

The Compass

Newsletter of the Cameron Station Community Association, Inc.

Volume 10 Issue 2 • March/April 2009

Nominate and Celebrate “Pride of Ownership”

By Robert Burns

Time for spring renewal! Residents are encouraged to improve their personal landscaping space – the areas in public view – to enhance the community’s overall curb appeal. Awards will be given in recognition of those who demonstrate “pride of ownership.” A variety of attributes will be considered in determining the winners: lawn and shrub grooming; weed-free turf and planting areas; design and aesthetic (color and variety) appeal of gardens; and compatibility with Cameron Station’s architecture and colonial theme. Visual impact may be enhanced with flower pots and other landscape décor, but please check the Cameron Station Design & Maintenance Standards (DMS) or your condominium covenants for items that need pre-approval, such as tree plantings. Four categories will be judged: single-family home; townhome; end-unit townhome; and condo.

Nominations are due by Monday, May 11, submitted to commonarea@cameronstation.org. Please take a moment and nominate the address that you notice as you enjoy the community and that you feel deserves special recognition.

If you would like to help sponsor these awards, please contact the Common Area Committee (CAC) at the above email address. The CAC would like to express appreciation to all residents who take pride in preserving the beauty of this special community.

Robert Burns is chairperson of the Common Area Committee.



2008 Award Winners

City Explores Ways to Assist Cameron Station Retailers

By Mindy Lyle

In February, City Council member Rob Krupicka organized two meetings of Cameron Station retailers, city agency representatives and several interested Cameron Station residents to discuss ways to support the economic viability of the Cameron Station business community. Vice Mayor Del Pepper also attended the meetings. The retailers indicated that revenues are down. The retailers and neighbors reported that many residents of Cameron Station and the rest of the city don’t know that shops exist in Cameron Station. A range of issues was discussed at the meetings, including the Administrative Special Use Permit (SUP) process, marketing fund and façade improvement programs, Small Business Development Center resources and support of new signage on Duke Street and in Ben Brenman Park.

Duke Street Signage

There is support in the community for the city to allow permanent retail signage (e.g., “Shop and Dine in Cameron Station”) at the three entrances to Cameron Station off Duke Street and one off Edsall Road. The city is reviewing the requirements of the existing wayfinding sign program and any applicable codes or ordinances.

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**Community-Wide
Yard Sale
Saturday, May 2
8:30am-1pm**



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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

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 of Directors

By John Sullivan

As you read this, spring will be underway — the beginning of a new year of growth, fresh air, mild temperatures, more daylight and a re-emergence of the community. As we look to refresh our landscaping, inspect our home's exterior and begin the preparation of the infamous weekend to-do list, I ask you to be alert for the children of Cameron Station as they play outdoors. The longer afternoon and early evening daylight will be a strong inducement for the kids of our community to be outside. They may not be aware of us, but we need to be aware of them.

Normally I would not put any personal comments into my column, but I wanted to use this forum to thank all who have helped me and my family work through the recent loss of my wife to ovarian cancer. One of the many things that my wife and I enjoyed about Cameron Station is the community feel and friendliness. My family and I have been the recipients of this community's love in abundance as we begin to move forward. That's why we came, and that's why I will stay. Thank you one and all.

HOA Board of Directors 2009 Meetings

**Tuesdays, 7pm
Cameron Club**

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

Annual Meeting is Tuesday, November 10.
Town Hall Meetings are Sundays, May 17 and
August 16. Mark your calendars now!

**West End Farmers Market
Sundays
May 3-November 15**

ALIVE!

(ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically)

Food Distribution

Saturday, March 28

Saturday, April 25

Saturday, May 30

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!**

New Assistant Community Manager

Welcome to Felicia Mingione-Buzan, the new assistant manager for the Cameron Station Community Association (CSCA). Felicia comes to CSCA with a strong background in business management and administrative operations. For four years prior to joining CSCA, Felicia was the business manager for a small consulting firm based in Washington, DC. Prior to her business manager role, she provided executive support to several corporate vice presidents of a Fortune 500 company.



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

Our Community Grieves

By Pat Sugrue

"April is the cruelest month," the poet T.S. Eliot claimed. But not this year. Not for the Cameron Station community. This year it was the month of January that broke our hearts.



We lost Bertie Maynor on January 23. Many of us knew Bertie as the lovely lady who opened up the Cameron Club each weekday morning. Bad weather might shut down every school system in the area, but it never stopped Bertie. Since April 2002, Bertie showed up at 5am every day and, according to Fitness Director Kevin Horner, always had a smile on her face and something nice to say. She not only greeted early-morning fitness buffs, but she also cleaned the exercise equipment, replenished the supplies, took messages, handled complaints, posted sign-up sheets...any job that needed to be done until she returned home at 9am.

Bertie was 80 years old when she died suddenly from an aneurysm, but she had the energy and enthusiasm of someone much younger. Those lucky enough to have known her speak of her generous nature, enthusiasm for the arts and great love for and dedication to her family. Her loss has been felt throughout Cameron Station. Bertie's daughter Copper Perry and son-in-law Skip are also residents of Cameron Station, and they wish to express their thanks to the community for the outpouring of support that has come their way.

On January 29, just a week after losing Bertie, a terrible tragedy occurred in our neighborhood. The co-owners of Cameron Perks Coffeehouse, Dominique Dunford and James Downs, were involved in an altercation. Dominique was seriously injured, and in spite of the best efforts by police negotiators for more than 12 hours, that evening James took his own life.

We don't know what caused this tragedy...we don't need to know. What we do know is that for more than a year, as the economy grew worse and business suffered, Dominique and James gave their all trying to make Cameron Perks a success. They were a vital part of our community, not only running the coffeehouse, but sponsoring Art in the Park, participating in the Cameron Station

10-Year Anniversary Celebration, hosting seminars, children's programs and free weekend entertainment, and much more. We are grateful for their efforts and deeply saddened by these events.

Dominique is out of the hospital and is recovering. She and daughter Delaney are now living in Maryland with her family. For those who have asked how to contact her, Dominique may be reached at dominique@cameronperks.com.

James' wife Yoko and daughter Dana are struggling with their loss. They plan to sell the house on Waple Lane but hope to remain in the community with their neighbors and friends. A fund is being set up to assist with Dana's education. If you would like to contribute, donations (cash, or checks made out to Yoko Downs) may be dropped off at Food Matters.

