

# The Compass

Newsletter of the Cameron Station Community Association, Inc.

Volume 10 Issue 1 • January/February 2009

## HOA 2008 Annual Meeting

By Ann Grochala

The Cameron Station Homeowners Association's annual meeting was once again a success. On November 12, residents from approximately 163 homes attended the meeting at Samuel E. Tucker Elementary School, enjoying sandwiches and other goodies from Harris Teeter during the proceedings. A quorum was reached with 183 proxies counted. Drawings were held, and 23 gift certificates and two flower arrangements were awarded to residents attending the meeting.



### Police Report

Lt. Jennifer Adcock from the Alexandria Police Department reported that crime was up 3% citywide, but violent crime was down. A suspect in the Cameron Station condo

burglary is in custody. Most incidents were larceny from vehicles; several such incidents have occurred in Cameron Station. Items taken from cars include GPS systems, satellite

radio units, purses and laptops. She encouraged residents to lock their car doors and call the police if they see something suspicious.



Mondré Hornegay from the Alexandria Sheriff's Department reported on the city's new information system for crime victims, called VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), the national victim notification network. This service allows crime victims to obtain timely and reliable information about criminal cases and the custody status of offenders 24 hours a day. It can also be used to see if a registered sex offender is in the area. Victims and other concerned citizens can also register to be notified by phone or email about the status of an offender. The site is located at [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com).

### Community Spirit Award

Sonia Agosto was awarded the Mark Pillow Community

(Continued on page 5)

## Community Spirit Award Presented at Annual Meeting

By Robert Burns



In 2006, the Common Area Committee instituted the "Mark Pillow Community Spirit Award." Mark was a Cameron Station resident who died suddenly in December 2005. He embodied the spirit of Cameron Station and made it a better, brighter place to live.

The award is presented each year to a resident who has exemplified Mark's special volunteerism...someone who has made a lasting impact on the welfare and spirit of our community. The 2008 winner was Sonia Agosto. Sonia did an incredible job of organizing the Cameron Station 10-Year Anniversary celebration, which hundreds of residents attended and enjoyed. Sonia had to build this from the

(Continued on page 6)

### Valentine's Brunch

Sunday, February 15  
11am-2pm  
Cameron Perks  
Coffeehouse

Mimosas, orange juice, cheeses, chocolate fondue and more for Cameron Station residents. Socialize, eat, drink, make merry and win door prizes!



### What's Inside

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

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** ([boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org](mailto: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](mailto:ahansford@cmc-management.com)

**Nicole Rice**, Administrative Assistant  
[csadmin@cmc-management.com](mailto:csadmin@cmc-management.com)

**Meghan Halfhill**, Covenants Administrator  
[mhalfhill@cmc-management.com](mailto:mhalfhill@cmc-management.com)

703-567-4881

### **CAMERON CLUB FITNESS CENTER**

**Kevin Horner**, Director  
[fitness@cameronstation.org](mailto:fitness@cameronstation.org)

703-567-8555

## **CSCA COMMITTEES**

### **ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

[arc@cameronstation.org](mailto:arc@cameronstation.org)  
**Michael Mayes** - Chairperson

### **CAMERON CLUB & EVENTS COMMITTEE**

[ccec@cameronstation.org](mailto:ccec@cameronstation.org)  
**Ray Celeste** - Chairperson

### **COMMON AREA COMMITTEE**

[commonarea@cameronstation.org](mailto:commonarea@cameronstation.org)  
**Robert Burns** - Chairperson

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

[communications@cameronstation.org](mailto:communications@cameronstation.org)  
**Cheri Avila** - Chairperson

### **FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

[fac@cameronstation.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 of Directors

By John Sullivan

The new year brings some changes to the Cameron Station Community Association (CSCA) Board of Directors. Sarah Townes' position has been filled by Derek "Dak" Hardwick, former chairperson of the Architectural Review Committee. I would like to thank Sarah for her participation and counsel while on the board for the past two years. At the board's December meeting, the following board positions were filled by election: President John Sullivan, Vice President Brad Holsclaw and Secretary/Treasury Mahl Avila. As a result of Dak's election to the board, the ARC has elected Michael Mayes, the previous ARC vice chair, as its chairperson. In addition, our Assistant Manager Leah Pommrehn has received a well-deserved promotion and will be leaving the Cameron Station Community Association. However, she's not going far. Leah is the new manager for four of the six Cameron Station condominium sub-associations. Her office will be on the first floor of the Cameron Club adjacent to the Great Room. (See article on page 6.)

I would also like to congratulate Sonia Agosto again on winning the 2008 Mark Pillow award. Her efforts in putting together a truly outstanding 10-Year Anniversary celebration for Cameron Station were duly recognized at the annual meeting. (See front page.) In addition, Sonia and her troops did a magnificent job providing holiday decorations for the community's gazebo, which greatly added to the holiday spirit.



The community enters 2009 in sound financial shape with all recurring service contracts signed and operational. By now you may have noticed that the final paving in the west end of Cameron Station, as well as the parking striping, has been completed. Greenvest continues to make repairs to the areas of Cameron Station that have not bonded out (Phases I, III-VII). Greenvest has proposed to the City of Alexandria that Phase VI be next for bond out. Associated with the developer bond out, the board has awarded a contract for review of the developer/builder-provided trees. This contract will help the association understand the health of the trees and any proposed maintenance, as well as ensure that the trees specified were installed.

While December was a mild month weather-wise, please remember that the cleaning of sidewalks adjacent to a residential unit is the responsibility of the occupant of that

unit. Your assistance in this regard will help provide for ease of access to the neighborhood sidewalks and allow for safer walking in the winter months.

As always, let me say that this community runs on volunteers. (See page 7.) Most of the committees are looking for members, so please go to their meetings, one night a month, and participate. In addition, let me extend an invitation for you to attend the board meetings, the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7pm. The open time for residents is usually from 7:10 to 7:25pm.

It is with regret that I report the closing of Stems. In these tight economic times, our local merchants depend heavily on us to support them. Part of the charm and enjoyment of this community is the availability and diversity of our locally owned merchants. They need your support to help weather these tough times and I ask you to consider shopping local! (See pages 16-18.)

## HOA Board of Directors 2009 Meetings

Tuesdays, 7pm  
Cameron Club

January 27  
February 24  
March 24  
April 28  
May 26  
June 23  
July 28  
August 25  
September 22  
October 27  
November 17  
December 15

Annual Meeting is Tuesday, November 10.  
Mark your calendars now!

# Board of Directors Meeting, December 16

By Pat Sugrue

## Renovation/Expansion of Cameron Club

Mark Orling of RustOrling made a presentation on the possible renovation/expansion of the Cameron Club. The board will look into financing options at its next meeting.

## Financial Report

Year-to-date income is \$2,005,046.01, which is \$29,611.09 above the budgeted amount of \$1,975,434.92. Year-to-date expenses are \$1,765,590.25, which is \$56,761.75 below the budgeted amount of \$1,822,352.

## Fitness Center Report

November was the busiest month since usage records of the Cameron Club have been kept. Earlier weekend hours began in January.

## Committee Reports

The board asked the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) to provide a distinction between water solar panels and energy solar panels for possible inclusion in the Design & Maintenance Standards (DMS).

The Cameron Club & Events Committee (CCEC) reported that about 275 people attended the annual holiday party. One board member raised a concern that while having an area/activities for the children in the gym was a good idea, some parents felt they were not welcome in the other area, and the food and the drink were not equal in the two areas. The annual Valentine's brunch will be Sunday, February 15. Plans are underway for an adults-only party in February.

The Common Area Committee (CAC) presented a proposal for bench installations and dedications. The board asked for more information and a policy with specific guidelines.

## Community Manager's Report

Additional recycling bins will be distributed to residents around January 14.

Due to holidays, an additional recycling pick-up is scheduled for December 27.

The current level of parking enforcement seems to be effective.

The U.S. Army Corps report on the water testing facility in Cameron Circle indicates no adverse health effects from the ground water.

