Newsletter of the Cameron Station Community Association, Inc.

Volume 17 Issue 4 • Sept-Oct 2016

Pride of Ownership Winners

By Linda Greenberg, Member, Common Area Committee

Each year, the Common Area Committee's Pride of Ownership awards are given to homeowners whose front, or front and side, gardens are exceptionally attractive and well-cared for.

Usually an award is given to a homeowner in one of four categories: corner townhome, townhome, condominium, and single-family home. Occasionally, a category has no winner and/or two winners. This year there was no winner for a condominium, but there were two winners for a corner townhouse.

This year, too, we were very pleased with the number of Pride of Ownership submissions – over 25! We appreciate their effort and creativity. They help make Cameron Station a very attractive community.

In addition, several homeowners whose landscaping is coordinated and eye-catching received honorable mentions. Lastly, one garden, at 5001 Barbour Drive, is outstanding in terms of overall effect and profusion of plants and exuberant colors.

The 2016 WINNERS are:

- Timothy and Barbara Regan, 357 Cameron Station Boulevard, single family home;
- Thomas Persichetti and Melissa Hoaglund, 158 Martin Lane, and Thomas and Carol Kuimjian, 5001 Barbour Drive, both for corner townhomes; and
- Michael Lekas, 5211 Brawner Place, townhome.

Both the Persichetti/Hoaglund and Kuimjian side gardens are very attractively landscaped.

On behalf of the Cameron Station Community Association, Irina Babb of Re/Max Realty provided the winners with generous gift cards to Home Depot, the London Curry House, and Toka Salon.

The following three townhomes earned honorable mentions:

- Michael Meldon at 162 Cameron Station Boulevard;
- Christi Le Shankel at 210 Cameron Station Boulevard; and



Timothy and Barbara Regan, 357 Cameron Station Boulevard

Thomas Persichetti and Melissa Hoaglund, 158 Martin Lane



Thomas and Carol Kuimjian, 5001 Barbour Drive

 Scott Shannon and Brittany Gabel at 350 Cameron Station Boulevard.

As you walk through Cameron Station, notice the many attractively landscaped homes and how they enhance our community's appearance. Consider entering your home in the Pride of Ownership contest next year. If your garden needs improving, it can be easily accomplished and very satisfying. If you have landscaping questions, the volunteer landscaping committee would be glad to assist. Contact Kathy McCollom at *Gardeners@cameronstation.org*.

Ownership Winners

(contined from front page)

Michael Lekas, 5211 Brawner Place



Michael Meldon, 162 Cameron Station Boulevard





Scott Shannon and Brittany Gabel at 350 Cameron Station Boulevard

Neighbors Gear Up for Adopt-a-Family Program

By Mindy Lyle

This is the 16th year that the Cameron Station Community will be helping needy families from our local Tucker Elementary School have a Merry Christmas. Before all the demands of the holiday season kick in, we wanted to let you know a little about this wonderful tradition.

Since the Adopt-a-Family program was founded, Cameron Station residents have warmly embraced it, and along with local businesses have helped hundreds of families who, without this help, might have had no Christmas celebration at all. Here is how it works:

Tucker's social worker and principal select the families and screen their needs. Lists of needs – some as basic as dishes and towels – are compiled by the school, along with clothing sizes, shoe sizes, and wish lists from the children for toys, books, and games. Families are then available for "adoption."

There are many ways to "adopt." In the past, streets have banded together to buy for several families. Individual families have chosen a single family to buy for. Neighbors sometimes select one or two members of a family and other neighbors cover the rest. Sometimes committees, book clubs, and groups of friends buy for multiple families. Others prefer to give cash or gift cards so others can do the gift buying. Some, who are unable to make a monetary donation, volunteer their time to shop, wrap, or help deliver the gifts to the school. There are many different ways to participate, all of them valuable, and all of them greatly appreciated.

If you would like to be part of the Adopt-a-Family program, please email *adopttuckerfamily@comcast.net*. There will be more details in emails blasts and *The Compass* as Christmas draws near.

About... The &ompass

The Compass is the newsletter for the Cameron Station Community Association and is run entirely by volunteers. The Compass welcomes your articles and photo submissions, as well as your suggestions for future issues. Please send us an email at The Compass@cameronstation.org.

Previous issues of *The Compass* are available online at *www.cameronstation.org*. Go under the "News" tab on the home page and click on "Community Communications" on the left hand side.

Editor in Chief: Eric Veres

Editorial Staff: Carla Besosa, Judy Coleman, Lily Engle, Scott E.Z. Franklin, Nicole Gauvin, Maya Noronha, Jamie Riedy, Debbie Routt, Megan Skinner, and Pat Sugrue

Recurring Contributors: Susan Birchler and Paula Jarvis **Photographer:** David Thorpe

Committee Corner HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

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Meetings are the last Tuesday of every month, unless otherwise indicated.

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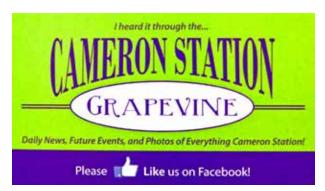
www.facebook.com/ CameronStationGrapevine?ref=br tf

Cameron Station Dads:

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Cameron Station Community Association Inc.:

https://www.facebook.com/Cameron-Station-Community-Association-Inc-183570388335041/?fref=ts



Cameron Club Fitness Center Update

By T. Cooper, Regional Manager, ProFIT

I recently sat down with Psy Scott, Director of the Cameron Club Fitness Center, who described Center's current offerings and goals for the future.