Note: For 12 hours, as negotiators attempted to bring the situation to a peaceful end, residents of Waple Lane and nearby streets were locked down in their houses, evacuated from the area or prevented from returning to their homes. Deputy Police Chief Blaine Corle expressed his gratitude for the cooperation the police received from community management and residents during that difficult time. Please see the February 5 board meeting article on page 5 for more details.



Board of Directors Meeting, February 5

By Pat Sugrue

Police Report

Blaine Corle, Deputy Chief of the Alexandria Police, reported that crime in Alexandria was up 2.2% from what had been a 40-year low. Most crime in the city is auto larceny. Alexandria's first homicide of the year took place in January and involved a cabdriver. Deputy Chief Corle described it as a crime of opportunity and reported that three suspects have been arrested.

Cameron Station had one reported crime this year to date, and that was the shooting of Cameron Perks Co-owner Dominique Dunford on January 29. Two 911 calls were made after shots were heard, and three officers were there



within six minutes. Throughout the day, Alexandria police officers, SWAT teams, hostage negotiation teams and 15 detectives were inside Cameron Station, and \$300,000 worth of equipment was also on the scene. The Henderson Room at the Cameron Club was the center of negotiations with James Downs. Corle expressed his thanks to Community Manager Airielle Hansford, Fitness Director Kevin Horner and other management staff for their cooperation and assistance at the club. While negotiations proceeded, an operations center was established at the intersection of John Ticer and Gardner drives, near the Waple Street home. It included a \$750,000 mobile command unit (purchased by the city with drug money), which was able to take aerial views of the area. Corle explained that the core value of all police operations is the preservation of human life. The city used "reverse

911" messages to keep residents informed throughout the ordeal, and there was frequent communication with the staffs of Tucker Elementary School and Bright Start. While the police understood that many residents would be inconvenienced by the operations, they were committed to staying as long as it took in hopes of a peaceful resolution. After about 10 hours, Arlington County police relieved the Alexandria officers, and two hours later things ended tragically. There was never any use of police force. Forensic work was done before the authorities exited the house, and the matter, described as a felonious assault and suicide, is closed.

Verbal Abuse

The board expressed concern over the verbal abuse that community management receives from some residents and praised Community Manager Airielle Hansford for her handling of difficult situations.

City Support of Retailers

Gerry Hebert, Cameron Station resident and an owner of Food Matters, reported on a February 4 meeting in the Cameron Club with City Council members, city agency officials, Cameron Station retailers and a few concerned residents. (See article on front page.) The board is willing to consider financial assistance from the HOA for retailer promotion but needs a proposal. It will also be necessary to check with legal counsel regarding support of for-profit businesses.

Fitness Report

Fitness Director Kevin Horner reported that there were 63,544 scans of ID cards at the Cameron Club in 2008.

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

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

Board of Directors Meeting, February 24

By Ann Grochala

Police Report

Deputy Chief Blaine Corle reported on an incident in Ben Brenman Park near the end of Somerville Street that police were ruling a suicide. Several residents had called police to report seeing someone by their cars. He said that police knew the person's identity and location of residence, which was not in Cameron Station. He also reported that earlier in the month, the tires of six cars parked on Martin Lane had been slashed. Police believed it was an isolated incident, and kids were likely involved.

Cameron Club

During the Resident Open Forum, a resident asked the board to consider permitting the use of the Cameron Club for some classes for children that had previously been held in Cameron Perks. The board discussed the issue, which would set a precedent because the classes are conducted by non-residents, although they would be mostly attended by children who live in Cameron Station. While there may be benefits to the community from continuing these classes in the club, it would require exceptions to the standing policy for the club such as the requirement that a resident be in attendance and payment of usage fees. The board asked the CCEC committee, which was meeting the following week, to consider the issue and come back to the board at its March meeting with its recommendations for a quick resolution.

Fitness Director Kevin Horner reported that the fitness center is still quite busy. It has just been deep cleaned, which included scrubbing floors and shampooing carpet. The board discussed the benefits of scheduling more frequent deep cleanings of the center. The exhaust fan is working again.

The board approved a motion to name the reception area after Bertie Maynor, who recently passed away. (See article on page 4.) A plaque, to be paid for by the HOA, will be put in the reception area in her memory.

About 200 people attended the Valentine's Day Party, which was held in the Cameron Club and catered by Food Matters.

Main Street Retailers

Board member Mindy Lyle reported on efforts by the City of Alexandria and some of the Main Street retailers in Cameron Station to increase business. Progress is being made to permit signage on Duke Street for the merchants, and approvals are underway for Bright Start to increase its space and Food Matters to add tables. The board approved giving the retailers free ads in *The Compass* and on the website for the rest of the year. An effort to put

magnetized signs on the shuttle buses was not successful because the buses are fiberglass, not metal. Instead, drivers will hand out flyers to passengers to promote the retailers.

Other Action Items

- Agenda - Approved
- Minutes from February 5 meeting - Approved
- Quarterly fitness center deep cleaning - Approved

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, 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 or 703-567-4881 for an application.

Garages Are for Cars, Not Storage

Management would like to remind residents that the principal use of individual garages is for passenger vehicle storage only. Nothing may be stored in a garage that prevents the owner from parking a passenger vehicle in it.

Please remember, too, that parking is an ongoing problem in Cameron Station. Every time a resident takes a space on one of the public streets, that eliminates a space for visitors to the community, including those who come in to patronize our retailers.



Committee Updates

Architectural Review Committee

No update received.

Common Area Committee

In its proposed budget for 2009, the Common Area Committee (CAC) had recommended to the board funding to support replacement of dead trees and shrubs in the community. This issue is related to the bond-out process. The board approved funds to assist with limited replacement of trees and shrubs in the community during 2009, and the CAC is currently working with Lancaster Landscapes, the community's landscape contractor, to identify areas in which replacements need to be made. Some areas were completed over the holidays, and other areas will receive attention in the coming months.

Cameron Club & Events Committee

Cameron Station's annual Valentine's Party was held on February 15 in the Great Room and the gymnasium of the Cameron Club. About 200 residents came to join in the community festivities. Many of the children took the



opportunity to use the gym to play with other neighborhood children.

Our very own neighborhood restaurant, Food Matters, catered the event, and the food was excellent. Special thanks goes to Donna Kenley and Mary Murphy for their support in setting up and cleaning up after the event. Brian Evans also helped in the clean-up effort. It is important



for the community to realize that these types of events are accomplished with the help of a handful of people who are devoted to the well-being of the Cameron Station community, and additional help is always welcome. Many thanks to our beloved volunteers!!