## Action Items

- Contract with Community Pool Service, Inc. for the 2009-11 pool seasons - Approved
- Contract renewal with SimplexGrinnell for routine inspection and maintenance of fire detection systems - Approved
- Suspension of privileges for non-payment of assessments - Approved
- Parking enforcement level of seven hours per week - Approved

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

New Years Day, Thursday, January 1  
President's Day, Monday, February 16  
Memorial Day, Monday, May 25  
Day before Independence Day,  
Friday, July 3 (Tentative)  
Labor Day, Monday, September 7  
Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26  
Day after Thanksgiving Day,  
Friday, November 27  
Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

## Addendum/Correction

In the November/December 2008 anniversary issue of *The Compass*, we published a list of neighbors who had passed away over the past ten years. We missed Anne Gatza, wife of Paul Gatza; Anne died in June 1999. Paul is the author of the Cameron Station anthem (*page 6 of November/December issue*), and the introduction to his anthem said, "Paul was one of the original residents of Cameron Station...." We should have said "is," as Paul still lives on Waple Lane.

If we have missed remembering anyone else, please send the information to [thecompass@cameronstation.org](mailto:thecompass@cameronstation.org).

# Annual Meeting

(Continued from the front page)

Spirit Award for her many hours of volunteer work on Cameron Station's 10-Year Anniversary celebration. HOA president John Sullivan paid tribute to Sonia, noting that she put together "Sonia's Troops," a collection of people from the community who volunteered for anniversary events. She didn't put together just one party but several, with events on multiple days. This was the first time Cameron Station had hosted events just for adults, but there were also events for kids and dogs - something for everyone! He said that the HOA board gave Sonia a budget, but it could not control the attendance, as these were events for the entire community. Despite this challenge, the events came in well under budget.

## Reports

John introduced CMC/HOA staff members at the meeting, and committee reports were given. Residents were told that if they wish to file a complaint, a new form needs to be filled out due to state requirements; a phone message or email is no longer sufficient.

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) mentioned that the new Design & Maintenance Standards (DMS), the culmination of six months of work by the ARC, had recently been mailed to residents. The revised standards provide a bit more flexibility in making alterations to residences and properties.

The Communications Committee plans a new and improved website for 2009. All of the site will be public, with the exception of the resident directory.

Board Member Mike Kuhl reported on the Virginia Paving/Norfolk Southern situation. He said that the city is doing an industrial use study, due out in March, on that section of the Eisenhower corridor. An external audit of city staff activity related to the Norfolk Southern problem has been requested. The city has selected two lawyers to review documents. (Their report may be viewed at <http://dockets.alexandriava.gov/fy09/121308ph/di19.pdf>.)

HOA Board Vice President Brad Holsclaw, who is the board's liaison with Greenvest on the bond out, reported on a recent meeting with the developer. He noted that the HOA is only an observer in the bond out process and that issues must be resolved between Greenvest and the city. Phase II's civil bond out is complete, with the landscaping portion being worked out.

John Sullivan reported that a tree study of the community's trees was to begin and continue over the course of several weeks.

It was reported that the board had approved the 2009 budget, and HOA assessments will increase about \$7 per month.

## Other Matters

An announcement was made that Stems would be providing holiday centerpieces for resident families of deployed service men or women.

During the Open Forum, an inquiry was made about how to address residences where there appear to be a large number of people living and a number of cars. If such a situation is observed, the HOA office should be contacted.

## ALIVE!

(ALexandrians INVolved Ecumenically)

### Food Distribution

Saturday, January 31

Saturday, February 28

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!**

## Important Assessment Information!

If you have your assessments automatically withdrawn from your bank account, it is your responsibility to notify your bank of this year's increase in the fee.



# Assistant Manager Leah Pommrehn Receives Promotion

Congratulations to Leah Pommrehn, who has been promoted to the position of site manager for the sub-association condominium associations here in Cameron Station.



"I have enjoyed working directly for the Cameron Station master association, and I am excited about my new adventure with the four sub-association condo associations," explained Leah. "My office will still be in the Cameron Club, only now on the first floor, through the French doors. I can be reached at 703-212-8020 or by my same email, [lpommrehn@cmc-management.com](mailto:lpommrehn@cmc-management.com)."

Until a new assistant manager is hired, please contact Community Manager Airielle Hansford with any questions you would typically direct to Leah. She can be reached by email at [ahansford@cmc-management.com](mailto:ahansford@cmc-management.com).

If you have an inquiry about the Cameron Station newsletter, website log-in or facility passes, or if you need general information about Cameron Station, please email [csadmin@cmc-management.com](mailto:csadmin@cmc-management.com). If you have a question about the Cameron Station Community Association's covenants, conditions and/or restrictions, please email [mhalshill@cmc-management.com](mailto:mhalshill@cmc-management.com). If you still aren't sure whom to contact, please call the master association office at 703-567-4881.

## Spirit Award

*(Continued from the front page)*

ground up, and she actively assembled volunteers, procured funding and organized each of the events with an amazing spirit of cooperation. Sonia received a number of nominations and definitely personifies the spirit of the Mark Pillow Award. Congratulations to Sonia!

Robert Burns is the chairperson of the Common Area Committee.

## Change in Advertising Rates

Cameron Station is now completely built out, resulting in an increase in circulation of the newsletter. Beginning with the March/April issue, *The Compass* display (camera-ready) advertising rates will be as follows:

|          |       |
|----------|-------|
| 1/2 page | \$220 |
| 1/4 page | \$135 |
| 1/8 page | \$110 |

This is the first increase in advertising rates since 2004! There will be no increase in classified ad rates. Please see page 27 for complete rate information, ad dimensions, policies and procedures.

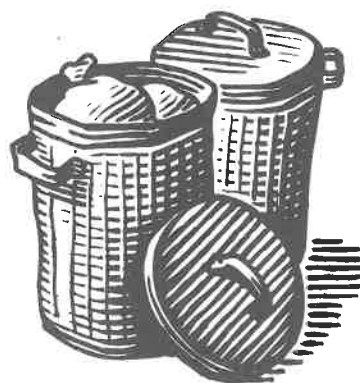
## Trash Reminder

Please remember that all trash must be put in a trash can, and please be sure the lid is securely fastened to prevent the trash from blowing all over the neighborhood. Thank you.

## Trash Collection in Inclement Weather

American Disposal Services will cancel collection in areas in which they deem that the roads are unsafe due to snow and/or ice. There will be no adjustments or make-up schedule for missed services due to inclement weather.

Trash/recycling collections will resume on your next regularly scheduled service day. Please return your trash cans to your garage until the next pick-up.





# Committee Updates

## Architectural Review Committee

No update received.

## Common Area Committee

See Pillow Award article on front page.

## Cameron Club & Events Committee

The annual Holiday Party was attended by almost 300 residents. We used the gym for the first time to accommodate the children, and it worked out quite nicely. La Casa's food was very much enjoyed by all, and Santa was also a big hit. The support that was received from CCEC members, as well as Sonia Agosto, Brian Evans, Nick Kolovos, Tai Le and Bo Schnurr is greatly appreciated, as is that of the many other residents who volunteered their time and talents. We could not have done it without their efforts! The CCEC Committee wishes all residents a Happy New Year. (See the front page for details on the annual Valentine's Party.)

## Financial Advisory Committee

No update received.

## Communications Committee

The Communications Committee meeting date has changed from the second Tuesday to the second Monday of each month. We meet at 7:30pm in the Henderson Room in the Cameron Club. We are continuing to work on the website and plan to have it changed to a public site with no password needed (except to access the resident directory). We expect to have this in place by February, so look for an update in the February flyer. We want to get the word out to everyone, so that more people will access the website for community information and updates. If you have any thoughts or ideas about the website or other community communications, please feel free to contact us at [communications@cameronstation.org](mailto:communications@cameronstation.org) or join us at our monthly meeting.



Communications Committee members and friends joined together at Food Matters for their annual holiday dinner.

## 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](http://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

Third Thursday of the month at 7pm

## Volunteers Needed for HOA Committees

The HOA advisory committees are the lifeblood of Cameron Station. Without them, and the board of directors, this community could not function.

Descriptions of the committees and their responsibilities may be found on the community website, [www.cameronstation.org](http://www.cameronstation.org), and on page 6 of the November/December 2008 issue of *The Compass*.

If you would like to join a committee, please contact the community manager at [ahansford@cmc-management.com](mailto:ahansford@cmc-management.com) or 703-567-4881 for an application.

