

The Compass

Newsletter of the Cameron Station Community Association, Inc.

Volume 10 Issue 4 • Summer 2009

A Spectacular Start to the Summer, Thanks to the CCEC!

(Where would this community be without the hard work and dedication of the members of the Cameron Club & Events Committee (CCEC)? They are behind the wonderful community-wide social activities in our community, and every season finds another well-run, fun event for residents to enjoy. Chairperson Ray Celeste provided information about Saturday, June 12, when the CCEC hosted two annual events – the Festival in the Park and the Pool Party – and the Tucker PTA sponsored a Bike Rodeo.)



Thanks to the efforts of CCEC members Donna Kenley and Mary Murphy, over 43 vendors participated in the Festival in the Park, which ran along the median on Brenman Park Drive. Booths offered jewelry; pet care products and services;

children's clothing and toys; photography; paintings; flowers, herbs, fruits and vegetables; women's clothing and pocketbooks; and much more. The Alexandria Animal Welfare League set up a table to provide information about their services. And hungry festival-goers could even get made-to-order crepes, chocolate covered frozen bananas and fresh lemonade.

Across the street on Cameron Circle, the Samuel Tucker Elementary School

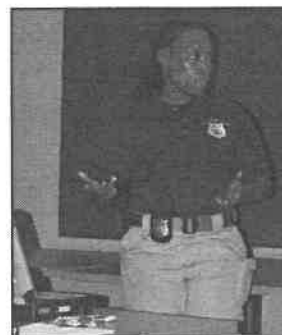


(Continued on page 5)

Coffee with the Cops

By Cynthia Longo

On June 10, "Coffee with the Cops" was held at the Cameron Club. Officer Hurley, Officer May and Investigator Keith of the City of Alexandria



Police Department were on hand to educate residents about local crime statistics and crime prevention and to stimulate interest in a Neighborhood Watch program.

Officer Hurley began the presentation with a discussion of the police department's Strategic Response System (SRS). The SRS uses crime analysis statistics based on calls for service in order "to respond proactively and effectively to new and emerging crime

(Continued on page 10)

Sunday, August 16

1-3pm

**Ice Cream Social and
Pride of Ownership
Awards Ceremony
Cameron Circle Gazebo**



2pm

**Town Hall Meeting
Cameron Club**

Grab an ice cream, congratulate the award winners, and come on in to the Town Hall Meeting to discuss community issues with your neighbors and board members. Make your voice heard in a comfortable, casual setting!

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**CAMERON STATION COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION, INC. (CSCA)**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS*
(boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org)

John Sullivan (*President*)
Brad Holsclaw (*Vice President*)
Mahl Avila (*Treasurer*)
Derek "Dak" Hardwick
Michael Kuhl
Mindy Lyle
Tom McClimon

Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of every month,
except November and December when they are the
third Tuesday.

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Airielle Hansford, Community Manager
ahansford@cmc-management.com

Felicia Mingione-Buzan,
 Assistant Community Manager
fmingione-buzan@cmc-management.com

Meghan Halfhill, Covenants Administrator
mhalfhill@cmc-management.com

Mary Flynn, Administrative Assistant
mflynn@cmc-management.com

703-567-4881

CAMERON CLUB FITNESS CENTER

Kevin Horner, Director
fitness@cameronstation.org

703-567-8555

CSCA COMMITTEES

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

arc@cameronstation.org
 Michael Mayes – Chairperson

CAMERON CLUB & EVENTS COMMITTEE

ccec@cameronstation.org
 Ray Celeste – Chairperson

COMMON AREA COMMITTEE

commonarea@cameronstation.org
 Robert Burns – Chairperson

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

communications@cameronstation.org
 Cheri Avila – Chairperson

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

fac@cameronstation.org
 Stacey Croghan – Chairperson

**CONDOMINIUM/MANAGEMENT
COMPANIES**

Carlton Place Condominium
Main Street Condominium
Oakland Hall at
Cameron Station Condominium
Woodland Hall at
Cameron Station Condominium
 Management Company:
 Community Management Corporation
 Leah Pommrehn, Manager on site at Cameron Club:
 703-212-8020, 703-212-8021 (fax),
lpommrehn@cmc-management.com

Unit Owners Association of the Condominiums
at Cameron Boulevard (Centex Condos)
 Judy Wojciechowski, President
 Management Company: Klingbeil, Powell & Alutz, Inc.
 703-532-5005

The Residences at Cameron Station
 Management Company: Armstrong Management
 703-385-1133
 Angela Luker, Community Manager:
 On-site number, 703-751-4070



From the President of the HOA Board

By John Sullivan

Over the past few months, the Cameron Station Community Association Board of Directors has been working on several issues that have drawn a great deal of attention from residents of Cameron Station. These issues have centered on the pool and the Cameron Club. While the board truly appreciates community input, many of the concerns, and even anger, that were expressed appear to have been based on unfounded rumor. Please be aware that, as always, the board works in an open manner. Residents are encouraged to attend board meetings, and every board meeting begins with a resident open forum. The minutes are posted and are also reported in *The Compass*.

The last Town Hall meeting, on May 17, drew only five or six residents. To help ensure that you receive accurate information, the board and I would ask you to attend the monthly HOA board meetings and the quarterly Town Hall meetings or email the board directly. Lack of accurate information only breeds misinformation and sometimes anger. To paraphrase a clothing commercial, "An informed resident is our best customer."

What's the Best Time for Our Annual Meeting?

The 2009 Cameron Station Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 7-9pm. Registration will begin at 6:15pm, and free food and drinks will be provided. Will you be able to attend? If not, please ensure you fill out your proxy, which you will receive in the mail prior to the annual meeting, and have a friend deliver it to the meeting.

Before the date is set for the 2010 annual meeting, the HOA Board of Directors would like to get the community's input on preferred dates and times. The annual meeting is the most important meeting of the year for our community - new members of the board are elected, the budget is discussed and other important community issues are addressed - and yet it is almost always a struggle to reach a quorum.

The board is open to suggestions on how to increase attendance. Please give your input to community management at ahansford@cmc-management.com. Thank you.

HOA Board of Directors 2009 Meetings

Tuesdays, 7pm
Cameron Club

August 25
September 22
October 27
November 17
December 15

Town Hall Meeting is Sunday, August 16.
Annual Meeting is Tuesday, November 10.
Mark your calendars now!

2009 Cameron Club Guest Passes and Visitor Parking Passes

Available at front desk of the Cameron Club.

Introducing Our New Administrative Assistant

Welcome to Mary Flynn, the new Administrative Assistant for the Cameron Station Community Association (CSCA). Before joining CSCA, Mary co-owned and operated her family's pet-sitting business in Dumfries, VA. Prior to running the family business, Mary worked in Prince William County Schools as a teacher's assistant for students with exceptional learning needs.



Mary can be reached at 703-567-4881 or via email at csadmin@cmc-management.com. We are delighted to have Mary on board.

Committee Updates

Architectural Review Committee

The ARC is looking for members. If you wish to volunteer, please contact the committee at arc@cameronstation.org. An application form can be found on the Cameron Station website, www.cameronstation.org, under Forms and Surveys.

Common Area Committee

New sprinkler systems have been installed, or are in the process of being installed, in five areas of the community. The Donovan Drive/Martin Lane and California Lane pocket parks have systems in place, and installation is underway in the pocket parks on Knapp Place, Cameron Station Boulevard and Somerville Street.

We ask all residents during this summer season to please water trees in front of your homes and in areas where there are no sprinklers.

Cameron Club & Events Committee

In May, the Cameron Club and Events Committee (CCEC) hosted a happy hour at which the Bertie Maynor Lobby was dedicated. Bertie passed on in January. She had worked at the Cameron Club since 2002 and was loved by all who knew her. We miss her dearly, but she remains in spirit in the lobby named after her.



You can see her smiling face in the club's lobby on the plaque dedicating the lobby area in her honor.

Thanks to the outstanding initiative of CCEC member Pinky Fitzgerald, Cameron Station now has adults-only happy hours on the last

Friday of each month, known as TGI (Last) Friday, "TGI(L) F." (see page 12) The June 26 one was held in the courtyard of the new condominium building at 400 Cameron Station Boulevard. It was a big hit, and we appreciate the assistance of Jeanne Edwards and Lenore Marema in setting it up and making the evening such a success.

The CCEC hosted the Annual Festival in the Park and the Pool Party on June 12, both of which were very successful. (See article on front page.)

Please mark your calendar for our Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 16, also the day of the community's

quarterly Town Hall meeting and the Pride of Ownership award ceremony. (See front page.)

The committee would like to express its gratitude to HOA board member Derek "Dak" Hardwick, who continues to provide invaluable guidance to the CCEC.