Financial Advisory Committee

Each month, the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) meets to review monthly financial statements, project estimates and contract proposals. Most recently, the committee reviewed proposals for the new pool contract and for additional community landscaping. The committee works diligently to provide sound financial recommendations to the Board of Directors in all matters that come before it.

The FAC would like to recognize its three newest members: Mr. James Kotora, Ms. Teri Ryan and Mr. Mike Bilbrey. The committee is glad to have them aboard.

Communications Committee

The committee reviewed recommended content changes for the website and agreed on several changes to delete or archive out-of-date material, update local contact information, change page titles for consistency with navigation, identify missing content and update Main Street Retailers. The committee also reviewed the draft position description for the Web Communication Specialist, which will be presented to Cameron Station's management company, CMC.

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

Third Thursday of the month at 7pm

Fitness Center News

By Kevin Horner

Group Exercise Classes

Our second session of group exercise classes starts the first week of April. Residents can still drop in to any class for a \$10 drop-in fee.

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.

Thank You

We would like to thank the residents of Cameron Station who offered their support over the past months after the passing of Bertie Maynor, our dedicated friend, co-worker and neighbor. All the kind words were very much appreciated.

Suggestions

The suggestion we received last month about the stuffiness in the fitness center seems to have been solved by keeping the HVAC fan on all the time. Hopefully, this will continue to be the case. We will continue to monitor the temperature in the fitness center and appreciate the suggestions.

As always, 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.

Pool Opens in May

The Cameron Club pool will open for the 2009 season on Saturday, May 23. Hours are 11am-9pm daily, including holidays. Early lap swimming will be held Monday-Friday only, 6-8am, from Tuesday, May 26, through Friday, August 28.

The Annual Pool Party will be held on Saturday, June 13.

Mark your calendar now!



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

Join the Compass Crew!

Are you a good communicator? Do you like to write? Edit? Proofread? Interview? Take photos? Any or all of the above? If yes, we'd love to have you join the newsletter staff. Contact thecompass@cameronstation.org or call Pat Sugrue at 703-566-6721.

Adults-Only Happy Hour

April 24

6-8pm

Cameron Station
Great Room



SPRING ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00/9:00AM		8:30-10:00AM Workout Parents		8:30-10:00AM Workout Parents		8:30-10:00AM Workout Parents	
9:00/9:30AM			9:30-10:30AM Stroller Strides		9:30-10:30 AM Yoga/Sculpt (Denise) 9:30-10:30AM Stroller Strides		9:00-10:00AM Pilates (Denise)
10:00AM							10:00-11:00AM Yoga (Denise)
							10AM-12NOON Pick-up Basketball
6:30PM							
7:00PM		7:00-8:00PM Sports Conditioning with Abs (Amy)		7:00-8:00PM Cardio Sculpt (Kathy)			
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.

Gibberman Dental



Family, Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry

Dr. Paul Gibberman has been an important part of this community for over 25 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

Shops at Foxchase

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

Alexandria, Virginia 22304



Neighbors celebrating President Obama's inauguration at Food Matters.

City Explores Ways to Assist

(Continued from front page)

as well as design guidelines (e.g., size requirements imposed on other businesses on Duke Street like the recent McDonald's and bank's SUPs) to be followed for such signs. Staff is also looking into costs associated with such signs and will provide a best estimate for a timeline for placing the retail signage on these streets as soon as practicable. The retailers in attendance indicated that they would be willing to contribute to the cost of such signs, and the city will advise if money from the soon-to-be-revamped façade improvement program or the marketing fund could be used to help pay for these signs.

Signs on Cameron Station Boulevard and in Ben Brenman Park

The city is looking into the question of who has the authority to approve signs on Cameron Station Boulevard indicating the existence of the retailers in Cameron Station. The city will also advise as to what approval is needed so that Cameron Station retailers can install A-frame signs near the sports fields in Ben Brenman Park in order to remind park users about the shops and restaurant.

Other Ideas

The following items will be considered and discussed at subsequent meetings:

- Programming and promotional concepts for Ben Brenman Park – options to use Ben Brenman Park as an economic engine for Cameron Station retailers.

- Ways to work with the Samuel Tucker Elementary School and PTA to increase neighborhood awareness of local shops.
- Ways to promote local shops to neighbors who don't know they are there. Ideas include listserves, flyers, phone calls and working with realtors to help promote the shops.
- Placement of magnetic signs on the sides of the shuttle buses running throughout the neighborhood to the Metro during morning and evening rush hours. The signs could be put on the buses and removed at the end of each shift.
- Discussing with Greenvest, Cameron Station's developer, the possibility of changing the entrance sign(s) to Cameron Station to highlight shopping and dining, as well as determining its interest in, and ability to help pay for, signage and other programs to support the retailers.
- How to ensure that the Alexandria Economic Development Program (AEDP) includes Cameron Station retail space on its lists of opportunity sites.
- Ways to advertise Cameron Station retailers to sports leagues using Ben Brenman Park.
- Concerns about parking impacts, if any, from increased traffic to Cameron Station retailers.

Mindy Lyle is a member of the HOA Board of Directors.

Cameron Station Community Town Hall

By Michael Kuhl

Several Cameron Station residents braved the seasonal breezes on Sunday afternoon, February 22, for the opening town hall meeting of 2009.

Concerns raised by residents included the following:

1. Health concerns that relate to bird waste. Due to bird feeders that have been installed on or near decks of residences, there is an increased number of birds' nests and birds on the decks of residences resulting in large amounts of bird waste on the decks and deck furniture. Please be considerate in locating these feeders so that they do not adversely affect your neighbors' ability to enjoy using their decks.

2. Recycling bins and trash cans blowing around and trash improperly secured when put out for collection. Recently, additional recycling bins were distributed to the residents of Cameron Station, and in some cases those bins were not collected by residents for use. If you have not already done so, please collect your bin ASAP. If you need additional bins, you may get them (at your cost; please contact the community manager at 703-567-4881). Because of the windy conditions this time of year, please take extra care in putting your recycling bins and trash cans out and collecting them in a timely manner. It is recommended that you mark these items with your address to aid you in collecting them if they do get "relocated" by the wind. Also, when putting items out for collection, please properly secure them (in trash cans with lids secure, papers properly secured in bins, etc.) so they stay put until collected.

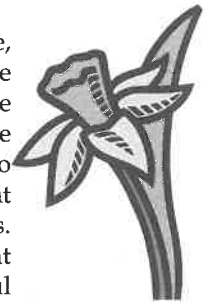
3. Concern about illegal commercial solicitation, snow removal, displaced employees of Century Pool (the company that was providing staff and management of community pool), and ways to assist the Cameron Station retailers.