## New Hours for Cameron Perks

Monday-Friday, 6am-4pm

Saturday, 7am-7 pm

Sunday, 7am-4pm

# Fitness Center News

By Kevin Horner

## Group Exercise Classes

Group Exercise classes are going strong; these classes continue to be very popular. Walk-ins on the night of a class are welcome for a \$10 fee; this is a great way to try out a class. The schedule is as follows:

**Muscle Sculpt:** Mondays, 7-8pm (with Cynthia)  
**Yoga:** Tuesdays, 8-9am (with Denise)  
**Pilates:** Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30pm (with Denise)  
**Muscle Sculpt:** Wednesdays, 7-8pm (with Kathy)  
**Yoga:** Wednesdays, 8-9pm (with Suzanne)  
**Yoga Sculpt:** Thursdays, 9:30-10:30am (with Denise)  
**Self Defense:** Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm (with Len)  
**Kickboxing:** Thursdays, 7:30-8:30pm (with Len)  
**Pilates:** Thursdays, 8:15-9:15pm (with Denise)  
**Pilates:** Saturdays, 9-10am (with Denise)  
**Yoga:** Saturdays, 10-11am (with Denise)

## 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.

## A Few Reminders

- With the winter months right around the corner, we would appreciate it if residents would remember to clean off the bottoms of their workout shoes before entering the fitness center. Dirt, sand and salt can get into the machines and cause them to break down prematurely.
- Cell phones have become a nuisance in the fitness center. As a courtesy to other residents, please limit cell phone use to the stairwell or the lobby and put the ringer on vibrate.
- There is a 30-minute time limit on all cardio machines. Please keep this in mind so that other residents can utilize the machines.
- Personal Hygiene: Obviously people will sweat when they are working out. Please remember to use some sort of antiperspirant and/or deodorant. Please use colognes and perfumes minimally. In our small workout space, odors can fill up the space quickly.

Keeping these few items in mind, along with a little courtesy and tolerance, will help ensure that all residents who use the fitness center have a rewarding experience.

## Suggestions

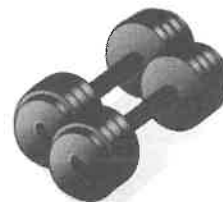
We appreciate all the positive input we receive here at the club. We received a suggestion that we fix the broken mirror, and this has been taken care of.

All of us at the Cameron Club appreciate everyone's commitment to fitness, and we value your support throughout the year. Thanks for making the fitness program here at Cameron Station a huge success!

For information on any of the programs, please contact the Fitness Center at 703-567-8555 or [fitness@cameronstation.org](mailto:fitness@cameronstation.org).

## New Fitness Center Hours

The Fitness Center now opens one hour earlier on weekends: hours are 7am-8pm. Weekday hours will remain the same:  
5am-11pm.



## 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



## WINTER ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

|             | Sunday | Monday                                    | Tuesday                               | Wednesday                               | Thursday                                                                     | Friday                          | Saturday                            |
|-------------|--------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8:00/9:00AM |        | 8:30-10:00AM<br>Workout Parents           |                                       | 8:30-10:00AM<br>Workout Parents         |                                                                              | 8:30-10:00AM<br>Workout Parents |                                     |
| 9:00/9:30AM |        |                                           | 9:30-10:30AM<br>Stroller Strides      |                                         | 9:30-10:30 AM<br>Yoga/Sculpt<br>(Denise)<br>9:30-10:30AM<br>Stroller Strides |                                 | 9:00-10:00AM<br>Pilates<br>(Denise) |
| 10:00AM     |        |                                           |                                       |                                         |                                                                              |                                 | 10:00-11:00AM<br>Yoga<br>(Denise)   |
|             |        |                                           |                                       |                                         |                                                                              |                                 | 10AM-12NOON<br>Pick-up Basketball   |
| 6:30PM      |        |                                           |                                       |                                         | 6:30-7:30PM<br>Self Defense for<br>Women and Men<br>(Len)                    |                                 |                                     |
| 7:00PM      |        | 7:00-8:00PM<br>Cardio Sculpt<br>(Cynthia) |                                       | 7:00-8:00PM<br>Muscle Sculpt<br>(Kathy) |                                                                              |                                 |                                     |
| 7:30PM      |        |                                           | 7:30-8:30PM<br>Pilates<br>(Denise)    |                                         | 7:30-8:30PM<br>Street Smart<br>Kickboxing for<br>Women and Men<br>(Len)      |                                 |                                     |
| 8:00/8:15PM |        |                                           | 8:00-10:00PM<br>Pick-up<br>Basketball | 8:00-9:00PM<br>Yoga<br>(Suzanne)        | 8:15-9:15PM<br>Pilates/Yoga<br>Fusion<br>(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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# "Adopted" Tucker Families Give Heartfelt Thanks

By Mindy Lyle

As in years past, the Cameron Station community was generous with both their time and money in support of the Tucker School Adopt-a-Family holiday gift program. Neighbors provided gifts and necessities to 38 families (almost double the number of families who were adopted in 2007!) who had no hope of having a merry Christmas. Thanks to all who participated; and just in case you were wondering if your generosity was appreciated, read this message from a thank-you card received from one of the families, followed by the family's own message:

"Some people seem to specialize  
In doing thoughtful deeds.  
Before you ask, they understand  
Your problems and your needs.  
They help because they want to,  
They find joy in being kind,  
And making others happy  
Is the first thing on their minds.  
They make this world a better place  
By practicing the art  
Of reaching out to others  
And by giving...from the heart."

From the family:

"Thank you for the gifts you gave our family. We all wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and new years eve. May God always bless you and your family now and forever. These are our sincere wishes."

*Mindy Lyle is a member of the Cameron Station Board of Directors.*



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## Cameron Station Resident Publishes Memoir About Late Wife

Chad Moutray, whose wife Laura died from breast cancer in 2007 (see January/February 2008 issue of *The Compass*), has written a loving memoir of their five years together. The book is entitled *My Life with Laura: A Love Story*.

In discussing his writing of the book, Chad explained, "I realized that Charlotte would probably not remember her mother, and if she did, it would unfortunately be the mother who was sick with cancer. This inspired me to put my life with Laura on paper, so that Charlotte would grow up better knowing her mother."

The memoir also proved therapeutic for Chad. "My life completely changed with my wife's diagnosis, and in a very short period of time, I lost my wife and became a single father. Writing about my life with Laura helped me to recover from my loss, allowing me to move on."

Chad wrote the book mostly at night after Charlotte went to bed. Though Charlotte will have to grow up without her mother physically present, Laura's legacy and memory will live on through this memoir.

*My Life with Laura: A Love Story* is available on *Lulu.com* as a paperback book or a download. On the Lulu website, the entire prologue of the book can be previewed. Chad has also created a special page on his personal blog to discuss the book. For more information, contact Chad at [moutray@comcast.net](mailto:moutray@comcast.net) or 703-751-1027.

# The Gift of Giving

By Mark Schwartz

Over the last few months, patrons have asked us how they can help the Alexandria Library. Here are several ways:

## Alexandria Library Foundation

Our tax-exempt, 501(c)3, private, nonprofit organization enhances services through private donations and the naming of areas (such as meeting rooms) or fixtures (such as carrels). For more information, please pick up an Alexandria Library Foundation brochure or call the Library Administration at 703-519-5905. Patrons may also designate the "Alexandria Library Foundation" when completing their United Way gift-giving programs.

## Donation of Materials

Materials such as books, CDs and DVDs can be donated to our branches to be placed in circulation or to be sold at book sales sponsored by Library Friends groups. (See below.) Please contact your local library branch for more information.

## Amazon Wish Lists

We have two *Amazon.com* Wish Lists for items that we would like to add to the adult and children collections. Please search for "Alexandria Library" on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## Friends of Alexandria Library

Each library branch or division has a Friends group. Your membership contribution enhances services and materials for children and adults. For more information, pick up a Friends brochure or contact your favorite branch or division.

If you have further questions about ways to give to the Alexandria Library, please call me at 703-519-3498.