The CCEC is looking for Cameron Station homeowner residents to apply to work on our committee. If you are interested in helping out your community and making it a better place to live, please contact Ray Celeste at raymond.celeste@gmail.com or 703-819-5203.

Financial Advisory Committee

The FAC is looking for members. If you wish to volunteer, please contact the committee at fac@cameronstation.org. An application form can be found on the Cameron Station website, www.cameronstation.org, under Forms and Surveys.

Communications Committee

The committee made its selection of a part-time website specialist from a number of good candidates. The new specialist began work at the beginning of July and attended the July board of directors meeting. More information about her and the upcoming "new and improved Cameron Station website" will follow in the next issue of *The Compass*.

If you would like to join the Communications Committee or the newsletter or website subcommittees, please contact us at communications@cameronstation.org. An application form can be found on the Cameron Station website, www.cameronstation.org, under Forms and Surveys (Applications are not required to join a subcommittee.)

Committee Meetings

All meetings are held in the Cameron Club. If dates must change, they will be posted on the Cameron Station website at www.cameronstation.org.

Cameron Club & Events Committee

First Monday of the month at 7pm

Architectural Review Committee

First Tuesday of the month at 7pm

Common Area Committee

First Wednesday of the month at 7pm

Communications Committee

Second Monday of the month at 7:30pm

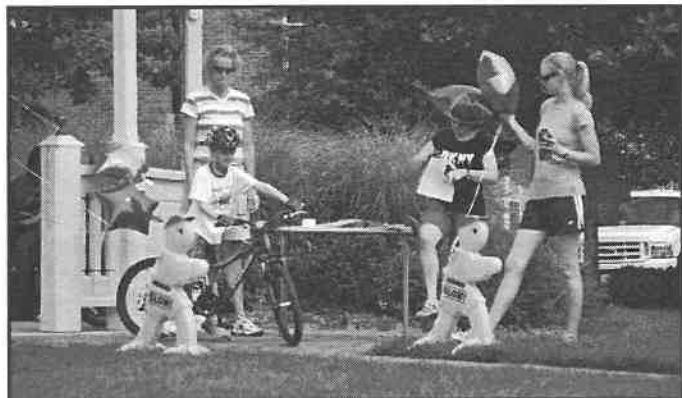
Financial Advisory Committee

Thursday before board of directors meeting at 7pm

Annual Pool Party/Festival

(Continued from front page)

PTA hosted the "Bike Rodeo for America's Future" for our community's beloved children, teaching them about bike safety, including the proper bike and pedestrian routes to school. (See related articles on pages 11 and 18.) Alexandria's police and firefighters were also on hand at Ben Brenman Park for a public safety forum. A very special thanks to them, especially Officer Stitt and Firefighter Lt. Kreisler. We greatly appreciate their support.



It is believed that this year's pool party was the single largest event ever held in the community, with 774 confirmed meal coupons distributed. Our community sure does love Red Hot & Blue barbeque! The clown who made balloon art for the children was once again a huge hit, as were the dual inflatable slide and the moon bounce. We also had a one-man band in the person of John Schneider, who we hope will return to Cameron Station to perform at our holiday party in December. Special thanks to Keith Nahigian, Courtney Nahigian, Brian Evans, Nick Kolovos, Linda Blohm and



Sandra Haasl for their help in setting up and breaking down the chairs, tables and shelters for the event. And we can't forget the work of the Cameron Club & Events Committee members who were there, including Yvonne Pover and Michelle Wright.

(And very special thanks to Chairperson Ray Celeste, who spent the day working at the pool party and played a vital role in the day's success. The CCEC is always looking for people to help, either as members of the committee or at the individual events themselves. Please see the CCEC update on page 4 for more information.)

ALIVE!

(ALexandrians INVolved Ecumenically)

Food Distribution

8:30am - 11:30am

Saturday, August 29

Saturday, September 26

Church of the Resurrection,
2280 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria
(Take 395 north to Seminary Road west,
right on Beauregard, right into parking lot.)

Volunteers Needed!
Thank You!

**The HOA office will be
closed on the following
dates in 2009:**

Labor Day, Monday, September 7

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26

Day after Thanksgiving Day,

Friday, November 27

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

Don't Lose Your Grill!

Management reminds residents who live in townhomes or condos without decks or fenced-in yards to be sure to secure your barbeque grills. It has been reported that some residents have left their grills on their driveways and people driving by have mistaken them for trash.



Vacation Closing of Food Matters

Monday, August 17 to Monday, August 24

Board of Directors Meeting, June 23

By Ann Grochala

Police Report

Deputy Chief Blaine Corle from the City of Alexandria Police Department reported that a suspect in a couple of recent thefts from homes and cars has been apprehended and no additional incidents have been reported. He also noted that crime in the city is down five percent.

Residents raised concerns about difficulties in crossing streets at Samuel Tucker Elementary School with their children, a problem that will worsen as more children walk to and from school due the discontinuation of school bus service. He discussed with residents several ways of slowing traffic around the school, such as limiting the speed limit to 15 miles per hour during school hours and limiting turns on certain streets during times when school traffic is heavy. (See page 18.)

Financial Report

As of the end of May, HOA cash and investments were \$2,188,800.27, year-to-date income was \$1,092,598.39, year-to-date expenses were \$865,398.44 and year-to-date surplus was \$227,199.95. Delinquencies were 2.34 percent, below the standard of five percent.

The Financial Advisory Committee will meet with HOA committees on August 15 as part of the budget process.

Resident Open Forum

During the open forum, strong concerns were raised by a resident about the potential high cost of renovations to the Cameron Club as indicated in the December 2008 Feasibility Study for the Renovation and Addition to the Cameron Club. The resident questioned the process being undertaken regarding the renovation. Board members stated that the HOA had not yet made any commitments regarding the club; the Ad-Hoc Cameron Club Renovation Committee had been established, and as of yet had only held an organizational meeting. The Ad-Hoc Committee is responsible for reviewing renovation recommendations, obtaining input from community members and making recommendations to the board regarding any changes to the club. (Information about the committee, its work and its meeting schedule is posted on the Cameron Station website, www.cameronstation.org.)

A resident questioned the HOA's position that residents cannot bring their own instructors to the pool for private swim lessons. Currently, swim lessons can only be contracted through fitness center management. The Ad-Hoc Pool Rules Committee being established by the board would discuss this issue and make recommendations about private instruction in the future.

Events and Meetings

The "Coffee with the Cops" event (see front page) was a success with 25-30 residents participating. About a dozen residents signed up for the Neighborhood Watch group and HOA management will identify ways to move this effort forward.

Board President John Sullivan attended a recent WMATA meeting to discuss shuttle bus drop-off locations at the Metro station. A number of other Cameron Station residents also attended.

Board member Mindy Lyle and HOA Community Manager Airielle Hansford met with members of the Alexandria City Council and city staff to discuss additional ideas for supporting Cameron Station retailers. Ideas included new park lighting and artificial turf to increase usage of Ben Brenman Park to, in turn, increase customer potential; A-frame signs on Duke Street and in the park highlighting the businesses; and identifying more events for the park. (See article on page 12.)

Action Items

- Meeting agenda – Approved
- Minutes from May 26 meeting – Approved
- Lancaster Landscapes proposal for tree trimming – Approved
- Cropp-Metcalf proposal for compressor/unit replacement – Approved
- Homeowner request to sell towels at the Cameron Club – Denied
- Administrative resolution regarding resident forum – Tabled
- Ad-Hoc Pool Rules Committee charter – Approved as amended

The board ratified the following items that it had previously approved by email:

- Community Pools addendum for lap swimming extension
- WTS contract addendum for additional staffing hours
- Dwyer proposal for replacement of back flow preventer device

**Alexandria
City Law:
Dogs MUST
Be On Leash!**



Neighbors in the News

Cameron Station is filled with interesting people doing interesting things. If you would like to be recognized in a future issue of The Compass, or if you have a neighbor you think deserves recognition, please email the information to thecompass@cameronstation.org.

Cameron Station Resident Is a Website Star

By Catherine Huddleston

I enjoy driving through Cameron Station and seeing my neighbors – walking alone, together, or with their children or dogs, driving, jogging, dining, etc. – and I occasionally wonder: Who are these people and what do they do?

One of these neighbors is Jordan Golomb, an entrepreneur with an interesting story, whom you may not see often these days as she is a very busy lady. Jordan was just honored with being the featured mom on the website, *Mom Invented: Moms Helping Moms*. (See link at end of article.) This mother of three is the founder of Frame Of Mind, a company that sells inspirational messages matted in frames and displayed on note cards. The main product is a frame with changeable cards; card packs are tailored to specific themes and make thoughtful gifts.