4. Parking issues. In connection with ongoing enforcement efforts in Cameron Station against residents using visitors' parking spots, it has been pointed out that several residents are illegally parking in driveways that were not intended to be used for parking (i.e., units with two-car garages with driveways that are too short to accommodate cars). As a reminder, owners are prohibited from parking vehicles in emergency access easements or in any other manner which encroaches upon any such access easement or upon adjacent pedestrian walkways.

Michael Kuhl is a member of the HOA Board of Directors.

It's Spring Cleaning Time!

With spring officially here, the Common Area Committee encourages residents to spruce up around their residences. Use the upcoming good weather to beautify your landscape, plant annuals and mulch your beds. It is with all of our efforts that Cameron Station looks so beautiful in the spring. 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.

Support Our Cameron Station Retailers

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

Children's Menu Now Available at Food Matters!

Civic Association Update

By Ingrid Sanden

General Membership Meeting

Please join us for the Cameron Station Civic Association general membership meeting on Monday, May 4, at 7:30pm in the Cameron Club Great Room. Refreshments will be served. Visit our website at www.cameronstationcivicassociation.org for more information about the agenda and speakers as the meeting date approaches.

STB Ruling on Norfolk Southern

In February, the Surface Transportation Board (STB), which regulates railroads, issued a ruling denying an attempt by Alexandria city staff to exert their zoning authority over the ethanol transloading facility behind our homes. Although the February 17 ruling by the STB shuts down the city's attempt to regulate the facility, the city attorney's office is still seeking to limit the number of trucks that can use city streets on a daily basis. That case is still under consideration by Judge James Cacheris of the United States District Court in the Eastern District of Virginia. Please visit our website for updates on this case.

This was a disappointment for us, obviously, but not completely unexpected since we believe that this regulatory board is in place essentially to protect the railroads. Please read more about the STB ruling in the Alexandria Gazette Packet at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=325939&paper=59&cat=104>.

Train Noise

Several residents have complained lately about excessive train noise between 11pm and 1am. This train noise is most likely coming from Norfolk Southern's activity on the tracks, not Virginia Paving's. Virginia Paving is limited to using its locomotive between 7am and 6pm. However, you should most definitely register your noise complaints with Steve Mason, Special Assistant to the Mayor, at transloading@alexandriava.gov or at steve.mason@alexandriava.gov.

Virginia Paving

The Cameron Station Civic Association needs your help monitoring Virginia Paving. Now that the weather is improving, Virginia Paving will begin its 24-hour paving schedule. From April 1 through November 1, Virginia Paving can produce 275,000 tons of asphalt at night, from 8pm to 5am; the plant is operational 24 hours each day, six days each week, for 110 nights.

If you notice odor or dust at any time, or noise or excessive lighting at night, please contact Julius Holmes with the City of Alexandria at 703-838-4334. After hours or on weekends, please contact the 24-hour nuisance hot line at 703-906-9918.

Landmark/Van Dorn Small Area Plan Passage

The City Council unanimously approved the Landmark/Van Dorn Corridor Plan on Saturday, February 21. The council made a few specific changes to the plan's language, many directed at making more explicit the fact that the plan provides at least some flexibility to shift things around at the project level when appropriate. The council was clearly focused on making things happen and wanted to be sure that the good things in the plan do not unintentionally become obstacles to desirable redevelopment. The video of the public comment and council discussion can be viewed by going to the Council Docket web page at this link: http://alexandria.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2.

The council also gave their final approval to the Landmark Gateway project at this meeting. There is now CDD zoning on the Landmark Gateway site within the plan area. (CDD – Coordinated Development District – is a zone established for large areas within the city that will have significant development related impacts on the city. The zone is established to promote development consistent with the master plan, like creating a mixture of uses to include office, residential, retail, hotel and other uses with appropriate open space and recreational amenities to serve the project users and residents of the city, which is the vision of this small area plan.) Please take a moment to look at the small area plan. It's an exciting vision for the West End and will impact Cameron Station directly. Go to <http://alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default.aspx?id=7014>.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the civic association leadership, please contact Ingrid Sanden at iasanden@gmail.com.

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

Status of Cameron Perks Space

In response to questions about Cameron Perks, the community manager informs us that Bright Start is taking over a portion of the coffeehouse space – the large room that is directly next to Bright Start's preschool classroom. Greenvest, Cameron Station's developer, has indicated that they would like to keep a coffeehouse in the remaining space. Any inquiries about Main Street Retail space availability should be made to Kristen Brittingham at Greenvest at 703-422-8992.

West End Farmers Market Opens May 3

By Susan Birchler

Cold winds may still rattle my windows, but I know spring is definitely on its way. I wake up in the mornings to the sound of mourning doves and sparrows migrating back to Virginia from their winter homes. Farmers are planting now, anticipating the official start of spring at the March 20 equinox. Their first harvest of early greens, root vegetables and fruits will appear six weeks later at the opening of the West End Farmers Market on Sunday, May 3, in Ben Brenman Park.

At dawn, in the park's southern parking lot near the railroad tracks, vendors will set up their tents and tables and carefully arrange colorful mounds of deep red radishes, beets and rhubarb, crisp-green bok choy, shallots, leeks, pearlescent chinese cabbages and early lettuces, as well as dark green collard greens and spinach. Alma Diaz of Westmoreland Berry Farms and Barry Argento of Papa's Orchard will present eye-popping rows of delicious strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries and winter apples and pears. Wondering how to cook bok choy or turnips, or want something special to make with raspberries? Stop by the market managers' tent. We will be giving out recipes, and we are looking forward to meeting everyone and saying hello.

Complementing the luscious spring vegetables and fruits are the gourmet cheeses from the Amish country found at Tommy Tompkin's tent. Tommy sells a variety of handmade cheeses, including an exquisite cave cheese, sinful goat's cheese and an excellent sharp cheddar. He also offers yogurt and delicious handmade jams, jellies, pickles and relishes.

You will want to round out your Sunday picnic lunch of cheese and fruit with freshly baked breads. You can choose from multiple vendors offering a variety of breads including crunchy baguettes, soft rolls, sweet pastries, muffins and buttery scones. Enjoy your meal even more by bringing a little spring indoors in the guise of the delectably large flower bouquets offered by Billie, the flower guy.

Customers who cannot resist the tempting smell of fresh scones and muffins can enjoy their treats on the surrounding picnic benches and linger over gourmet coffee and freshly squeezed orange juice from the market.