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

## Support Our Cameron Station Retailers

Bright Start Learning Center  
Cameron Perks Coffeehouse  
Cameron Station Valet Cleaners  
Dr. Mai, Family Dentistry  
Food Matters  
L'Vida Spa & Salon  
Main Street Market

## Report Streetlight Outages

It is impossible to detect burned out streetlights during the hours that the HOA office is open, and management can't fix the problem if they don't know about it! If you see a streetlight that is out, please check the lamp post for an identifying number and provide it and the exact location of the light to the HOA office at 703-567-4881 or [ahansford@cmc-management.com](mailto:ahansford@cmc-management.com), and it will be repaired. Thank you.

## Please Pick Up After Your Pets!



A reminder that the City of Alexandria requires pet owners to leash and pick up after their pets. The Cameron Station pet policy requires that pet owners must leash and directly control, or carry in a pet carrier, all pets when on common areas. Pet owners are required to clean up pet waste and dispose of it properly in either a waste container belonging to the pet owner or in a community pet waste station.



*Main Street Condo residents turn holiday lobby decorating into an annual party!*

# Civic Association Update

By Ingrid Sanden

The Cameron Station Civic Association will meet on Monday, March 2, at 7:30pm in the Cameron Club Great Room for its regular membership meeting. Please check our website, [www.cameronstationcivicassociation.org](http://www.cameronstationcivicassociation.org), for updated information about the agenda and the featured speaker.

## Norfolk Southern

The civic association continues to work on the Norfolk Southern ethanol transloading facility, located right in our backyard. At this writing (late December), the city's independent review of the situation was released and posted on its website. You may download the report from <http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/special/transloading/TransloadingIndependentReviewDec2008.pdf>. (See article on page 14 of this issue of The Compass for additional information.)

The city's legal operation against Norfolk Southern was moving forward as well, with a judge hearing motions for summary judgment on December 18, 2008. A short synopsis of the case:

After Norfolk Southern began the ethanol transloading operation in April, the city was ready to restrict the number of trucks that are loaded with ethanol and allowed to use city streets. The "haul-route permit" was issued on June 4. It restricted the hours of operation from 7am to 7pm and the number of daily trucks to 20. Norfolk Southern stated that not only did it not need to apply for a permit, a permit was not required. A few days later, the company filed a federal lawsuit arguing that city authority is preempted by federal laws regulating railroads, rail safety and railroad transportation of hazardous materials.

Judge James Cacheris announced that he would be ready to rule in February in a case that will likely have national significance. Please check our website for more information on this case as it becomes available.

The Samuel E. Tucker Elementary School PTA continues to be a strong ally in this fight against Norfolk Southern. The PTA has helped organize a letter drive, with members sending more than 120 letters to Senators Webb and Warner and Representative Moran about this issue. The PTA will also ramp up efforts in February. If you'd like more information about how to become involved in the Tucker PTA, please visit <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/tucker/pta-membership-form.pdf>. (You don't have to have a Tucker student to be a member.)

## Virginia Paving

Virginia Paving will begin operations again when the weather warms up. In 2008, there were 36 complaints made about activities (smells, noise, etc.) at Virginia Paving that were followed up on by city employees. Many reasons were given for the complaints, which ranged from traffic

signal problems to engines idling near our neighborhood to distinct odors coming from either the plant or trucks leaving the plant. The next meeting of the Virginia Paving Community Liaison Committee will be February 11 at 7pm in the Tucker School mini auditorium on the second floor. Please attend if you're able.

For your reference, the 24-hour complaint hotline number is 703-906-9918. You can find more information about Virginia Paving's SUP at the city's website: <http://alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default.aspx?id=7760>.

## City Elections

We invite residents to get involved in the city council election process. Residents throughout the city will vote for six at-large council members, as well as for mayor, on Tuesday, May 5. We invite you to stay informed about local issues and candidates' views on the issues identified on our website. As debates and forums are scheduled, we will post information about them on our website so you'll be able to attend, ask questions and find out how candidates plan to address West End concerns. Cameron Station and the West End are underrepresented on the council, and it's time to make our voices heard.

## Stay Informed

Join our Facebook page to get updates and meeting announcements at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=57893870441> or join our email blast list by sending an email to [cscivicassn@gmail.com](mailto:cscivicassn@gmail.com). (If you have signed up previously at [cscivicassn@cs.com](mailto:cscivicassn@cs.com), your email address will automatically be transferred to this new account. Please update your address list!)

Thank you for your ongoing support and interest in civic association activities. Please join us and get involved!

*Ingrid Sanden is the president of the Cameron Station Civic Association.*

## Fling into Spring at Tucker Elementary

Samuel E. Tucker Elementary School will host a Spring Fling on Friday, April 17. Come enjoy a reasonably priced dinner and a raffle with amazing prizes! If you'd like to share an item for the raffle, or would like to donate to the event, please contact Ingrid Sanden at [iasanden@gmail.com](mailto:iasanden@gmail.com) or Amy Bartlett at [amyandcy@hotmail.com](mailto:amyandcy@hotmail.com).

# Annual Holiday Party, Sunday, December 7



# DHS / APD Ethanol Facility Threat Assessments

*(At the November 12 HOA Annual Meeting, a resident requested information on any threat assessments being conducted on the Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transfer Facility located across from Cameron Station and Tucker Elementary School. The following information was provided by the City of Alexandria on November 18. It is a comparison summary of the Police Department's and Department of Homeland Security's threat assessments of the facility. The information is also on the ethanol webpage of the city's website, <http://alexandriava.gov/special/transloading/default.aspx>.*

*U.S. Department of Homeland Security Determines Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility a Low Threat; Transportation Security Administration Conducts Assessment; Results in Line with City Findings*

In a June 20 letter to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary, Michael Chertoff, Senator John Warner and Congressman James Moran requested that DHS conduct a security/threat assessment of the Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSRR) ethanol transfer facility at 1000 S. Van Dorn Street. Secretary Chertoff then directed the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) to conduct the assessment.

On October 11, the City received the final report from DHS and sent it to the Alexandria Police Department Office of Homeland Security for comparison with the City's security/threat assessment conducted on May 29. Alexandria Police Captain Al Tierney compared the results of both reports and determined that the TSA report did not vary significantly from the Police Department's report.

The City's assessment noted the facility's physical security defects; at that time, NSRR agreed to address each noted defect. The TSA assessment re-affirmed the security defects and confirmed NSRR's commitment to address them. No new defects related to the facility were identified.

Some of the security items already addressed by NSRR include the following:

- Since the beginning of September 2008, a contracted private security company has posted an unarmed guard on site whenever the facility is not in operation.
- The Fire Department has held joint training exercises both on and near the facility.
- Some of the remaining physical security issues identified for remediation in both reports are in various stages of resolution.

Other findings from the City and TSA security/threat assessments include the following:

- Both assessments indicated that there is no critical infrastructure located within the primary life/safety threat area.

- Both assessments indicated that there is an extremely low to nonexistent risk of a significant explosion on the site. The major consequence would be an on-site fire.

- The TSA assessment noted the foam fire suppressant equipment and supplies that NSRR has provided to the City Fire Department and deemed them adequate.

- The TSA assessment implied that the City's mandated truck route was not the safest route, and that the City did not clearly have the authority to control the truck routing to and from the site.

In his review of the City and TSA reports, Captain Tierney included the following facility threat assessment rating comparisons:

- How likely is it that someone would want to strike the target?

City Assessment: Low Threat  
TSA Assessment: Extremely Low Threat

- How easy is it to strike the target?

City Assessment: High Threat  
TSA Assessment: Medium Threat

- What would be the change in this rating if NSRR completed all suggested physical security changes?

City Assessment: Low Threat  
TSA Assessment: Low Threat

- What would be the consequence on the local population/community?

City Assessment: Low Threat  
TSA Assessment: Low Threat

- Overall threat assessment rating for the facility:  
(The TSA rating factors in completion of all NSRR mitigation efforts)

City Assessment: Low/Moderate Threat  
TSA Assessment: Low Threat

Because of the sensitive security information contained in the reports, they will not be released to the public.



# Coats for Kids Completes 5th Year!

By Paul Darby

Thanks to our many supporters in Cameron Station, Alexandria and the greater DC Metro region for making the Coats for Kids Foundation's fifth year a record year.

First, we distributed more than 10,000 coats and met every single request for coats from every Alexandria school, nonprofit and city agency that works with needy kids! We are proud of that record of commitment. Alexandria kids, however, continue to be our absolute priority.