Jordan originally aspired to be a professional in a totally different field. She has bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering and spent most of her early career designing airbags and doing crash testing, among other interesting job duties. The idea for Frame Of Mind came to her one morning in 2002 while she was getting ready for work. She had always wanted to be an entrepreneur and was putting positive messages written on post-it notes on her bathroom mirror every day. Her husband Chris (the neat freak) felt sure that there was another way to achieve her goal of daily inspiration.

Thus was born Frame Of Mind. Jordan began with a prototype that was soon changed to a sleeker, lighter product. There were times as her family grew that Jordan felt that she couldn't possibly make this new business a reality. After developing up to 20 different versions before

narrowing it down to a final design, she built 100 units by hand and sold them at craft fairs. As they all sold with positive results, Jordan knew she had something. After five years (and three children), the website was up and running, and the first product shipments were in hand.

With the support of her husband, children, family and friends, Jordan has been able to fulfill her ambitions: sales doubled last year over the year before. Her goal is to double or triple the sales this year.

Her product continues to serve its original purpose, too; messages of inspiration keep her focused on her goals with quotes like "Having a dream you don't pursue is like having an ice cream cone and watching it melt all over your hand." (Walt Disney)

Congratulations, Jordan! We are proud to have you as our neighbor.

You can learn more about Jordan and her business at www.frameofmindonline.com and <http://www.mominventors.com/2009/06/03/jordan-golomb-wants-to-get-you-in-a-good-frame-of-mind/>

More Awards for Diva!

Congratulations to neighbor Cindy McCartney, owner of Diva Designer Consignment and Other Delights, which was voted "Best Consignment Shop" in the July "Best of 2009" issue of *Washingtonian Magazine* and "Best Second Hand Shop" in the June "Best of NoVA 2009" issue of *Northern Virginia Magazine*. The accompanying photo appeared with the *Washingtonian* article and shows some of the new jewelry lines in the store – earrings, bracelets and necklaces – that have been selling like crazy because of the styling, as well as the great prices.

Diva is located at 116 S. Pitt St. in Old Town Alexandria. The shop is on Facebook and Twitter, and the website is www.divaboutiqueva.com.



Fitness Center News

By Kevin Horner

Group Exercise Classes

Group Exercise Session #4 of 2009 begins the week of August 10.

We will be having a \$5 week during the first full week of August; this is a great way to try out a class. The schedule is as follows:

Sports Conditioning with Abs: Mondays, 7-8pm (with Amy)

Yoga: Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30am (with Denise)

Pilates: Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30pm (with Denise)

Yoga: Wednesdays, 8-9pm (with Suzanne)

Yoga Sculpt: Thursdays, 9-10am (with Denise)

Pilates/Yoga Fusion: Thursdays, 8:15-9:15pm (with Denise)

Pilates: Saturdays, 9-10am (with Denise)

Each eight-week class costs \$50 if paid before August 2 or \$55 if paid after August 2.

Workout Parents

Are you an at-home mom or dad who would like a chance to work out during the day? Here's an opportunity to get some exercise and take a short break from the kids, all under one roof at the Cameron Club.

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 8:30am to 10am, you can bring your kids to the Great Room and alternate childcare duties with other participating parents. How often you watch your children and those of other residents depends on how many moms and dads participate. This is not a babysitting or daycare service.

Fitness Center Reminders

We would like to remind residents to please wipe down the machines after using them. We provide wipes, spray bottles and paper towels to make this a little easier. This is a common courtesy to everyone else who uses the fitness center. This time of year people come into the gym with flip flops or sandals on their feet. We remind everyone to please wear appropriate work-out shoes. We have a backlog of lost IDs at the front desk. If you have lost or misplaced your ID, or anything else, please check at the front desk.

Suggestions

This is the time of year when we get numerous concerns about the temperature of the fitness center. We monitor the temperature in the club to try to keep it comfortable for all the people working out. The basketball court has been extremely hot the past couple of weeks. The air-conditioning unit went out and is due to be replaced soon.

For information on any of the programs, please contact the Fitness Center: 703-567-8555 or fitness@cameronstation.org.

Cameron Club Fitness Center Hours

Monday-Friday, 5am-11pm

Saturday-Sunday, 7am-8pm

The Fitness Center's regular hours will be in effect every day, except for the following:

Closed: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve,
Christmas Day, New Year's Day

Closing at 6pm:

Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Eve,
New Year's Eve

Opening at 8am:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day,
Memorial Day, Fourth of July,
Labor Day, Columbus Day,
Veterans' Day, Day after Thanksgiving

School Opens August 3 PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY!

Your careful attention is required more than ever. There is no longer any school bus service to Tucker Elementary, so more of our children will be walking and biking to school. There are more than 70 Tucker students who live in Cameron Station, so please SLOW

DOWN and use caution at intersections. Two crossing guards will be assigned to Tucker to help students, but they need your help to stay safe.

Please, please drive slowly and attentively!



SUMMER ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00/9:00AM		8:30-10:00AM Workout Parents	8:30 -9:30AM Yoga (Denise)	8:30-10:00AM Workout Parents		8:30-10:00AM Workout Parents	
9:00/9:30AM			9:30-10:30AM Stroller Strides		9:00-10:00 AM Yoga/Sculpt (Denise) 9:30-10:30AM Stroller Strides		9:00-10:00AM Pilates (Denise)
10:00AM							10AM-12PM Pick-up Basketball
7:00PM		7:00-8:00PM Sports Conditioning w/Abs (Amy)					
7:30PM			7:30-8:30PM Pilates (Denise)				
8:00/8:15PM			8:00-10:00PM Pick-up Basketball	8:00-9:00PM Yoga (Suzanne)	8:15-9:15PM Pilates/Yoga Fusion (Denise)		

Drop-ins are welcome on a space-available basis for \$10.

This schedule can change at any time due to low class participation, so please call the Fitness Center or check the website for an updated schedule.



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www.cameronstation.org

Coffee With Cops

(Continued from front page)

trends." This includes placing "the highest numbers of officers on duty during peak call-for-service times." Additional information regarding the SRS can be found at <http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/police/info/SRS%20Brochure%20V3%20Final.pdf>.

Officer Hurley presented crime statistics for the west end of Alexandria and for Cameron Station specifically.

Offense	West End			Cameron Station		
	2007	2008	Year to Date 2009	2007	2008	Year to Date 2009
Homicide	2	2	0	0	0	0
Sex Crimes	10	19	4	1	0	0
Robbery	79	58	20	1	0	0
Aggravated Assault	86	75	33	4	8	3
Burglary	194	172	81	0	2	7
Larceny (theft)	1326	1481	501	18	18	5
Auto Theft	255	209	72	0	1	0

Officer Hurley recommended the crime reports website (<http://www.crimereports.com>) where residents can view crime statistics from over 450 police departments. Once an address or city is entered, the site provides a detailed list of crimes that occurred in the specified area and plots them on a map.

What can you do to help reduce and prevent crime? Officer Hurley provided these suggestions:

General tips:

1. Report suspicious activity. Residents can use the police department's non-emergency number, 703-838-4444. (For emergencies, please use 911.)
2. If you are a victim of crime, report it! Otherwise, the police cannot assist you with services, nor can they track the crime or take any further action to prevent future crime.
3. Pay attention to your surroundings.
4. Park in well-lit areas.
5. Record the serial numbers of all your electronics. This will make them easier to track and possibly recover in the event they are stolen.
6. Schedule a security evaluation walk-through of your residence with the police department.
7. Become active in Neighborhood Watch.

To help prevent vehicle-related theft (your vehicle or its contents being stolen):

1. Don't leave anything of value in view. This includes your purse, GPS, cell phone, radio, computer and any power cords that may indicate you have something electronic and valuable in the vehicle.
2. ALWAYS lock the vehicle, even if it is in your garage.

3. Do not leave your vehicle unattended while it is running.
4. Do not leave your garage door opener in the vehicle if you park it outside. It will not take a thief very long to break the window, get your door opener and be inside your house.

To help prevent burglary of your residence:

1. Ensure that your yard is well-lit.
2. Trim hedges and shrubbery to prevent overgrowth that gives burglars places to hide.
3. Invest in good dead-bolt locks.
4. Be sure to lock your doors and windows.
5. Consider installing an alarm system that utilizes a reputable monitoring company.
6. NEVER allow strangers into your residence.

For more crime prevention tips, please see the police department's website at <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and select the Crime Prevention Brochures link. You can also see daily crime statistics and report crimes at this site.

The officers also distributed information regarding how to begin a Neighborhood Watch program and encouraged residents to consider enacting the program within Cameron Station. The "Start a Neighborhood Watch" information can be found at http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedfiles/police/info/prevention_tips/7B%20-%20Start%20a%20Neighborhood%20Watch%20Program.pdf.