Free-range chickens and grass-fed beef, as well as free-range eggs, are also offered by market vendors. The market managers are working on getting a local dairy farmer to bring his fresh, as in just-milked, milk to the market, as well as fair-trade coffee. Buy yourself a good meal at the market and make sure your dog has a treat as well. Last year, Lisa's handmade dog treats were a market bestseller.

On May 3 and every subsequent first Sunday of the month, the market will host local artisans and crafters. Last year we offered Peruvian and Latin American folk crafts, handmade dog beds, jewelry, homemade soaps, creams and lotions, paintings by Len Garon, Tattras woven scarves and rugs, boxes by the Svikharts and art prints and books by Flavius Hall. This year will be even more interesting. If you know of any artists or vendors who would like to participate, please have them contact us at westendfarmersmarket@gmail.com or sabirchler@gmail.com. Also, please contact us if you have feedback, ideas or suggestions for the market. We would love to hear from you.

Everything you need for a delicious gourmet meal, whether you are making leek soup or a crisp salad with radishes, is available at the West End Farmers Market. The City of Alexandria and Julie and Susan, the market managers, invite each of you to come celebrate good food, community and fine Sunday mornings. By purchasing locally grown produce and food, you can eat well, buy green, have a great time and support small farmers and our regional economy. What better way to spend a Sunday morning?

The West End Farmers Market, located in the south parking lot of Ben Brenman Park, next to the Cameron Station community, is open every Sunday from 9am to 1pm. If you are riding by on the bike path, park your bike with the market manager and take your time shopping. If you are driving, there is plenty of parking in the adjacent parking lots and on the street.

See you soon!

Susan Birchler is a resident of Cameron Station and Associate Market Manager of the West End Farmers Market. She may be contacted at 571-431-7557 or sabirchler@gmail.com.



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

Times are tough all over, including for our Cameron Station retailers. In the last issue and this one, The Compass features stories on each of our community 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.

Take It to the Cleaners

By Catherine Huddleston

When is a dry cleaners more than just a dry cleaners? When it is Cameron Station Valet located in the heart of Cameron Station since 2002.

Owned by Grace Hwang and aided by her daughter Shannon and son Sean, the Valet strives to provide the best cleaning services for its customers. They offer complete specialty cleaning, and if your leather, suede, furs or rugs need attention, they are sent to a specialist specific to those items. Grace pays special attention to household items — all cushions, drapes, comforters and the like will be cleaned by experts. Of course, all “regular” items are handled with care, too. Did you know that if you have your basic cleaning in by 9:30am, it will be available for pick-up by 5pm the same day at no extra charge? If you are like me, that service comes in handy — there is always that one item you need for a trip that starts tomorrow.

The Valet does not have cleaning facilities on the premises, but as there are many cleaning factories in the area, Grace finds the best one for the quality of cleaning they expect for their customers. Their current servicer is in Maryland. The factory offers high-quality service and uses milder chemicals that are less harsh on fine items. It is important to Grace that the quality of cleaning for her Cameron Station customers be the best she can find, even though she realizes that the prices she charges will be higher.

Grace has a long career as a tailor and offers expert alteration services. She is well known in the industry and has a large following from areas outside as well as inside Cameron Station. Some of the items that she uniquely specializes in are beaded gown and wedding dress alterations, as they demand extra attention to detail.

The Valet also offers delivery for anyone with special needs that make it difficult to pick up his or her cleaning. Grace offers a personal touch and will be happy to discuss any needs you may have.

Cameron Station Valet also offers shoe repair services; bring your items in by Friday, and they will be back by the next Friday.

Grace and Shannon’s personal stories are as special as the services they provide to Cameron Station residents. A few details: the family moved here eight years ago from South Korea and currently lives in Burke, Virginia. At the time of her arrival in America, Grace knew no English but brought her expert tailor experience and a dream for her family. She opened the cleaners here in 2002, determined to succeed both commercially and in learning English. (She still attends school every day.) Meanwhile, she has a second, full-time job and tends to her husband, who has had a successful liver transplant. Grace was pleased to have this opportunity to express her heartfelt thanks to all her customers here in Cameron Station for their loyal support during the difficult time of his illness and recuperation and to convey how much she looks forward to many more years here in our community.

If you have a minute, stop in to the shop and say hello — you will thoroughly enjoy meeting this lovely family!

The Cameron Station Valet is located at 4903 Brenman Park Drive. The hours are 7am-7pm, Monday through Friday, and 8am-6pm on Saturday; the telephone number is 703-823-0606.

Looking for a Latte?



Or one of the other specialty coffee drinks you used to purchase at Cameron Perks? Head over to the Main Street Market. Their new espresso machine can make all your favorites!

Main Street Market Is Marvelous

By Eliza Dolin



Our community website refers to the Main Street Market as a "mini-mart," but that description hardly does it justice. Mr. Moosang Lee, owner since October 2000, knows his Cameron Station customers well and has tailored his market's offerings to a "t".

Of course the usual convenience items are available, from soda to Tums to the major daily and weekly newspapers. Staples are too, but even these are carefully selected – you can choose salted or unsalted butter, the milk is organic, the eggs are from free-range chickens, and if you want oats in your sandwich bread, you can have them.

Coffee is another staff of life, but before you grab a cup of the Dunkin' Donuts brew for your morning commute, consider whether to sample an espresso from the new machine (yes, folks, espresso, back again in Cameron Station), a blended iced coffee (fat-free shots are available for you weight watchers), a smoothie or a fruit tea blast instead, prepared by the cheerful Ms. Esther Im. On your way back home, you can choose from a good selection of reasonably priced wines and beers, and even champagne for that spur-of-the-moment celebration. Why not grab a pint of your favorite Ben & Jerry's ice cream and a greeting card to go with that magnum?

On a slower day, perhaps after a walk in the park or if you get hungry while lounging by the pool, try one of Mr. Lee's made-to-order sandwiches; loaded with fresh fillings, they have a fanatical following. Several tables, inside in colder months and outside in warmer ones, are pleasant spots for eating that lunchtime sandwich while you people-watch or hold a quick meeting. As accompaniments to munch on while relaxing, you can pick from seven kinds of Pringles, a variety of chips and, yes, seven types of salsa. Do you have the occasional odd craving for, say, Spam Lite, maki rolls (seaweed-wrapped rice crackers) or canned sardines? You're covered.