In terms of contributions, we more than doubled amounts contributed last year to a total of \$118,533.30. And, 99 cents of every dollar is reinvested in new coats, hats and gloves.

In addition to our direct deliveries via FedEx to local schools, we held a major distribution through the Fairfax County Fire Department of more than \$150,000 worth of new coats, Kangol hats, kids stocking caps, magic gloves and fleece gloves. Several Alexandria elementary school principals and social workers picked up dozens of new coats for their kids.

This year, we were able to expand our outreach to the children of wounded soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan,

delivering almost 395 new coats, hats and gloves to those kids whose mother or father is receiving care at Walter Reed, Ft. Meade and Fort Belvoir military hospitals.

Lastly, we instituted a new policy of requiring that all coat deliveries outside of the DC metro region have local financial support. That has generated new awareness of the need from Alaska to Texas. And, we have even had school districts step up and fund new winter coat deliveries to schools.

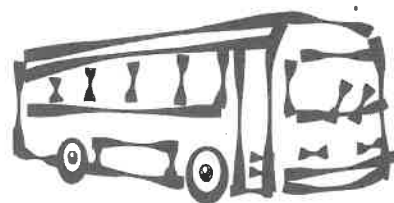
We'll have our annual report on our website by early February, and we invite you to read more about the accomplishments that so many of you made possible.

Thank you again for your continued support of needy kids.

*Paul Darby is a resident of Cameron Station and founder, along with his wife Cheryl, of the Coats for Kids Foundation.*

## You Don't Have to Be a Commuter to Take Advantage of the Shuttle

By Carla Besosa



As you know, the Cameron Station shuttle provides transport to and from the Van Dorn Metro station during weekday mornings and evenings. However, now that we have added the shuttle stop on Brenman Park Drive (in front of L' Vida Spa & Salon), take advantage of the shuttle to visit our community retailers.

Before work, grab a coffee and a pastry from Cameron Perks; deposit the kids at Bright Start. After work, swing by to claim your dry cleaning, shop at the Main Street Market, get a massage at L' Vida or enjoy a bite and a beverage at Food Matters.

We want to support these wonderful businesses in Cameron Station (or we will lose them as we have sadly lost Stems), and the new shuttle stop on Brenman Park Drive makes it easy for you to visit these important retailers!

See [www.cameronstation.org](http://www.cameronstation.org) for the shuttle bus schedule. A copy can also be obtained at the Fitness Center front desk.

### Shuttle Bus Pick-up and Drop-off Location

Cameron Station shuttle buses will no longer pick up or drop off from the "Kiss and Ride" location. Per the Metro police, all shuttle buses are now required to pick up and drop off at the back entrance of the Van Dorn Metro station. This entrance is on the opposite side of the usual drop-off/pick-up location. Flyers will be posted on the shuttle buses and are being handed out.

# Cameron Station Retailers Need Us...and We Need Them!

*Times are tough all over, including for our Cameron Station retailers. (Sadly, Stems has already closed its doors, and Cameron Perks Coffeehouse is curtailing its hours and possibly relinquishing more than half of its floor space.) In this issue and the next, The Compass is featuring stories on each of our resident businesses, highlighting the products and services they offer, in hopes that existing and new customers will make an extra effort to support them, just as they have supported and enhanced our community.*

## More Than “Just” Coffee

By Eliza Dolin

“Slow down, you’re moving too fast . . .” says the old Simon & Garfunkel song – and Cameron Perks Coffeehouse is a great place to do it. At least until you get your caffeine buzz on!

Many Cameron Station residents and their friends are already intimately familiar with the charms of our neighborhood coffeehouse, which are surprisingly varied. There is, of course, the coffee, which is roasted especially for the shop every Monday by Caffè Pronto Coffee Roastery of Annapolis. Every cup of java is prepared to order. “Making coffee here is a craft,” says co-owner Dominique Dunford (James Downs is her partner), in contrast to some of those other fancy coffee places, where much of the preparation process is automated. It may take a bit longer, but the price is competitive, and if you’re the Type A sort, while you’re waiting you can peruse the headlines of no less than seven newspapers (including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times* and *New York Post*).

If you’re more inclined to shun the news these days, perhaps you should sample Perks’ premium Revolution Tea selection, with its black, green and white options. Tea traditionalists will also appreciate another Perks offering, the scones. Other beverages include chai, fruit smoothies, frappes (the “no-guilt frappe,” made with skim milk and sugar-free caramel syrup, is a favorite of those in the know), hot chocolate and even juice boxes and other junior offerings for the little ones. There are also refrigerated energy drinks and smoothies in the cold case when you need a little something after exercising in Brenman Park or the fitness center.

In addition to the aforementioned scones, breakfast pastries and bagels with condiments or salmon are also on offer, as well as a variety of healthy meal options, sandwiches, salads and desserts such as: grilled chicken sandwich with Brie honey, horseradish and bean sprouts; chicken and bowtie pasta salad; strawberry parfait. And we must not forget the chocolate! Perks displays the offerings of Parisian chocolatier Michel Cluizel (from 45% cocoa on up) in a variety of preparations, as well as DuPont’s D’Isigny caramels in three varieties.



There is even something for Cameron Station’s beloved canines – Bentley’s Barkery All Natural Dog Treats.

Perks is a great resource for those on the run, but it’s well worth making the time to hang out for a while, even with the curtailed hours in effect (Monday-Friday, 6am-4pm; Saturday, 7am-7pm; Sunday, 7am-4pm). Those with children can relax and chat with friends or spouses while the kids play with the selection of games and toys or enjoy the live musical stylings of Mr. Skip or, by arrangement, Music Together (Tuesdays at 11am or Fridays at 9:30am, respectively). Those who are “child-free” (whether temporarily or permanently) can find a comfy chair in a quiet corner and use Perks’ free wireless Internet access to surf the web, read or catch up with neighbors or associates.

Regardless of your lifestyle, you’ll find the carefully selected ambient music, featured artists on display and expansive view of Brenman Park Drive and the park relaxing and, most importantly, unique: there is, after all, only one Cameron Station, and our neighborhood retailers help make it special.

Located at 4911 Brenman Park Drive. Contact Cameron Perks Coffeehouse at 703-461-6900 or go to [www.cameronperks.com](http://www.cameronperks.com).

# Food Matters: Eat, Drink, Shop, Learn

By Catherine Huddleston

Food Matters is not just the name of the restaurant located in the Cameron Station community – it's two words that represent every aspect of the business. Two years ago it was started by two chefs, two long-time residents of Cameron Station and a group of people who believed in them. From the service to the atmosphere to the menu, food does matter to owners Tom and Christy Przystawik. They met years ago at Cafe Atlantico, where Christy was the head chef and Tom was the sous-chef; and from there a dream grew to create an establishment where customers can eat, drink, shop and learn. Christy is the general manager of Food Matters, and Tom is the executive chef.

**Eat(ing)** at Food Matters is a delicious experience. The commitment is to buy locally and the passion is to eat seasonally. From the organic Amish chicken eggs to the all natural hormone-free chicken, beef and pork, to the sustainably harvested fish, the sourcing emphasis is on supporting local farmers who provide seasonal and superior products. Food Matters has a menu that rotates each season, and they host several dinners a year featuring these products. They give thanks to Path Valley Farms, Tuscarora Organic Co-op, Northern Neck, Mother Earth Mushrooms, Landisdale Farms and Lyon Bakery to name a few. *(Be sure to read Carla Besosa's review of the restaurant in this issue for more details on the eating!)*

**Drink(ing)** also is an adventure at Food Matters, with options ranging from a wine bar to a new full bar with top-shelf selections. The wine bar features well chosen varieties, which change often. A drink special made with fresh ingredients is always featured. The atmosphere is comfortable, fun and inviting.

**Shop(ping)** at Food Matters? You bet. There's grab-and-go food, kitchen items and retail wines, among other treats. The wines are from small, family-owned vineyards and are produced by people who take great pride in their work. The selection changes often and is thoughtfully chosen to give an opportunity to range off the beaten path. Bottles can be purchased to go or can be uncorked to enjoy in the café.

**Learn(ing)** is an exciting experience at Food Matters. You are invited to wine tastings monthly at "The Table." *(Be sure to check out the reclaimed barn wood table in the private dining room).* The tastings are enjoyed around The Table with food to match and time to ask questions. It's an opportunity to sample new wines and discover new favorites. And learn!