A question-and-answer session followed the presentation, during which the officers graciously answered residents' questions.



Please Help Our Soldiers

Donate treats and/or goodies to the Walter Reed Wounded Warriors. Delivered by Pinky Fitzgerald. Call her at 703-461-3027.



Civic Association Update

By Ingrid Sanden

School starts at Tucker Elementary on Monday, August 3. The Civic Association, as well as the Tucker PTA, reminds all residents to DRIVE CAREFULLY throughout the neighborhood and especially to watch for pedestrians at intersections. The school day starts early at Tucker, with students arriving at the building between 7am and 8am. The school day ends officially at 2:35pm.

Busing of Cameron Station students to Tucker has ended (although older students will still be bused to Hammond, Minnie Howard and TC Williams schools). Tucker staff and PTA have developed a program for students who will walk and bike to school; they need your help in keeping these students safe both in the mornings and the afternoons.

The Tucker PTA, via its federal "Safe Routes to School" grant, will host a bike rodeo at Tucker on Thursday, August 6, 6-8pm, in conjunction with the family school kick-off picnic. The Washington Area Bicycle Association (WABA) will provide instruction, safety information and more at the event, which is open to Tucker students and their families. Learn more about WABA at www.waba.org and more about Safe Routes to School at <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>. Affected students will learn more about safe routes once they come back to school for the 2009-2010 school year.

Tucker will also have two crossing guards when school starts, as well as a few road and crosswalk improvements, so please keep a watchful eye on the children making their way to and from school. More than 70 students from Cameron Station attend Tucker Elementary.

The Civic Association continues to follow important issues affecting our neighborhood. Stay current at www.cameronstationcivicassociation.org and via Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=57893870441>.

The Cameron Station Civic Association will meet on Monday, September 14, at 7:30pm at the Cameron Club Great Room to kick off a new year. Please plan to attend.

Ingrid Sanden is president of the Cameron Station Civic Association.



Our Retailers Still Need Our Help

Please give our Cameron Station retailers your business, especially during these difficult economic times.

Main Street Market (703-823-6162) continues to offer espresso and other coffee drinks, as well as excellent sandwiches and a wide range of snacks to eat by the pool; stop by to browse the new shop-within-a-shop offering costume jewelry, fun trinkets and gift items. **Food Matters** (703-461-3663) is open for dinner only, Tuesday-Friday, and is serving brunch, lunch and dinner Saturday and Sunday. A children's menu is now available; visit foodmattersva.com to read about special summer tastings and other events. Outdoor seating is open, weather permitting. And don't forget about **Truc Mai Family Dentistry** (703-461-3000 or 703-778-1221), **Cameron Station Valet** (703-823-0606), and if you have young children, **BrightStart Learning Center Day Care & Preschool** (703-370-8414).



Garage Break-In

In early July, the garage that services 5108, 5112, 5116 and 5120 Donovan Drive was broken into, and some vehicles were stripped of parts. Management is working with the City of Alexandria Police Department to prevent future occurrences. At the time of this writing, the police department had decided to conduct routine walk-/drive-throughs of all the garages below condo buildings in Cameron Station between the hours of 10pm and 5am. As this is preliminary, the times are subject to change, and the police department has not indicated what the frequency of such monitoring will be. As more information is received, the community will be notified through email blasts.

City Is Working to Help Retailers

By Pat Sugrue

The City of Alexandria sponsored another meeting at the Cameron Club on Thursday, June 11, to discuss ways to generate more business for Cameron Station retailers. It was attended by Alexandria City Council members Rob Krupicka and Del Pepper, representatives from several city agencies, one Cameron Station retailer, one HOA board member, the Cameron Station community manager and a couple of interested Cameron Station residents. A variety of issues were discussed, including the following:

Retailer Signs

The city will fix the sign in Cameron Circle to make it clear that traffic must go right around the circle and then down Brenman Park Drive to reach the businesses.

Special Use Permit (SUP) Process

There have been complaints that the SUP process in Alexandria is difficult and slow. Rob Krupicka explained that there is no easy way for city council to expedite it, but they are in conversations with the city's attorney and city planning staff, and hopefully there will be some changes made in the fall. A pizza restaurant has expressed interest in opening in Cameron Station, and it will be fast-tracked to get on the city council docket in September.



Artificial Turf Sports Field

The city has approved the creation of a lighted, artificial turf field, and Brenman Park is considered a premier candidate location. The city will schedule a meeting with Cameron Station residents to determine community interest and support. The city does not expect such a field to create any noise problems, as it will be adults using the lighted field at night, not children, and adult games are usually quiet. There will be no bleachers. New lighting technology should ensure that the lights do not disturb neighbors, either.

Special Events in Brenman Park

The city would like to hold events in the park that will bring people into the neighborhood and thus into the retail establishments. The city has agreed to include information about the availability of food and drink in Cameron Station in its information packets for athletic games and special events.

Signs in Brenman Park

A-frame signs will be developed for Cameron Station retailers through the city's marketing fund and will be placed in three locations in Brenman Park. These will be temporary signs.

Adults-Only TGI(L)F

By Pinky Fitzgerald

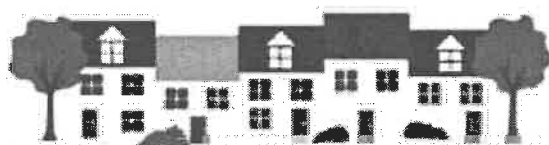
Here's the schedule for the rest of the year's happy hours. They all will be held at the Cameron Club, 6-8pm, on the last Friday of each month:

August 28 • September 25 • October 30 • November 27

There will be no TGI(L)F in December, as the last Friday is Christmas.

WE NEED NEIGHBORHOOD VOLUNTEERS FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER! Please consider hosting this fun event with your neighbors - all that is required is to set up and break down the drink and food tables and act as a greeter as you circulate within the crowd. I can be reached at 703-461-3027 or magsfitzgerald@mac.com.





Main Street MARKET

4901 Brenman Park Drive
Alexandria, VA 22304
Tel: (703) 823-6162

Hours

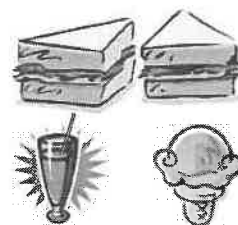
Mon-Fri: 7:00 AM ~ 9:00 PM

Sat: 8:00 AM ~ 9:00 PM

Sun: 9:00 AM ~ 8:00 PM

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- ☺ Smoothie
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West End Farmers Market Thrives

By Susan Birchler

Despite a drippy and slow first day in May, the West End Farmers Market has been thriving this summer. Word of mouth, signs in the community, sidewalk chalk advertising, favorite vendors from last year and new vendors have together created a growing number of loyal customers. With so many rich, luscious, fresh foods and colorful, exciting artists and craftspeople, the market has an energetic buzz and



excitement all its own. If you are a big fan of the West End Farmers Market, please vote for it in this summer's America's Favorite

Farmers Market Contest at www.farmland.org/vote. The contest is sponsored by the nonprofit agency, American Farmland Trust, which is committed to protecting the nation's best farm and ranch land and improving the economic viability of agriculture. AFT feels that farmers markets are an asset to our communities and deserve a lot of support. The winning farmers market, which will be named in late August, will receive free Food to Fork shopping bags to give away to their customers.

If you are looking for some delectable goodies to put in those shopping bags, consider some of our newest vendors. This year the market has added: wines from local vineyard North Gate Vineyards; micro-greens, salsa and hummus from Wisteria Gardens; fresh roasted coffee beans from Beanetics; local honey from Bees and Blossoms; baked goods from the French bakery Bonaparte Breads; decorated chocolates and fresh milk from J-Wen Farms. J-Wen Farms sells small containers of chocolate, strawberry, orange and root-beer flavored milk – you won't believe how good they are until you try them. These new vendors complement the vendors who have returned from last year.

Tommy Tompkins, affectionately nicknamed "The Cheese Man," has returned this year with his famous "stinky" cave cheese, an eating sensation fit for royalty, along with his other cheeses, including creamy delicious goat cheese, yogurt, eggs and Amish baked goods. Many of you may have noticed that Tommy was set up all winter outside the now-closed Cameron Perks coffeehouse, freezing in the cold, to satisfy his customers. This summer, the tent next to Tommy, and complementing his rich cheeses, is occupied by North Gate Vineyards, a Virginia Winery offering delicious red and white wines. At either end of the market you can buy freshly baked baguettes, sourdough and garlic breads, croissants, pastries and tarts to go with the wine and cheese. Looking

for some salad makings? Four vendors offer lettuces, micro-greens, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, onions, radishes, beans and beets, to name a few of their vegetables. And if you need a great vinaigrette or dressing to complete your meal, make your way to ON the GOourmet truck. Parked at one end of the market, they offer locally made condiments of all kinds. You can also buy organic local meats, including bison, and local gourmet ice-cream. Need some berries to top that delicious ice cream? Barry Argento of Papa's Orchards and Alma Diaz of Westmoreland Berry Farm offer beautiful just-picked blueberries, raspberries, blackberries and the first peaches of the summer. Mouthwateringly juicy and sweet, they are perfect over cereal, ice-cream or just by themselves. All kinds of melons and sweet corn will begin appearing in mid-July as well.

