consider fostering if you are not ready to adopt.

If you would like to meet a puppy that we are fostering, please email me at **emilyviolinbarnes@gmail.com**. We have a new set every month or so. As members of the human race who control this planet, it is our duty to lessen suffering in all its forms.

Accokeek Foundation Events and News

*Anjela Barnes, Director of Marketing
Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park*

All of the events listed below are hosted by Accokeek Foundation (AF) at Piscataway Park located at 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek. For more information visit www.accokeekfoundation.org or call 301-283-2113.

Paint Night: Cherry Blossom Birds. Thursday, February 11, 7–9 pm. \$45 per person (proceeds benefit AF Bluebird monitoring program)

This Valentine's Day, love is for the birds at the Accokeek Foundation! Join us for a Paint Nite fundraiser benefiting the Foundation's Bluebird Monitoring program. Enjoy snacks and cocktails, and a lot of fun!, while learning how to paint these beautiful native birds. \$15 of every ticket sold goes directly to purchasing supplies for building new cavity nest boxes, replacing predator guards, and equipping the Bluebird Monitors with the tools they need to safely monitor our trail of 20 nest boxes. Snacks and drinks will be provided but feel free to BYOB! 21+ only please. Tickets must be purchased in advance by January 25. Visit the website for more information and to purchase tickets (<http://accokeekfoundation.org/event/paint-nite-cherry-blossom-birds/>).

Homeschool Day: For the Brrrds. Friday, February 12, 1–3 pm. Non-member: \$8/child; \$30 package. Member: \$5/child; \$20 package.

Put on your mittens and become a citizen scientist during the National Audubon Society's Great Backyard Bird Count. Warm up to a live theatre performance, a migration simulation, and fun crafts that are "for the brrrds." Contact MaryAlice Bonomo to reserve your space at mbonomo@accokeek.org.

Save the Date: Lattes with Lambs. Saturday, April 2

Join AF for its annual spring awakening event, Lattes with Lambs, and meet the most precious faces of the farm while enjoying farm activities and warm beverages.

New to the community or not a member of the Accokeek Foundation? Feel free to call or stop by our offices to learn how you can support our mission to cultivate passion for the natural and cultural resources of Piscataway Park and commitment to stewardship and sustainability. Or become a member online at www.accokeekfoundation.org/memberships/. (Note: AF offers an introductory \$35 family membership exclusively to Moyaone Association members.)

Calling All Brew Masters

The Moyaone Renovation Committee is planning the first Moyaone Beer Tasting for late February or early March. This event will showcase Moyaone home brewers, and provide an opportunity to taste many varieties of beer and trade information on techniques and brewing tips.

If you brew beer of any quantity or style and are willing to share your skills, please contact Mary Lee Phelps at mlgp42@msn.com. Also contact Mary Lee if you would like to be involved in the planning of this event or to offer suggestions or comments.



Alice Ferguson Foundation Announces Annual Member Meeting

*Julene Joy, Communications and Marketing Manager
Alice Ferguson Foundation*

Everyone at the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF) wishes you a very happy new year! We thank you for your continued support and look forward to another year strengthening our community through shared celebrations and collaboration.

Save the Date for the AFF Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, February 28 from 3 to 5 pm. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting where we'll vote on a new board, discuss new business, and recognize our volunteers of the year. To renew your membership or join, visit our website: <http://fergusonfoundation.org/support/membership/>. If you have questions about your membership, contact Kara at 202-417-3523.

Thank you for inviting us to attend the Moyaone Association-member meeting in December to discuss the Compass Project in conjunction with the Accokeek Foundation. If you have any questions about this project, feel free to contact Laura Ford at lford@fergusonfoundation.org or 301-292-3476.