## Food Matters to Kids, Too!

Food Matters believes strongly that our children should eat as well as we do, and that means exposing them to the same foods that we eat and presenting them with opportunities to learn about and taste these new foods. The restaurant

is in the process of developing a kid's menu with child-sized portions of mom and dad's meals, as well as a few extras. Christy and Tom are proud parents, and the quality and integrity of the food they serve their children can now be shared with our families.



Take an opportunity to try this diamond in our midst and support our friends and neighbors. It will be a delicious experience whether it's taking food and wine home, joining neighbors and friends at the bar, luxuriating in a leisurely dinner or popping in to enjoy one of the monthly events. Having Food Matters in our neighborhood is a very good thing!

To receive the Food Matters email newsletter with details on monthly events or to view the menu and hours, visit [www.foodmattersva.com](http://www.foodmattersva.com).

Located at 4906 Brenman Park Drive, 703-461-3663.

**Editor's Note:** As this issue goes to press, we have received word that in light of recent economic times, Food Matters can no longer afford to stay open for lunch during the week. Beginning February 1, hours will be: Tuesday-Thursday, 5-10pm; Friday, 5-11pm; Saturday, 11am-11pm; Sunday, 9am-10pm.

## A Farewell Letter from Stems Owner

December 26, 2008

To all of my friends in Cameron Station,

When I purchased Stems Flowers & Gifts in August of 2007, I was not sure what to expect. I had been running successful flower shops for 20 years, but had drifted into a very isolated corner of the business, dealing with large, faceless corporations. I was looking to reconnect with the walk-in aspect of the retail floral business, meeting new people everyday, hearing new ideas, connecting with a community.

By those parameters, Stems has been a rousing success. I have been welcomed into your community with open arms. The new people I have met, friends I have made, will last a lifetime. Unfortunately, those relationships do not pay the

*(Continued on next page)*

## Retailers Need Us...and We Need Them!

(Continued from the previous page)

rent, payroll and other operating expenses. I have tried to make ends meet, but the last several months of economic crises have sealed my fate, and I regretfully must close the store.

To those of you who gave your valuable time and even more valuable respect and kind regards to help make the shop a success, I will never be able to fully express my appreciation and gratitude. Your support has meant the world to me, and I will never forget your efforts.

I will miss being here, and I wish everyone in Cameron Station a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Take care and best wishes,

Gwen

**Editor's Note:** Owner Gwen Gattsek has been a wonderful part of our community. In addition to the lovely flowers and gift items she sold in her shop, she provided door prizes for many community events and created the beautiful flower arrangements for the 10-Year Anniversary celebration. Gwen's generosity and spirit have been greatly appreciated, and she will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best.

## L'Vida Spa & Salon Offers Something for Everyone – and Every Budget

By Eliza Dolin

Now more than ever – with the holidays just behind us, the economy in turmoil and New Year's resolutions on our minds – focusing on enhancing our health is one of the best investments we can make to improve our well-being and ease stress.

That's the message from L'Vida Spa & Salon co-owner Leisa Brewer, R.N., BSN. Traditional spa and salon services at this award-winning tranquil retreat are relaxing and uplifting, whether as an occasional treat or a regular stress-reliever. The salon offers a full range of hair care services, including deep conditioning treatments that will leave dull, dry hair



silky smooth. The spa's technicians will pamper your winter-challenged skin with a variety of facials and total body exfoliation services in the Vichy shower room, shape and tint your brows or perm your eyelashes. And those who receive regular manicures or pedicures at L'Vida swear by the pampering and convenience. There are even special services for gentlemen, including facials and pedicures, and his-and-her – or her-and-her! – packages.

L'Vida's salon and spa services are a good value, thanks to packages and frequent promotions, which you can learn about by signing up for the occasional email blast. For example, there's the 3 ½ hour "Tension Terminator" stress reduction package, which includes a 60-minute Stone Therapy massage, aromatherapy facial, foot massage and spa cuisine, priced at \$285 (gratuity included). If your day doesn't leave enough time for that, try the "Lunch Special" (Monday-Friday, 11am-4pm) – a minifacial and tension relief massage with spa cuisine for \$110. And don't forget to check out the Claudia Roldani Leather Boutique for unique Italian leather goods at 20% off. For skin care, L'Vida offers Dermalogica and Vinotherapy products.

L'Vida is more than just a salon and spa, however; it's a preventive health and wellness center. Three core offerings distinguish L'Vida from other spas in the area, and even the region. Professional staff, including an expert in acupressure, acupuncture and other eastern therapies, offer a variety of massage and related treatments to soothe, energize, detoxify, quit smoking and enhance athletic performance. Ionithermie, a stimulation treatment invented by a French bio-chemist and offered exclusively in this region at L'Vida, has been clinically demonstrated to detoxify, break down fat and tone muscles, yielding immediate inch loss.



The latest addition to our neighborhood wellness center is the nutraMetrix™ Advanced Nutraceuticals service: highly qualified analysts provide complimentary individual on-site consultations – and even saliva DNA testing – and then suggest customized nutritional supplements targeting your body's unique needs. Look for the nutraMetrix™ open house day in February.

To learn more or sign up for email blasts regarding promotions, packages and new services, go to L'Vida's website at [www.lvidaspa.com](http://www.lvidaspa.com), call 703-212-6752 or drop by 4907 Brenman Park Drive.

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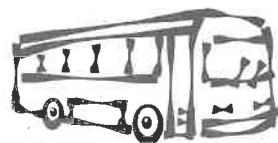
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## Shuttle Bus in Inclement Weather

Should the federal government have a delayed opening or early closure, the Cameron Station shuttle buses will run as follows: In the case of an early closure, one shuttle bus will begin to run earlier (and end earlier), and the other will run during the normal schedule. Should the federal government schedule a delayed opening, one bus will begin running on the normal schedule, while the other will begin running on a delayed one. (For example, if the federal government has a two-hour delayed opening, one bus will begin running at 5:45am, while the other will begin at 7:45am.) This modification to the schedule may cause some delays. The shuttle buses will not run in extremely dangerous conditions, however, and the decision to stop the shuttle will be made on a case-by-case basis. If you have any questions on the shuttle bus schedule during inclement weather, please contact the HOA management office at 703-567-4881 or Manhattan International at 703-683-2248.



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# Troops Express Gratitude to Cameron Station for Holiday Gifts

By Pinky Fitzgerald

Over 75 wrapped gifts were donated by our community as we joined with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to sponsor a holiday party at Walter Reed's Malogne House on December 11. (Malogne House is the outpatient "hotel" where patients stay in recovery as they await their next operation or physical therapy. Family members may be there, too, as unpaid attendants.) Over 200 wounded warriors attended the event and received gifts from Cameron Station and the VFW, delivered by "Big John" Miska. The troops were very amused at the gentle giant with the big heart, who is the Commander of the VFW, Post 8208, Ruckersville, Virginia, wearing his Santa hat and standing six feet eleven inches. Refreshments were served, and holiday music played during the festivities. The soldiers especially liked getting the hobby gifts, which included painting, drawing and origami kits. Included in the array of appreciated gifts were sweatshirts, socks, slippers, cards, CDs and board games. One woman soldier was tickled to receive a box of stamped Christmas cards, allowing her to write to her friends and relatives back home.

Every second and fourth Sunday, I go to Walter Reed Post and deliver to Malogne House the goodies donated by Cameron Station residents. The troops are also treated to brunch by the VFW in Rosslyn and transported there and back by Big John, who drives a specially adapted bus for wheelchairs. If anyone wants to join me on Sunday, February 8 or 22, at 8am, please call me at 703-461-3027 or 703-628-3405, or email me at [magsfitzgerald@comcast.net](mailto:magsfitzgerald@comcast.net), and we'll arrange it.

Donations are still needed, including items such as breakfast or sport bars, cups of soup, drinks, candy, gum, writing paper or cards. Socks, sweats, and underwear are also in demand, but they must be new. Ziplock and Glad containers were a big hit, too. Use your imagination, knowing your suitcase weighs less than 50 pounds and you are stuck in a room for weeks or months. Each room does have a small microwave and tiny refrigerator.