Responding to customer requests, market managers Julie Bryant and Susan Birchler have opened the market every Sunday to local artists and vendors. One of the favorite vendors, Peruvian Trends, offers folk crafts from Peru, including knitted puppets, embroidered purses and hats, shirts, jewelry and small carvings. A new vendor is offering handwoven scarves and cloth from Pakistan and India. The Pampered Princess has an excellent array of \$5 earrings to complement her homemade lip balm, hand creams and bath salts. Billie, the flower guy, offers breathtaking bouquets of cut flowers, and his son William sells fresh-brewed coffee, ice-cold water, juices and sodas. SumerDuck Farm comes to the market as often as possible bringing handspun yarn from the wool of alpacas and llamas, handmade soaps, creams and teas. Every week local artist Len Garon sets up his paintings of the Alexandria and Arlington scenery. You can also contract him to do a portrait of your pet. While your dog is being painted, he or she can snack on Lisa Madden's organic pet treats; and while you are at Lisa's table, you can purchase a charming



children's apron. The market managers' table gives away free recipes and information on local food. There is something for everyone at the West End Farmers Market.

If you haven't visited us yet, please stop by. What better way to spend lovely summer Sunday mornings than to pick up fresh orange juice, a pastry, some berries, cream, eggs and cheese for brunch? And don't forget to vote at www.farmland.org/vote. Thanks, and see you at the market on Sundays through November, from 9am to 1pm.

Way to Go...

By Catherine Huddleston

Several months ago, I planned a trip to Los Angeles to visit my family. We have always traveled from Reagan National Airport, but this time I was redeeming airline points and the only flight available was from Dulles International Airport.

I have picked up visitors from Dulles several times, but now I faced the dilemma of how to get to the airport for my noon flight since my husband was out of town that day. Some of my friends in Cameron Station offered their assistance. "P" offered to drive me and "L" offered to leave work early and take me. (Their names have been altered to protect them from being asked for rides by others!)

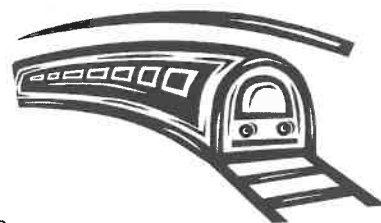
Surely there was another way to get to Dulles without paying a cab. To the rescue came www.wmata.com as my trip planner. After inputting (Departing from Van Dorn Metro) and (Arrival to Dulles Airport), I received a precise plan for my adventure: take the Metro to Rosslyn, then the 5A bus to Dulles Airport. Total Smart Trip fare: \$4.35. The plan worked like a dream. The bus was very nice, with plenty of room for luggage. It made only two stops before arriving at the airport within 30 minutes. I also took it on my return trip and was home in an hour. I highly recommend this "way to go."

If your flight is out of Reagan National Airport, the Blue Line Metro from the Van Dorn Metro Station will get you there, or try a cab for around \$25 for one person.

If your carrier flies out of Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI), you have several good options. My favorite is the Metro: take the Blue Line to Metro Center and transfer to the Red Line to Union Station. Locate the MARC train machines and purchase an express ticket to BWI for \$6 one way. The train will have you there in 33 minutes.

If you are new to the area and are flying from one of our three airports, one of these suggestions could be your Way to Go!

(Ed. Note: As schedules and fares are often subject to change, please check with the above-mentioned means of transportation before embarking on your trip.)



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Sparse Attendance at Town Hall Meeting

By Pat Sugrue

What if they held a town hall meeting and nobody came? Well, it wasn't quite that bad – there were four residents, two Compass staffers, three HOA board members and the City of Alexandria's Fire Chief Adam Thiel.

Chief Thiel talked about plans to correct some long-standing deficiencies in the city's fire department. Consultants have recommended increasing the staffing on city fire trucks from three people to four, as in Fairfax County. New facilities are needed; the newest fire station in the city is the one on Paxton Street in the West End, which is 35 years old and is plagued with rodents and bed bugs. Other stations also provide poor living conditions and have difficulty accommodating modern firefighting equipment.

Chief Thiel addressed emergency services in the city and noted that the 2010 budget adds four 911 positions and one EMS position. The city's EMS agency has been named "Outstanding EMS Agency in Virginia." Every firefighter is also an emergency medical technician (EMT). Because there are only five ambulances to cover 15 square miles, there are sometimes more calls than units, particularly on weekends. Any of the city's 11 fire trucks can be sent in response, as all trucks have life support systems (such as defibrillators) on board, and all EMTs are trained in CPR. Chief Thiel said that the demand for emergency services has increased due to the poor economy. They are averaging 60 incidents a day, with approximately one fire per day. Of the 19,000 calls in the past year, 65% have been EMS (as opposed to fire response) calls. Regarding the ethanol transfer facility, the city does have a Hazardous Materials team in place. There is a foam trailer on site, as the mixture of ethanol and gasoline would require foam to put out any fire.

He also advised that the Code Enforcement Bureau has been renamed the Office of Building and Fire Code Administration and is now a multi-agency permitting center.

Another issue covered at the meeting was the arborist study, which produced three volumes of data on the trees in Cameron Station that were installed by the developer and

the builders. The study looked at the health of the trees, as well as what was planted compared to what should have been planted. The board is discussing the findings and will provide information to the city to assist in the bond-out.

Questions from residents included the following:

- Whom to call about moss on sidewalks, broken bricks, etc. – Call the HOA office.
- What is the status of retail space – In a phone conversation, Greenvest explained that Bright Start is taking over the large room from Cameron Perks (they are now in place); a shipping/package store might be interested in some retail space; and there was some preliminary interest in both the coffee shop and the spa returning under new ownership, but this is very preliminary.
- Can there be another location and/or time for the Annual Meeting – Residents will be asked in *The Compass* about their preferences for meeting to increase attendance. (See page 3.)
- What is status of the linear park – The plan is to take over the mowing from the city, and any concerns about high grass at this time which may encourage ticks and fleas should be reported to Alexandria Health Department.



Fire Chief Adam Thiel and Board Member Mike Kuhl



Help Control Mosquitoes

After an unusually rainy spring and early summer, the mosquito population is thriving. The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate or treat the standing water where mosquitoes lay their eggs and their larvae live and grow. Mosquitoes need only a few tablespoons of water to breed. If you have a birdbath, please be sure

to change the water or flush it out using a garden hose at least once a week. (The birds would appreciate it, too.) Don't let water accumulate in dishes underneath flower pots or in any other containers in your yard or around your home. Keep gutters free of leaves and debris so that water flows freely and does not accumulate. Be sure corrugated downspouts are angled correctly so that they don't collect water in their grooves.

Retail Space for Rent

There are a number of available retail spaces on Brenman Park Drive:

4910 Brenman Park Drive, 1,700 square feet

4911 Brenman Park Drive, 1,025 square feet

4917 Brenman Park Drive, 757 square feet

All spaces are available immediately and can be seen by contacting Bill Dickinson or Melissa Webb at The Rappaport Companies, McLean, VA, 571-382-1200. Bill or Melissa can also provide details regarding the spaces, as well as lease information.