If you're not impressed yet, how about this: you can throw together a perfectly creditable gourmet dinner party with one quick trip to the Main Street Market. Start with one of five varieties of Carr's table water crackers and some boursin and prosciutto, graced with Ingleheffer's mustard; settle in for whichever variety of Progresso soup piqued your interest; move on to whole-grain pasta with bottled vodka sauce and a side serving of Green Giant "immunity blend" frozen vegetables; and finish with more of that Ben & Jerry's, or perhaps some Fermin Bouvard butter biscuits with dark chocolate tablets. There are frozen entrees, string cheese and bottled baby food for your guests' kids, too, and a large and varied candy selection. Don't forget to pick up trash bags for the cleanup!

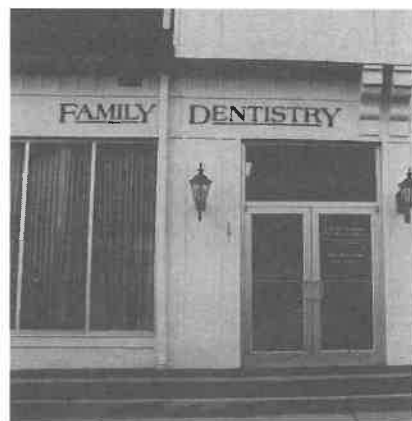
Main Street Market is proof that good things really do come in small packages. Take a moment to drop by and wander the aisles to see for yourself.

The Market is located at 4901 Ben Brenman Drive and is open 7am-9pm, Monday-Friday; 8am-9pm, Saturday; and 9am-8pm, Sunday. 703-823-6162.

Dr. Truc Mai Specializes in Smiles

By Eliza Dolin

Did you know that Cameron Station boasts an award-winning dentist? Truc N. Mai, D.D.S., has an office at 181 Comay Terrace, just around the corner from L'Vida Spa & Salon. Rated by NOVA-Life Magazine as one of Northern Virginia's top five dentists, Dr. Mai uses the latest techniques to provide virtually pain-free care to you and your family, from cosmetic and restorative dentistry to whitening and treatment of periodontal gum disease. Dr. Mai and her staff are available by appointment here in Cameron Station, but you can also "walk in" to the second location at 14668 North Beauregard Street on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9am to 5pm. Learn more at www.doctortrucmai.com or call 703-461-3000.



www.cameronstation.org

A Bright Start to Life

By Catherine Huddleston

The melody of the song "If I Could Turn Back Time" (sung by Cher in the 1980s) was playing in the back of my mind during my first visit to Bright Start Daycare and Preschool. All I could think about was how nice it would have been to have such a wonderful daycare and preschool in my neighborhood when my children were small.

Our first experience would have been in the Teddy Bears classroom, which starts with children six weeks of age and finishes at approximately 13 months or when the wee ones begin to toddle. Just knowing that over 90% of caregivers in the classroom are mothers too is a great comfort to moms with new babies. Having a daily report on my child's feeding, napping, etc. would have helped me feel like I was a part of their day even though I was at work. I have a feeling I would have been one of the moms who peek at the Bright Start webcam often during the day! Amber Harris, Bright Start Director, reports that grandparents enjoy doing the same, wherever they may live. They might miss their munchkins, though, if it's a nice weather day, when they hop into buggies for a long stroll in Ben Brenman Park.

Our next journey would have been to the Busy Bees classroom (the second of the seven naturally lit classrooms) for young walkers to around 18 months. I remember well this exciting time in my children's lives as they developed into walkers, talkers and independent beings. Bright Start has a ratio of one teacher to four students in this room, which has been designed to foster a smooth transition during these months of growth. The environment has been set up in a manner that allows them to learn more about themselves, greet their friends with big smiles, play independently, in pairs, or in small groups and "read" books or have books read to them. The many daily activities include music, art, listening to stories and playing with toys and would have had my girls talking about their day until bedtime.

The next three classrooms, Turtle Tots, Swinging Monkeys and Busy Bugs, take the students through the next two years until preschool. The Turtles receive guidance for their next stages of growth and have so much to learn, from feeding themselves with utensils, running around safely, social interaction and developing their motor and sensory skills. The Monkeys are becoming wiser, can sit longer and are able to spend more time in an organized activity. They are becoming diaper-free and love to explore. The Bugs' room is a place filled with the excitement of busy little learners with the need for lots of play. Each day they are given the opportunity to build, pretend and create artistic masterpieces while taking on new responsibilities. The Bugs learn bathroom wash-up and clean-up, take a nap and enjoy circle time.

The Swinging Monkeys and Busy Bugs have a visit from Mr. Skip each Wednesday for music time. (Preschoolers see him

on Tuesdays.) As Mr. Skip plays the guitar, the children dance freely and learn new music through song. (I want to go!)

The final step on the Bright Start ladder begins around age three-and-a-half with graduation to preschool to prepare for kindergarten. The preschool class is an extraordinary place where bright young learners have multiple opportunities for new and familiar activities. The mixed age range in this class allows the older kids to be leaders and the younger to have role models. The activities are similar to the other classes but last longer. The students are encouraged to share ideas and experiences and make connections; this helps them build confidence, learn to solve problems and develop other important skills. Currently, Bright Start has 28 preschool students, but it will be expanding to two classrooms with 20 in each class in the next few months.

The students are also fortunate to have weekly visits from Ms. Kateri and Ms. Hayes (preschool) to teach music and movement. This much-anticipated class provides many opportunities to learn sign language, Spanish and how to follow directions through movement and song. They play musical instruments, play with puppets, have free play with balls and use rhythm for dance, to name a few of the activities. (I want to do to this, too!)

Bright Start just celebrated its fourth birthday on Valentine's Day. Founded in 2005 by Kerri Chase, who was seeking educational daycare for her own children, Bright Start is now seeing its first enrolled students preparing for kindergarten. Amber Harris has been with Bright Start since the beginning and was promoted to director in August 2008. The Associate Director is Carin Elliott, a new mom with her baby in the Teddy Bears classroom. Bright Start also offers a half-day program with varied days to suit each family's needs. Currently, the wait time for the school is approximately one year for full-time students and several months for part-time students.

Bright Start is located at 4920 Brenman Park Drive and is open from 7am to 6:30pm, Monday through Friday. Contact information is as follows: 703-370-8414 or www.bright-start.org.