THANK YOU, CAMERON STATION!

## 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](mailto: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.



# Help Needed with Snow Removal for Older and Disabled Neighbors

The community manager is developing a list of Cameron Station residents willing to provide assistance to Cameron Station neighbors who might need help with snow removal this winter. If you would like to participate, please provide your name and number to [ahansford@cmc-management.com](mailto:ahansford@cmc-management.com) or 703-567-4881. Neighbors who have already volunteered are:

|                  |                  |                           |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| James K          | 571-970-5028     | jksoccer@yahoo.com        |
| Marcus Talbott   | 703-461-0404 (h) | marcus.talbott@gmail.com  |
|                  | 410-570-6265 (m) |                           |
| Gregory Korthase | 571-228-4243     | gregorykorthase@gmail.com |
| Karen Owens      | 703-566-1135 (h) | kmowens@comcast.net       |
|                  | 703-901-6990 (m) |                           |
| Bill Eskridge    | 703-566-1547     | billeskridge@aol.com      |
| Dave Anderson    | 703-639-8750     | dandersn82@gmail.com      |
| Wayne Babb       | 703-624-1972     |                           |
| Paul Darby       | 703-567-1000     | pdarby@comcast.net        |
| Christian Cali   | 703-975-2921     | christian_cali@yahoo.com  |
| Jamie Test       | 703-819-0436     | jtest@condoauthority.com  |

Please contact them directly if you need assistance. We will continue to publish the list in future newsletters and flyers, as well as send it via community email blasts.



## Snow Removal

As stated in the Homeowner Maintenance Responsibilities section of the Design and Maintenance Standards: "Property owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from the driveway serving their home, the lead walkway to the home and for clearing any sidewalks fronting or bordering the home."



## See a Problem in the Neighborhood?

Streetlight out? Sprinkler not working? Moss on brick sidewalks? Potholes in street? If management doesn't know about a problem, they can't fix it. And not every problem occurs during office hours. If you see something that needs repair, call the HOA office at 703-567-4881 and be sure to give a complete description and exact location.

## Duke Street Overpass Named for Planning Commissioner

Many residents have been asking about the new sign posted at the entryway to the Duke Street overpass into Ben Brenman Park. It indicates that the overpass has been dedicated to Richard Bernard Leibach, a member of Alexandria's Planning Commission for 20 years and a civic activist who died in February 2007.

Mr. Leibach's volunteer activities included serving on the city's Housing Hygiene Board, Community Services Board, Open Space Steering Committee, Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services Board, Electoral Board and Washington Street Task Force. Mr. Leibach received the 1986 Alexandria United Way Outstanding Citizenship Award and the 1993 Catholic Charities Dorothy Bird Daly Award for Social Services.

## 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 web-site) read the bimonthly flyers and newsletters and sign up for email blasts. If you have any questions for the board or committees or HOA management, send an email. Email addresses can be found on the inside front cover of every issue of *The Compass* newsletter.



## Alexandria Operates 24-hour Nuisance Abatement Hotline

The City of Alexandria's Nuisance Abatement Hotline, 703-836-0041, is a 24-hour phone number for residents and businesses seeking assistance with public nuisance issues involving violations of city codes. If, for example, there are problems caused by a business operating after approved hours (e.g., the nearby asphalt plant), residents can call this number to report the violation.

Please state the nature and location of the problem, as well as your name and phone number. This will enable the city to let you know what action it took to address the problem. If the problem is urgent, a city agency will immediately dispatch personnel to investigate. If not, action will be taken no later than the next business day.



## Gibberman Dental



### *Family, Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry*

Dr. Paul Gibberman has been an important part of this community for over 20 years. The reason we have been so successful is because we recognize that you are the most important part of the practice. Utilizing advanced technology in our newly remodeled office, our primary goal is to give your family the highest quality dental care for a reasonable cost. Each patient is a unique individual and we treat every case, from periodic check-ups to root canals to cosmetic crowns and veneers to dental implants, with a focus towards your needs. Call our office or visit our website today to schedule your appointment.

Hrs: Mon- Thurs: 7am – 7pm

Sat by Appointment

**703.823.6616**

**[www.gibbermandental.com](http://www.gibbermandental.com)**

Shops at Foxchase

4613 Duke Street (next to the new Harris Teeter Grocery Store)

Alexandria, Virginia 22304



Jazzercise is popular with Cameron Station residents, several of whom are pictured in the front row with instructor Mary Taylor. Classes are held at Tucker Elementary School on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7pm. Contact Mary at 703-550-9867 for more information.

## Cameron Station Book Clubs

"Monday Night Bookball" has some openings. If you would like to join, please contact PJ Sottile at [psottile@steptoe.com](mailto:psottile@steptoe.com) or 703-566-4804.

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

### Monday Night Bookball

January: *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*  
by David Sedaris

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

### Reading Between the Wines

January: *Run* by Ann Patchett  
February: *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson



## CAPY LLC

LICENSED . INSURED . BONDED

### HOME Maintenance - Repair - Improvement

Pressure washing, Concrete resurfacing,  
Kitchen cabinets painting,  
Bathrooms - Doors - Electrical  
Floors and Tile - Kitchens  
Plumbing - Porches and Decks  
Painting - Walls and Ceilings  
Hardwood floor refinish  
Crown molding, Minor repairs  
and much more.

*Excellent job!*  
It is what we want to hear from you.

**703 - 615 - 4470**

Customer References Upon Request

# Carla's Picks

By Carla Besosa

## The Barns of Wolf Trap

**February 5**

**Lizz Wright**

Smooth vocal mix of gospel, R&B and blues. She enchants her audiences, and this is the perfect-sized venue for the experience.

**February 13**

**Julie Murphy**

Powerful Eddie from Ohio singer performs solo.

**March 20**

**Lara St. John**

High-powered violinist puts her twist on the classics.

## Strathmore

**February 20**

**Ahn Trio**

Strings and more strings! Much talent in one family. These ladies, though classically trained, masterfully cross multiple genres.

**March 11**

**The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma**

Incomparable cellist. No additional explanation necessary... unless you've been living under a rock!

## Birchmere

**March 6**

**Saffire/The Uppity Blues Women**

Bold and bawdy! Balanced mix of originals and classic blues tunes. Don't miss this!

## Kennedy Center

**March 1**

**Harolyn Blackwell, Soprano with Post-Classical Ensemble**

DC native. You may have seen her July 4 on The Mall; I recently saw her do a Kennedy Center Duke Ellington tribute. Now you can appreciate her operatic talents in the intimacy of the Terrace Theater.

## George Mason Center for the Arts

**February 20**

**The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial**

The famous challenge of John T. Scopes. Great subject matter for dramatic theater.

## Bangkok Blues

(Intimate venue, not previously mentioned: 926 W. Broad St., Falls Church, VA)

**February 5**

**Cravin' Dogs**

Come hear this roots rock band while enjoying Thai food.

## And Another Thing...or Two

Looking for a class to take...just for fun, nothing too cerebral? The Center for Education at Wolf Trap offers an interesting assortment of classes geared toward the arts. You can find classes on Songwriting, Guitar and Opera Appreciation. Don't tell anyone, but I have signed up for the Djembe class (African drum). Won't my neighbors be delighted to hear me practice!

Have you checked out the new Del Ray gallery? Approximately one year ago, Shawn Myers fashioned the Blueberry Art Gallery, located in Del Ray's Calvert Building, to be a cutting-edge venue for the up-and-coming with talent. It's off the beaten path, as are the pieces on exhibit. Peruse the atypical collection of works that challenge the senses and expand one's awareness. A remarkable undertaking with fantastic appeal. 3112-A Mount Vernon Ave.



# Food Matters

By Carla Besosa

*Food Matters...* of course it does! That is why our aptly titled neighborhood restaurant/bar is such a wonderful addition to Cameron Station. Demonstrating a serious commitment to fresh ingredients and creative cuisine, Executive Chef Tom Przystawik presents us with a pleasing variety of selections. Changes to the menu and the wine/beer list are made monthly, so there is a constant influx of new choices. Couple that with the friendly atmosphere and the convenience of walking to and fro (or taking advantage of the new Brenman Park Drive shuttle stop during operating hours), and Food Matters continues to add value to an already exceptional community.