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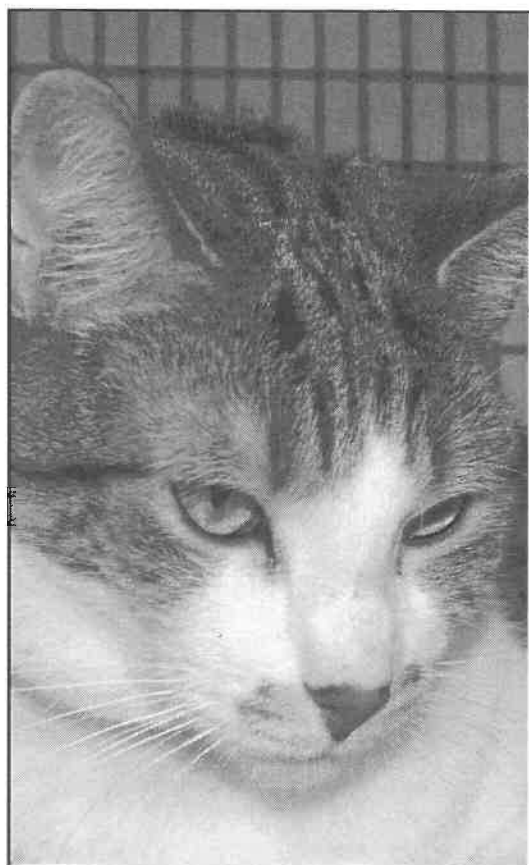
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Traffic Safety in Cameron Station

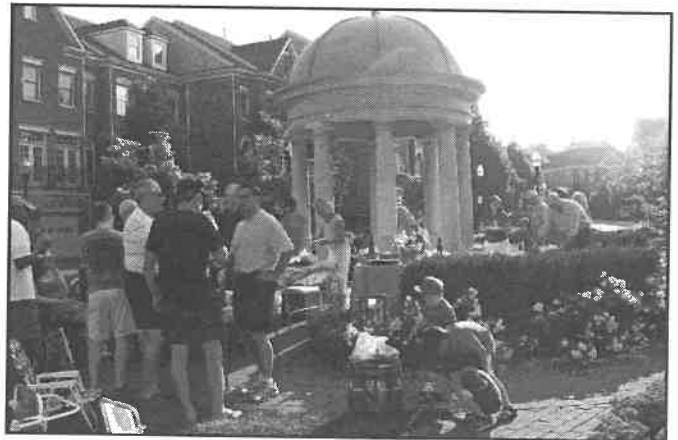
By Eileen Brady

At the recent "Coffee with the Cops" program (see front page) at the Cameron Club, the subject of speeding cars and disregard for stop signs and crosswalk – particularly around Tucker Elementary School – was discussed, along with other crime- and safety-related issues, with officers of the Alexandria Police Department. A few parents and some condominium residents attested to the fact that it can be quite dangerous near Tucker, especially in the mornings during drop-off. The police officers and the Cameron Station board representatives who attended the meeting were receptive to these concerns and encouraged all residents to report speeders, stop-sign runners and crosswalk violators; although offenders cannot be cited without visual confirmation by a police officer, such incidents can be investigated. The more concern expressed by residents, the more likely it is that the police department will activate regular enforcement in the neighborhood.

If you see someone driving unsafely near Tucker, or anywhere in Cameron Station, please communicate your concerns to the Alexandria Police Department and to Cameron Station management. If possible, record a description of the vehicle and its license plate number to pass along to the police. The police can be contacted at the non-emergency number, 703-838-4444; Cameron Station management can be reached at 703-567-4881 or ahansford@cmc-management.com.

If you would like a printable card with contact information for the police and Cameron Station management, please email me at eileen.brady@mac.com.

Eileen Brady is a resident of Cameron Station.

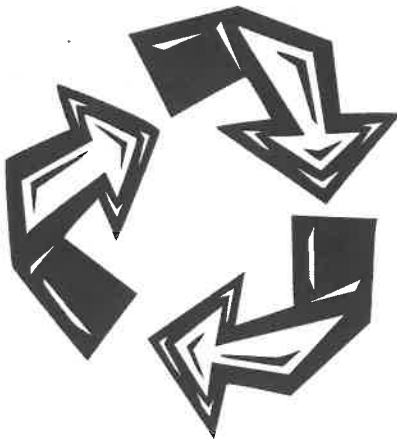


Ticer and Tull neighbors gather in the pocket park for a summer barbeque.

Electronic Version of the Community Newsletter Available

In an effort by the Cameron Station Community Association to "go green," the HOA is offering homeowners the option of receiving *The Compass* via mail (paper copy) or via email by electronic copy (e-copy). A great advantage of receiving the newsletter via e-copy is that you will be able to see the newsletter in color! If you would like to sign up for this and no longer receive a paper copy of the community newsletter, please send an email to ecopyrequest@cameronstation.org. In your email request, please include the following information:

- Name
- Cameron Station address
- Off-site address if you do not reside in Cameron Station
- Email address to which your e-copy should be sent



Please note that if you sign up for this service, you will no longer receive the newsletter in the mail. However, you can always print out a copy at home. Please consider this idea in an effort to be more environmentally friendly.

If at any time you wish to get back onto the mailing list for a printed version of *The Compass*, it will be necessary to give the office 30 days notice so that your information may be moved from the e-copy list back to the paper copy list.

The compass

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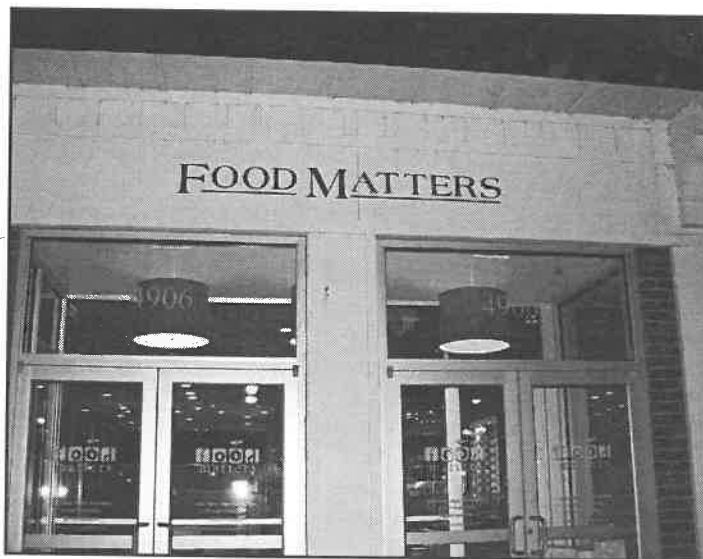
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Lupus Night at Food Matters

By Carla Besosa

On May 26, Food Matters partnered with the Lupus Foundation of America-Greater Washington Chapter to sponsor Lupus Night, with a percentage of sales donated to this worthy cause. *(Lupus is a chronic disease in which the immune system loses the ability to distinguish between foreign invaders and the body's own tissue. Autoantibodies then attack and destroy healthy tissue.)*



Patrons turned out in record numbers, especially for a Tuesday, an otherwise slow night in the restaurant business. All enjoyed the wonderful food and drink at Food Matters and were also treated to a free wine tasting. Sara Gorman, author of *Despite Lupus*, was on hand for a book signing. Informational pamphlets were also available.

I personally want to extend a HUGE thank you to Food Matters for their participation and support and to all of you friends and neighbors who came to support me and this event. A new record was set for both wine bottles and gift cards sold in a single night! Many made supplemental donations as well. It was a successful night for the Lupus Foundation, as well as for our favorite local eatery!

"Eat Local" and Win with Your Favorite Recipe

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDAS) wants to see your favorite recipe made using locally grown, produced and processed Virginia products. Whether you favor Virginia fruits, vegetables, poultry, seafood, dairy products, eggs, honey, condiments, relishes, sauces or nuts, VDAS will post your recipe, together with a photograph of you and your completed dish, on its website at www.viriniagrown.com.

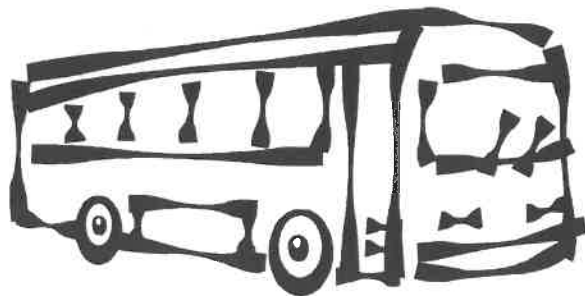
Qualifying entrants will be eligible to win, by random drawing, one of two prize packages consisting of Virginia Grown produce and Virginia's Finest products (one for adults and one for kids up to age 12). The competition is open through Saturday, August 15, 2009. Email your entry to the website or check there for the mailing address.



It's Easy to Find the Shuttle Bus Schedule

Just go to the Cameron Station website, www.cameronstation.org, and you'll find the link to the shuttle bus schedule at the top of the home page.

Please remember that the shuttle bus does not run on federal holidays.



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Thursday: Award winning BBQ Rib night:
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Friday: Prime Rib night.

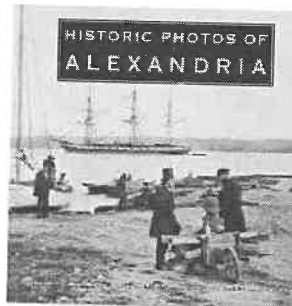
Saturday: Hand-cut Steak and Half Price Bottle Wine night.