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Anniversary Tree Dedication and BocciGolf Tournament

By Sonia Agosto

As some of you may remember, we wrote in the November/December issue of *The Compass* about a young tree donated by Campbell and Ferrara Nurseries, Inc. and planted at the entrance to Ben Brenman Park. Join us on Saturday, April 18, at 10am as we gather at the tree to celebrate "Anny", named in honor of Cameron Station's 10-Year Anniversary. A red sunset maple tree, Anny may well grow to 60 feet in height, promising years of delight. Neighbor and fabulous baker Ron Loveng will create a special cake in honor of this event. Grab your favorite coffee drink from the Main Street Market and come join us for cake and celebration.

Be sure to hang around after the dedication, because for the next two hours there will be a BocciGolf tournament in the park. Many of you remember what fun the first tournament was, held during the 10-Year Anniversary weekend last September. Bo Schnurr, Mindy Lyle and John Johnson are organizing the tournament and will be making improvements to the existing course. And this time prizes will be awarded, including three fully equipped BocciGolf bags, complete with materials to make your own course in your own neighborhood's common area. Mark your calendars today!



Got Any Gum, Chum?

By Pinky Fitzgerald

It's not WW II, but during my last visit with the wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Hospital, I asked a young lad in a wheelchair if he wanted any of the treats that I had just arranged on the table where goodies are usually placed. He asked if I had any gum. Unfortunately, I did not have gum, so I offered him a bag of chips. He smiled as he took the chips and thanked me.

With springtime here, perhaps you'd like to send some gum or Lifesavers to the soldiers at Walter Reed. This time last year, I brought some new baseball caps and a dozen pairs of sunglasses and they were quickly put to use. Gatorade, liquid or dry, sport bars and candy bars are always appreciated.

I visit the Mologne House twice a month to bring goodies to the troops. Please support me in this combined Cameron Station act of charity. Call me at 703-461-3027 or 703-628-3405 (cell), and I can make arrangements to transport your donations to Walter Reed Hospital. Sadly, some of the troops are still there after two years of rehabilitation and physical therapy. Won't you please help?

Note: Following is a letter sent to Pinky from the business manager of Mologne House in appreciation of her work and generosity, and that of Cameron Station residents.

20 February 2009

Dear Margaret W. Fitzgerald,

This letter is in recognition of your donation to our troops and their families while staying at the Mologne House Hotel. Your generosity assists us in our continuing efforts to provide our combat troops and their families with the very best of care. Your time, consideration and hard work in supporting our service men and women is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.
Jessica Reddish



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Tucker Spring Fling

By Ingrid Sanden

The Samuel Tucker Elementary PTA invites you to its first Spring Fling on Friday, April 17, from 6pm to 8pm at Tucker Elementary School. Please stop by to enjoy pizza, a raffle with great prizes (at only \$1 per ticket, you can afford to gamble!) and an art show featuring beautiful pieces of art created by Tucker students available for purchase.

You'll have a great night, and you might walk away with a great prize, including: tickets to see the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Classika Theatre or Metro Stage; membership in Top Golf; a birthday party at MyGym; a junior set of golf clubs; a new bicycle; a pearl necklace; Arthur Murray dance lessons; tickets to a Redskins pre-season game; a one-year membership to an area YMCA; free oil changes and car washes; local restaurant gift certificates; and much more!

Best of all, you'll help Tucker teachers fulfill their classroom wish lists. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Tucker Spring Fling, please contact Ingrid Sanden at iasanden@gmail.com.

Thank you to the local businesses, organizations and individuals supporting this event:

Wayne & Irina Babb, RE/MAX Allegiance
Virginia Paving Company
Margaret Hollar, Long & Foster Realtor
Tall Cedars Development Company, Mike McGuire
Gibberman Dental
Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille
Alexandria City Council Member Rob Krupicka
Alexandria City Council Member Justin Wilson

Alexandria City Council Member Tim Lovain
Alexandria City Council Member Paul Smedberg
Alexandria City Council Member Ludwig Gaines
(Master of Ceremonies)

Former Alexandria Mayor and current
City Council Candidate Kerry Donley
Tempo Restaurant

MyGym - Kingstowne
YMCA of Metropolitan Washington
Virginia Martial Arts Institute
Top Golf

Pinecrest Golf Course
Potomac Riverboat Company
JW Tumbles - Alexandria
Wiygul Automotive Clinic
Mr. Wash Carwash
MetroStage

Johnny Rockets - Shirlington
DC United

Classika Theatre
Arthur Murray Dance Studio
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra
Trader Joe's - Alexandria

Washington Golf
Fitness First
Jeff Lubin Portrait Photography

The American Cafe
Sportrock Climbing Centers
Tucker Elementary Teachers
Mindy Lyle
Amy and Cy Bartlett

Ingrid Sanden is Spring Fling Co-chair, a member of the Tucker PTA and mother of a Tucker kindergartner.

Kindergarten Registration at Tucker Elementary

If your child will be five years old by September 30, 2009, register him/her for kindergarten at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, beginning Monday, April 13.

Tucker is an award-winning school here in Cameron Station and serves 657 children from kindergarten through fifth grade. If you would like to speak with a parent of a current Tucker Tiger to get a "parent perspective," please contact Theresa Kolish, PTA President and Cameron Station resident, at tkolish@comcast.net. If you would like to tour Tucker, which is fully accredited and meets Adequate Yearly Progress goals, please contact Principal Loretta Scott at 703-933-6300. Find out more about Tucker Elementary at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/tucker/>.

Recycling Reminder

Residents should bundle items such as paper and cardboard boxes so they do not blow out of the recycling bin. Also, you are encouraged to mark your recycling bins with your house number so that the bins may be returned if they blow away.



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"All Alexandria Reads," April-May 2009

This spring, Alexandria Library invites all of Alexandria to read Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*. Kingsolver is a Virginia author who chronicles her family's attempt to eat food that was produced either in their own garden or from neighboring farms. The book is an exploration of the origins of food and the impact that our eating habits have on the environment and economy. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* is a fascinating read that educates and entertains.

The library is planning numerous programs, for adults and for children that will engage our community in a shared discussion about the food we eat and ways in which we can all be healthier and more responsible citizens. Visit any branch or www.alexandria.lib.va.us for more information on events.



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Alexandria, VA 22304 703-751-9266

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.



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MangoMikes.com



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.

Cameron Station Book Clubs

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

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

Monday Night Bookball

March: *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier

April: *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver

Reading Between the Wines

March: *A Room with a View* by E.M. Forster

April: *A Land Remembered* by Patrick D. Smith



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3rd Annual Night to Strike Out MS Auction and Cocktail Party at Food Matters Monday, April 20, 2009

Please join Cameron Station residents Kate and Nelson Morse as they host the 3rd annual cocktail party & silent and live auctions to benefit the National MS Society from 6pm to 10pm. Tickets are \$75 per person donated in Kate's name to the National MS Society.