Get to know the staff – what a great group of folks! They not only provide efficient service, they are a heck of a lot of fun! When Giovanni brings you to your table, Phil pours your wine, John brings your pasta, Alicia, Mauricio and Acacia take your order, Bill assists with the deli offerings, Mary makes things run smoothly, or General Manager Christy Przystawik checks on the patrons, all is done with a smile and a level of personal interaction that makes them not just wait staff but neighborhood friends.

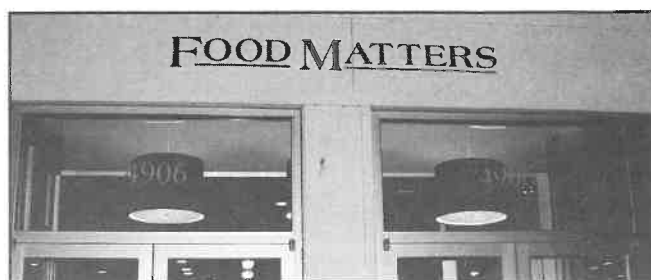
Some lunch favorites include the now-famous smoked paprika deviled eggs (see the June 2008 “100 Best Bargain Restaurants” issue of *Washingtonian* magazine), the *Rosada Angus* beefburger, the goat cheese and walnut tart and homemade soups. For dinner, the *Amish chicken* is always a favorite, as are their seafood specialties, steak and pastas. Searching for the lighter side? Build your own salad or choose from a list of fourteen mix-and-match side dishes. Brunch offerings are also impressive. Build your own omelet, indulge in the smoked salmon frittata or treat yourself to the decadent challah French toast with cranberry rum topping. Try the Handwich, a homemade ice cream sandwich to satisfy any sweet tooth.

Check out [www.foodmattersva.com](http://www.foodmattersva.com) to view the menu of the month and see what special events are in the making. One can also register through the website to receive Food Matters updates as new events surface. The private dining room, known as “The Table,” is the venue for various chef’s dinners and wine tastings, offering the finest in food and drink. It’s also quite fun to reserve The Table and create your own private event. The Table has seen many a birthday party, anniversary celebration, dinner-and-a-movie night, business luncheon/dinner, fundraiser and committee gathering. Let your imagination run wild, and Christy will assist you in customizing a menu that perfectly complements your occasion.

Speaking of themes, enjoy the All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Night every Wednesday (three great selections, different every week, accompanied by a salad), the daily Happy Hour specials (5:00-6:30pm), the Saturday late-night Happy Hour (9-11pm), and a plethora of celebrations throughout

the year to commemorate such happenings as Mardi Gras, Peruvian Day, New Year’s Eve, New Year’s Day (Pajama Brunch!), the Super Bowl, Inauguration...just to name a few.

With windows surrounding you on two sides, you overlook the lake in Ben Brenman Park. When the weather is pleasant, relax on the patio as you watch the sun set to the west. This is the “Cheers” of Cameron Station; if everyone doesn’t know your name yet, they surely will once you visit a few times. Bring a group of friends, or the comfortable atmosphere is very conducive to just wandering in solo. See you there!



4906 Brenman Park Drive • Alexandria, VA 22301  
703-461-3663 • [www.foodmattersva.com](http://www.foodmattersva.com)

## Hours of Operation:

(See Editor’s Note p.17)

Tuesday–Thursday, 5-10pm

Friday, 5-11pm

Saturday, 11am-11pm

Sunday, 9am-10pm

Closed Monday

## Price Range:

(Approximate and subject to change as monthly selections change)

Brunch: Appetizers: \$3.95-\$8.95

Entrees: \$6.95-\$14.95

Lunch: Appetizers: \$4.95-\$8.95

Entrees: \$7.95-\$16.95

Dinner: Appetizers: \$4.95-\$12.95

Entrees: \$7.95-\$25.95

Sides: \$4.95

Desserts: \$4.95-\$6.95

Smoking: No

Handicapped Accessible: Yes,

Parking: Street/public parking on

Brenman Park Drive and Somerville Street

Reservations: Recommended for large parties



COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE  
GEORGETOWN · WASHINGTON HARBOUR



Betty, Gil & Willie

*I would love the opportunity to meet with you to discuss your real estate needs.*

*I have lived in Cameron Station for 8 years and am intimately familiar with all models.*

*We have a combined experience of over 73 years.*

**Gil Stockton**

**The Pair, Parker & Stockton Team**

**703-969-5089 (Cell)**

*I'm determined to make the Cameron Station resale market more competitive by offering:*

- *A highly competitive commission rate*
- *An aggressive Marketing campaign*
- *A Comprehensive Advertising schedule*
- *Internet integration & Virtual tours of all listings*

**Website:** [www.ThePPSTeam.com](http://www.ThePPSTeam.com) **Email:** [gilstockton@comcast.net](mailto:gilstockton@comcast.net)



## Classifieds

### ANDREA'S HOUSECLEANING SERVICES:

Licensed-Bonded-Insured. Weekly/bi-weekly/monthly. Moving in/out. Excellent references from residents in Cameron Station. FREE Estimates on site or by phone. Nelly Valverde, 571-264-3208/703-494-0800.

## Let Us Hear from You...

The staff of The Compass welcomes your comments and suggestions about the newsletter and community updates. Please send them to [thecompass@cameronstation.org](mailto:thecompass@cameronstation.org). Thank you.

## "Our Neighbors Recommend"

### Vendor List on Web Site Only

The list of vendor recommendations can be found on the community web site, [www.cameronstation.org](http://www.cameronstation.org), under "Neighborhood Net."

If you would like to submit recommendations for this list, please e-mail: [thecompass@cameronstation.org](mailto: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](mailto:ahansford@cmc-management.com)), who will keep a copy on file. Any resident may have access to the file.



# 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., December 30 for January/February; February 28 for March/April, 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.

## 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 (December 30 for January/February; February 28 for March/April, 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: (NEW RATES)

|                                                          |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Display Ads (Camera-ready)                               |       |
| 1/2 page                                                 | \$220 |
| (horizontal: 7" x 4 1/2";<br>vertical: 3 1/2" x 9 1/4" ) |       |
| 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 [csadmin@cmc-management.com](mailto:csadmin@cmc-management.com).

**Note:** The included advertisements, articles or references to web sites 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, Patricia Sugrue

Photographer: Pinky Fitzgerald

Contributing Photographers:  
Gardner Bates, Sonia Agosto

## Not Receiving the Community Newsletter Regularly?

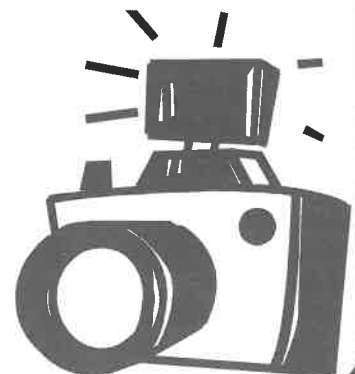
If you have not been receiving *The Compass* on a regular basis, or know of any neighbors who have not been receiving it, please contact the HOA office at 703-567-4881 or [ahansford@cmc-management.com](mailto:ahansford@cmc-management.com) to be sure they have the correct address on the mailing list.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

# The compass

## Thanks for the Photos

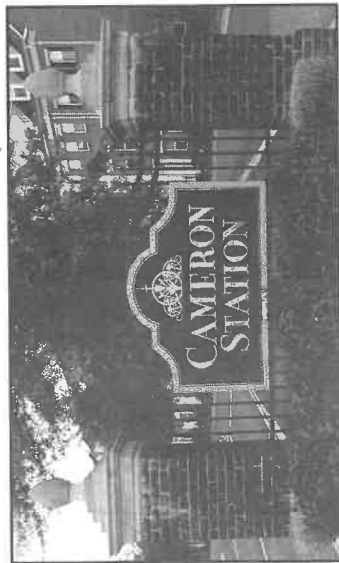
We encourage residents to submit photos they take around Cameron Station or at community events to *The Compass*. You may send them electronically to [thecompass@cameronstation.org](mailto:thecompass@cameronstation.org).

Or you may provide prints, which we can scan in and will return to you.



# The *Compass*

200 Cameron Station Blvd.  
Alexandria, VA 22304



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



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

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