Legendary Sunday Brunch
A la carte menu items

Alexandria Library Assists Patrons with Family and Local History

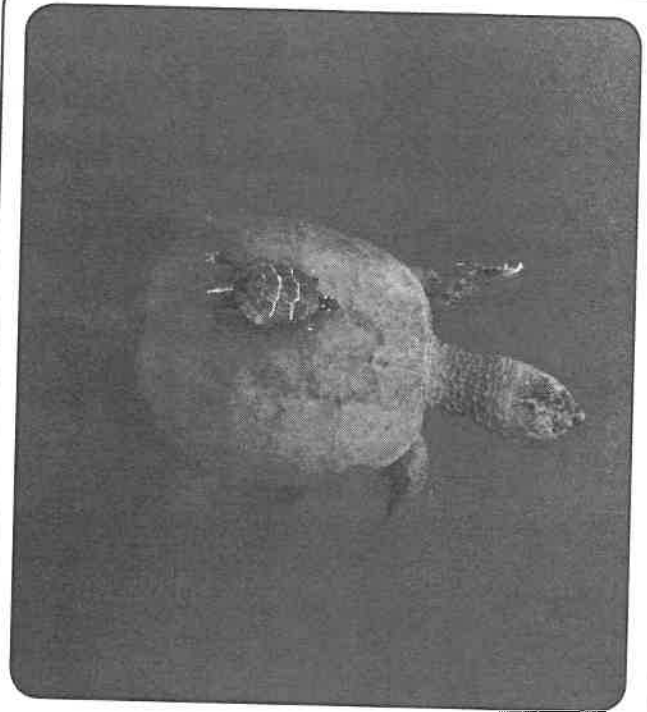
By Mark Schwartz

Alexandria Library's Local History/Special Collections houses many resources for those interested in Alexandria and Virginia history and genealogy and the Civil War. Major activities include generating online exhibits, collection guides and genealogy indexes. This division of Alexandria Library is located inside Barrett Branch at 717 Queen Street in Old Town. For more information or hours of operation, call 703-838-4577.



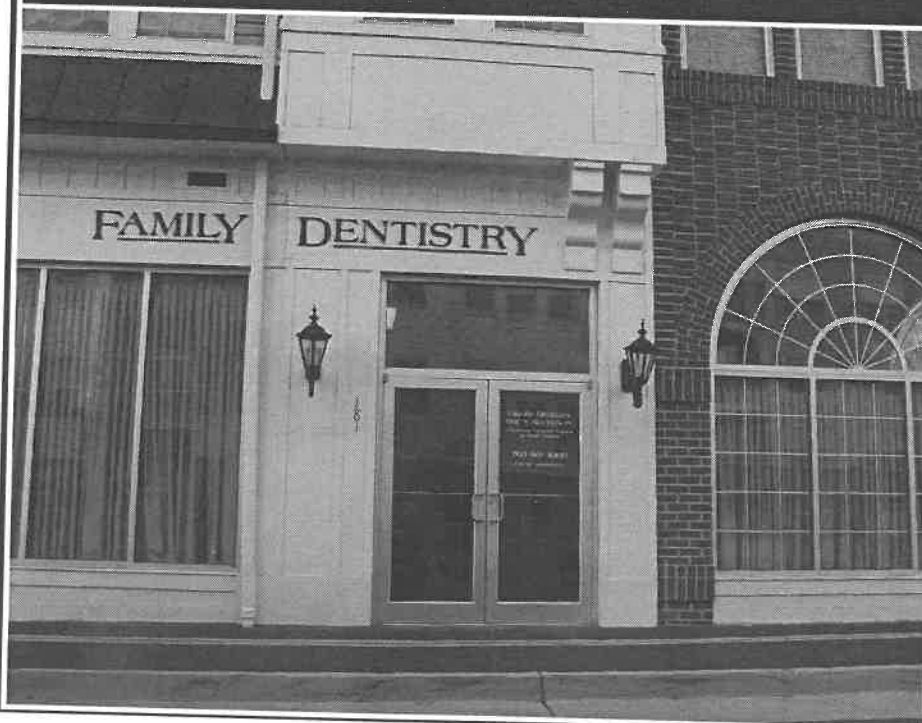
Now on sale at Local History/Special Collections: *Historic Photos of Alexandria* by Julie Ballin Patton and Rita Holz. Includes nearly 200 photos. Copies are signed by the authors.

Mark Schwartz is a resident of Cameron Station and Alexandria Library Public Information Officer.



Photographer Tom Styc estimated the size of this giant turtle in the Brennan Park pond to be about 24" in diameter!

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Cameron Station Book Clubs

"Monday Night Bookball" has some openings. If you would like to join, please contact PJ Sottile at psottile@steptoe.com.

For those of you reading with the book clubs, here are the current selections:

Monday Night Bookball

July: *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski

August: *A Thread of Grace* by Mary Doria Russell

September: *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult

Reading Between the Wines

July: *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks

August: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery

September: *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan



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Reading Between the Wines

Carla's Picks

By Carla Besosa

Birchmere

September 2

Peter Frampton

Greatest hits include "Baby, I Love Your Way" and "Do You Feel Like We Do?"

National Harbor

August 6

Derek Trucks Band (Blues)

November 26

Oktoberfest

Blues Alley

August 21-22

Peaches & Herb

Come be "Reunited" as you "Shake Your Groove Thing"! (What is that, anyway?)

St. Elmo's Coffee Pub

August 21

Janna Audey

Janna has performed at Cameron Perks, Art on the Avenue and various local venues. Come hear this talented singer/songwriter. I recommend St. Elmo's quiche to go with that.

Nissan Pavilion

August 3 and August 5

Jimmy Buffett

Attention all parrot heads! You "Son of a Sailor," "Why Don't We Get Drunk" as you put on your "Pencil Thin Mustache" and head on out to "Margaritaville," where you are sure to experience "Changes in Latitude, Changes in Attitude"? Catch my drift?

Strathmore

August 13

Woodstock's 40th Anniversary Tribute

Multiple Woodstock-influenced artists perform musical tributes to Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Joe Cocker, Jefferson Airplane, Grateful Dead, Richie Havens, Joan Baez, Santana, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and more.

First Thursday/Del Ray

August 6

Health & Wellness

September 3

Taste of Del Ray

The tradition continues with a different theme each month. Enjoy music, exhibits, and other special activities at this celebration of community.

Bangkok Blues

August 19

Jumpstown

"Jump-style" blues (up-tempo) featuring sax player Carl Disque, founder of the Western Maryland Blues Fest

And Another Thing...

Although it's in its 15th year, I just made the discovery: Daniel Donnelly Modern Design Studio, 520 N. Fayette St. in Old Town, is an amazing showcase of home furnishings. Donnelly will custom-build to suit your needs. His finished products can only be described as artistic masterpieces. Even if you are not in the market to refurnish, it's worth a stroll through the showroom just to see the incredible pieces he has created. He is quite personable and more than willing to discuss, explain and expound should you have questions. Simply browsing was a treat, so much so that I wanted to bring this establishment to your attention. See www.danieldonnelly.com for more information or call 703- 549-4672. Open Thursday-Monday.

"Our Neighbors Recommend"

Vendor List on Website Only

The list of contractors recommended by neighbors can be found on the community website, www.cameronstation.org, under "Neighborhood Net."

If you would like to submit recommendations for this list, please email thecompass@cameronstation.org.

Vendor Complaints

If you have used a recommended vendor and have a complaint to make, please send an email describing your concerns to the community manager (ahansford@cmc-management.com), who will keep a copy on file. Any resident may have access to the file.



Clown entertains children at Annual Pool Party.

La Strada

By Carla Besosa

La Strada is the newest addition to the restaurant menagerie in Del Ray. Not to be confused with the Fellini film by the same name, *La Strada* demonstrates a commitment to Italian foods and wines while creating a casual atmosphere with a sense of neighborhood.

Located at 1905 Mount Vernon Ave (former home of Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant), *La Strada* offers dishes representing all parts of Italy, and an expansive selection of Italian wines, in a casual but quaint setting. The old Los Amigos space truly got a makeover and is quite inviting. You may also wish to consider gracing the patio with your presence in nice weather.

Chef Stephen Scott varies the selections with the season so that his offerings are always fresh. Start with the warm rosemary bread served with herb-infused olive oil. From the *antipasti* list, we selected the wonderfully garlic-laden *Bruschetta*; quite tasty. Try the *Barbabietto alla Carpaccio con Gorgonzola* (turnip and beet carpaccio with gorgonzola cheese) for something unique.

The *insalata* selection includes some singular combinations as well. The *Insalata alla Strada* is a fennel salad with oranges and pomegranate. The *Insalata Caprese* resembles the traditional; however, the tomatoes are oven-dried, and the mozzarella is made in-house.

There is a pleasing variety of pasta and seafood entrees. The *Agnolotti di Spinaci* is topped with a rich mascarpone cream sauce. The *Gnocchi di Patate Dolce* (sweet potato)

seems to be a favorite of many of the regulars and is complemented by a sage butter amaretto cookie crumb sauce. I ordered the *Gamberoni alla Siciliana*, jumbo shrimp Marsala with tomato, pignolli, capers, currants and sautéed spinach.