Please contact Kate
or Nelson at:
strike.out.ms.with.kate@gmail.com
or 301-437-1358 to reserve
your seat.



Carla's Picks

By Carla Besosa

Bangkok Blues

May 8

Jumptown

Combine Thai food with live music and check out this great blues band featuring the founder of the Western Maryland Blues Fest, Carl Disque, on sax. OK...he also happened to go to college with me!

The Barns at Wolf Trap

April 8

Vienna Teng

I've become a loyal fan of this talented singer/songwriter/pianist. Musical talent with a soft touch.

Strathmore

May 6

Suspicious Cheese Lords

Who are they? I have no idea, but I absolutely love the name and think we should all explore this all-male a cappella ensemble performing Middle Ages/Renaissance selections.

May 28

BSO SuperPops Disco Days & Boogie Nights

Relive the 70s!

Birchmere

April 4

Harmony Sweepstakes

A cappella competition; much fun.

May 1-3

America

I previously alerted you to this so you could get a head start on your ticket purchase. I repeat, they WILL sell out. Don't delay.

Gadsby's Tavern

April 4

5th Annual Rum Punch Challenge

Sounds dangerous, but fun. Event includes rum punch, food and a silent auction.

H Street Playhouse / Theater Alliance

Two world premieres by Victor Lodato. See www.theateralliance.com.

April 16-May 9

The Bread of Winter

May 16-June 6

The Woman Who Amuses Herself

Little Theater of Alexandria

April 18-May 9

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde

Fact-based thriller.

GMU Center for the Arts

April 11

Complexions

Cutting-edge choreography.

April 16-18

Mason Dance Co.

Spring concert.

April 30

Mason Dance Co.

May concert.

The State Theater

April 9

Bela Fleck

I am never disappointed by this talented banjo player, who has mastered all genres of music.

Blues Alley

April 3

Chuck Loeb

Smooth jazz guitar.

April 16-19

Earl Klugh

Earl's jazz guitar is still going strong!

May 1-3

David Benoit

Jazz piano.

Mount Vernon

May 15-17

Spring Wine Festival

Fort Ward Park

May 25

Memorial Day Jazz Festival

And Another Thing...

Alexandria-National Harbor Water Taxi

The water taxi departs from Alexandria's historic waterfront and Gaylord Hotel & Convention Center at National Harbor every hour and 30 minutes, from 4:15pm until 10:15pm, seven days a week. Tickets can be purchased at the Alexandria Marina or at the Concierge Desk at the Gaylord Hotel.

Blueberry Art Gallery

This new Del Ray attraction has recently relocated to 116 Delray Ave., next to St. Elmo's Coffee Pub. Check it out!



One of Cameron Station's much loved dogs.

Vaso's Kitchen

By Carla Besosa

Vaso's is quite a find and can only be described as too cute! Nestled in an otherwise residential section of north Old Town, the former Dixie Pig spot still sports the ol' Dixie Pig neon sign, now a protected landmark. However, in its current incarnation (barely two years old), *Vaso's* is a wonderful Greek venue with authentic cuisine and amiable service. In honor of "the Pig," its owners have kept a smattering of BBQ selections on the menu. They also offer a few Italian options, but "Greek" is primarily the name of the game.

When temps are mild, patio seating — with umbrellas, tile-inlaid tables and a front row seat to view the neighborhood comings and goings — is a must. The indoor dining room, with its fresh flowers and candles, is small but has been transformed into a quaint, tastefully appointed space with an upscale air, yet warm and welcoming. The intimate seven-stool bar has a cozy feel as well.

Fresh, hot bread arrives with olive oil for dipping. Menu selections are plentiful (including a children's menu), and portions are generous; plus, there are the chef's specials for your consideration. We went for the *Saganaki* for starters — a baked cheese appetizer that's always quite tasty. My dining companion enjoyed the *Eggplant Parmesan*, expertly prepared. I indulged in the *Shrimp Stuffed with Crab*: six butterflied shrimp stuffed with crab, finished in garlic butter; a bit on the rich side but extremely tasty. The fried *Calamari* and the *Fettuccine Alfredo with Grilled Chicken* also received rave reviews. The accompanying house salad is no-nonsense, nothing fancy but featuring fresh ingredients splashed with the house dressing. If you're not in the mood for an entire meal, try one of the scrumptious pizzas.

Take advantage of the Greek beers offered: *Keo*, *Mytho*, and *Aris* are all good brews. Each is tasty and refreshing; nothing objectionable here!

The standout among the desserts is the *Yalato boureko*: freshly baked, crispy outside, creamy inside, with a harmonious meld of cheese, orange and honey flavors.

Dining at *Vaso's* is a complete experience. The food and drink will leave you feeling satisfied, the staff will pamper you, and the atmosphere will bring a smile to your face; we grinned incessantly through all three courses! I have ventured to *Vaso's* on several occasions and will definitely continue to patronize this establishment.

In a world of chain restaurants, *Vaso's* is the breath of fresh air we need — a feel-good place!



1225 Powhatan Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
703-548-2747

Hours of Operation

Monday-Thursday, 10:30am-9pm
Friday, 10:30am-10pm
Saturday, 8am-10pm
(Breakfast served Saturdays, 8-11am)

Price Range

Appetizers: \$5.95-\$10.95
Entrees: \$11.95-\$23.95
Desserts: \$4.25-\$6.95

Smoking

No

Handicapped Accessible

Yes

Parking

Small lot and street

Reservations

Highly recommended for prime time dinner, on weekends and for large parties

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.

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 contributor: Deborah Charette



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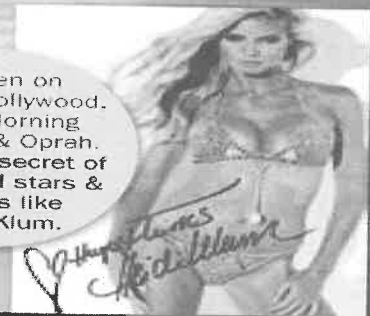
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models like
Heidi Klum.



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., April 15-30 for May/June; June 15-30 for July/Aug.). 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 (April 30 for May/June; June 30 for July/Aug., 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	\$220
(horizontal: 7" x 4 1/2"; 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 fmingione-buzan@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 fmingione-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

"Our Neighbors Recommend"

Vendor List on Website Only

The list of vendor recommendations 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.

The compass

200 Cameron Station Blvd.
Alexandria, VA 22304

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