I chose this because the symphony of ingredients was alluring, but I was not at all prepared for the surprisingly wonderful melding of flavors that resulted, making it my personal recommendation! In the carne category, the *Tenderloin de Maiale* is the winner...literally - winner of the 2008 Del Ray Cook-Off! This pork tenderloin is wrapped in pancetta and served with rapini, mashed potatoes and an amaretto sauce.

In addition, there is a *bambini* (children's) menu; Mangia Monday boasts all-you-can-eat spaghetti with a selection of five sauces; and daily specials demonstrate the chef's creative spontaneity (and are posted on the website for your review). Truthfully, I have never had room for dessert, but the dolce selection includes a *Crema Rovesciato di Cioccolata* (chocolate crème caramel) which would have to be my first choice.

Dining at *La Strada* is an enjoyable experience. The staff is friendly and informative, and you will neither gouge the wallet nor walk away hungry. The "dinner rush" seems most apparent early evening on Fridays and Saturdays. I would recommend venturing there on a weeknight or fashionably late on a weekend.



1905 Mount Vernon Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-548-2592

www.lastrada-ontheave.com

Hours of Operation

Sunday-Thursday, 5-10pm
Friday-Saturday, 5-11pm
Sunday Brunch, 11am-4pm
Monday, Closed

Price Range

Antipasti: \$6.95-\$11.95
Entrees: \$15.95-\$22.95
Insalata: \$7.95-\$11.95
Dolce: \$5.95-\$7.95

Smoking

No

Handicapped Accessible

Yes

Parking

Street

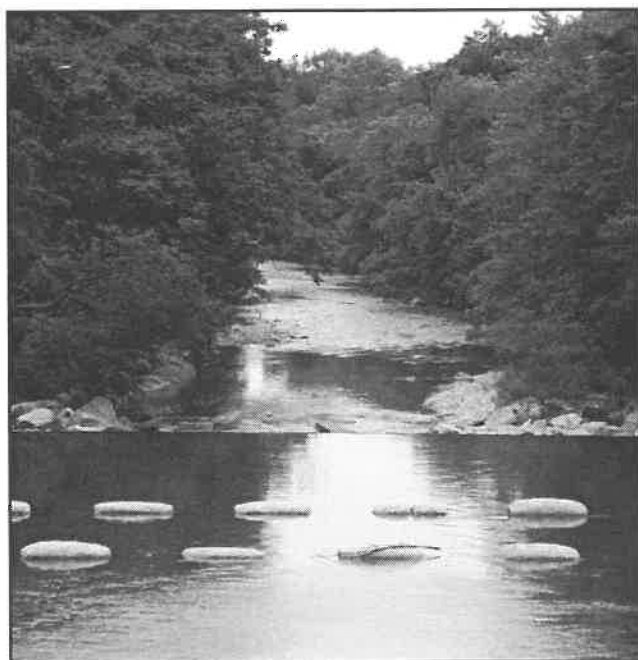
Feeling Out of the Loop?

Decisions on community matters made by the HOA Board of Directors and committees are discussed, debated and determined in public, with the exception of private matters between residents and the board that are discussed in closed Executive Session.

If you want to know what is going on in Cameron Station, attend the monthly board and committee meetings (and/or read the minutes posted on the website); read the bimonthly flyers and newsletters; and sign up for email blasts. If you have any questions of the board, committees or HOA management, send an email. Email addresses can be found on the inside front cover of every issue of *The Compass* newsletter.

Classifieds

JAZZERCISE IS HERE! - Tues/Thurs at 7pm at Tucker Elementary. **ONE WEEK FREE.** Ticket also accepted at Capitol Martial Arts Academy for weekday (w/ childcare) & weekend classes. Call Mary at 703-550-9867 or email cheers2u2@verizon.net.



Cameron Run after a storm.

Support Our Cameron Station Retailers

Bright Start Learning Center Day Care
& Preschool
703-370-8414

Cameron Station Valet Cleaners
703-823-0606

Dr. Mai, Family Dentistry
703-461-3000 or 703-778-1221

Food Matters
703-461-3663

Main Street Market
703-823-6162

Sign Up for Email Blasts for News and Emergency Info

During the emergency situation in January, when part of the community was in lockdown, the HOA office sent email blasts to residents to help keep them updated on the situation. Email blasts are also sent on a regular basis to keep the community informed of upcoming events or to alert residents to changes in trash pick-up, shuttle schedules...all kinds of important and timely news.

If you have not already signed up, you may contact the HOA office via email at csadmin@cmc-management.com or by phone at 703-567-4881 to receive a password.

You can change your password by accessing the HOA website at www.cameronstation.org and going to the resident login information page. After you log in for the first time using the information above, please go to "Website User Information" located at the bottom of the Community Directory page. Then click on "Change Your Password."

If you need to update your contact information at any time, please go to "Website User Information" and click on "Update Your User Information." You may add or remove your email from Cameron Station's email blast list by adding or removing your email address in the "email address" field. Please note that you may specify that your email address be used only by the community manager.

Advertising & Submissions Policies & Procedures

Advertising:

The *Compass* newsletter is published bimonthly. Advertising space is filled on a first-come, first-served basis, and the ads published in each issue are solely at the discretion of the newsletter staff or Communications Committee. Only one ad per advertiser per issue is permitted. Ads must be submitted NO EARLIER than the 15th of the month preceding issue date and no later than the 30th (e.g., August 30 for September/October; October 30 for November/December, etc.). Payment must accompany all ads. Artwork must be camera-ready: 65 line screen or 300 dpi. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ARE PREFERRED. Advertisers will receive a copy of the printed newsletter in which their ad appears. Estimated (*not guaranteed*) time of delivery to residents is last week of first month of issue or first week of second (e.g., last week of September/first week of October for September/October issue).

Article Submissions:

Any submissions for publication must include writer's name, address and phone number and must be received by the 30th of the month preceding issue date (August 30 for September/October; October 30 for November/December, etc.). The newsletter staff, Communications Committee and Board of Directors reserve the right to edit submissions for typos, length, tone and content. They will also determine the newsletter to be "full" at their discretion. Articles are to be factual and of public interest. Editorial content may be deemed inappropriate at the discretion of the newsletter staff, Communications Committee or Board of Directors. Photographs submitted will be returned to sender if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Advertising Rates:

Display Ads (*Camera-ready*)

1/2 page (horizontal: 7" x 4 1/2"; vertical: 3 1/2" x 9 1/4")	\$220
1/4 page (3 1/2" x 4 1/2")	\$135
1/8 page (3 1/2" x 2")	\$110

Classified Ads (*Limit 35 words*)

Resident	\$5
Non-resident	\$25
Lost & Found, Carpool, etc.	Free

Checks should be addressed to Cameron Station Community Association and sent with camera-ready artwork to Community Manager, 200 Cameron Station Boulevard, Alexandria, VA 22304. Artwork may be e-mailed to fningione-buzan@cmc-management.com.

Note: The included advertisements, articles or references to websites of third parties do not indicate an endorsement by Cameron Station Community Association, Inc. and are not verified for accuracy. *The Compass* will not be responsible for poor ad reproduction due to the quality of the material provided by advertisers.

The Compass Staff

Carla Besosa, Eliza Dolin,
Scott E.Z. Franklin, Ann Grochala,
Catherine Huddleston, Cynthia Longo,
Jason Longfellow, Patricia Sugrue

Photographer: Pinky Fitzgerald

Contributing Photographers:
Gardner Bates, Sonia Agosto

Not Receiving the Community Newsletter Regularly?

If you have not been receiving *The Compass* on a regular basis, or know of any neighbors who have not been receiving it, please contact the HOA office at 703-567-4881 or fningione-buzan@cmc-management.com to be sure they have the correct address on the mailing list. Each occupied residence is entitled to one copy of each issue of the newsletter.

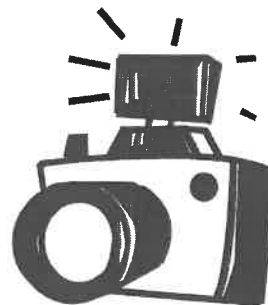
The  compass

Thanks for the Photos

We encourage residents to submit photos they take around Cameron Station or at community events to *The Compass*. You may send them electronically to thecompass@cameronstation.org. Or you may provide prints, which we can scan in and will return to you.

Thanks to this issue's contributors:

Ray Celeste
Tom Styc



The compass

200 Cameron Station Blvd.
Alexandria, VA 22304

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Help us go greener...
Please recycle this newsletter.



Newsletter of the **Cameron Station Community Association, Inc.**