"ProFIT was hired to manage Cameron Station's Fitness Center in January 2015. Since that time, we have done our best to instill a sense community and promote fitness. We have a wide variety of group exercise classes, several at no charge to the community, as well as some of the industry's leading personal trainers. We have taken great strides in instilling healthy values within the community, and would like to continue to enhance the fitness experience."

Beginning September 6, Mr. Scott will be spending time daily on the fitness floor.

The goal is that Mr. Scott's increased accessibility will provide a deeper connection with the community and aid in residents' fitness goals. He intends to offer equipment orientations, fitness assessments for new residents, exciting fitness challenges with built-in incentives for success, and specialty workshops (e.g., self-defense, nutrition, and dance).

Residents with questions about programs, equipment, or any facet of the Cameron Club Fitness Center, should feel free to email Mr. Scott at *fitness@cameronstation.org*.

Giving Thanks for Good Neighbors: The Mark Pillow Community Spirit Award

By Pat Sugrue

Mark Pillow, who died suddenly in December 2005, was a wonderful friend and neighbor and a generous community volunteer, someone who embodied the spirit of Cameron Station and made it a better, brighter place to live.

In 2006, in memory of Mark and to honor those neighbors who have followed in his footsteps, the Common Area Committee established "The Mark Pillow Community Spirit Award." The Cameron Station Board of Directors now manages the award and is asking for nominations by Friday, October 21. The award will be presented at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 2.

Please think about your good neighbors and how they add to the quality of your life. For example, there are those who help out the entire community – they volunteer on committees, lend a hand at community events, organize meetings and parties, serve on the board, work on the civic association, etc. Cameron Station could not function without these dedicated volunteers, many of whom toil year after year after year.

And there are those who help on a more personal level – they feed and walk your pets, water your plants, pick up your newspapers and mail, shovel your driveway, and provide rides to doctors and airports. They offer the ordinary, day-to-day neighborliness that makes such a difference in our lives.

How do you thank these neighbors for all they do? Nominate them for the Pillow Award. You may nominate as many neighbors as you wish, but **NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 21.** Send their names and a description of their contributions to *boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org*. Then please come to the Annual Meeting where the winner(s) will be announced. Their names will be added to those of previous winners engraved on the award plaque located in the Cameron Club, outside the Victoria Hebert Great Room.

Website Registration

If you have not already registered for the Cameron Station website, *www.cameronstaton.org*, please do so. If you have, please make sure you have updated your profile with all of your information. If you have any problems, please contact the Management Office at *admin@cameronstation.org* or call 703-567-4881.

Special Love Helps Young Neighbor Survive

By Pam DeNunzio

The Furco family (Joe, Patty, Maggie, and Abby) moved to Cameron Station in 2010. Since then, their family has grown by one (Emily in 2011) and they have a few more Navy moves under their belt. In the midst of a move to Virginia Beach, Abby (then age 4) was diagnosed with PH-positive ALL, a rare form of childhood leukemia. Fastforward through painful and emotional chemo treatments, remission, and relapse, to an eight-year-old undergoing a life-saving bone marrow transplant in 2015. The transplant saved Abby's life, but not without repeated close calls with death, and more recently, a discharge with a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) due to failing organs and graft-versus-host disease caused by her transplant.

During this trying time, the Furcos have been able to take advantage of some of the fantastic organizations that help families live with childhood cancer. Many raise money for childhood cancer research, and some provide amazing opportunities for kids living with cancer, their siblings, and their parents. Offerings include camps, rallies, and trips for those afflicted. One organization, Special Love, has had a tremendous impact on Abby and her sister, Maggie. Over

the years Abby has been able to attend a week-long camp, Camp Fantastic, for children with cancer. The kids get to be kids for a week while still receiving necessary medical care, and they get to experience independence away from family and hospitals. This August, Abby got to attend Camp Fantastic. Many thought it would never happen since she was discharged in July from the hospital and went home on hospice care with a DNR. Special Love went above and beyond to get Abby there, and today she is thriving, due in no small part to her miraculous experience at Camp Fantastic.

As a family friend of the dear Furco family, I am sharing this story in the hopes of reaching our great neighbors here in Cameron Station. The Furcos still own a house on Brawner and hope to come back to Northern Virginia one day. Special Love has made a difference in Abby's life. It gave her a reason to live and a purpose for that week. The experience made her stronger, and she's getting stronger every day.

If you are able to contribute, the Furcos are holding a drive to raise \$20,000 for Special Love to give more children the experience Abby has been given. Just visit www.specialove. org/donate and mention Abby Furco in the notes section.

Thank you in advance for listening to this miraculous story and sending positive thoughts to this amazing family.

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2016 Resident ID

To ensure equitable use of the Cameron Station Shuttle Bus and the Cameron Station facilities (Fitness Center, Basketball Court, and Pool), all users must show their 2016 CSCA Resident ID; otherwise, access will be denied. This year's stickers are available for pick-up at the Management Office from 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday and 12noon to 4pm on Saturday.

Support Our Neighborhood School

By Melissa Vayra



Cameron Station's neighborhood school, Samuel Tucker Elementary, opened its doors for the 2016-17 school year on August 4. Students, staff, and parents are looking forward to a great year and would appreciate your support with two easy fundraising efforts.

Box Tops for Education Program

Tucker is collecting Box Tops and receives 10 cents for each one! Schools can use this money for anything they need including computers, books, classroom supplies, etc. This year our goal is to earn \$1,200 via this program. Look for Box Tops on hundreds of participating items, clip them, and drop them off at the front office of the school.

Clipping Box Tops is an easy way to raise money! 50 Box Tops = \$5 for our school

You can find more than 100 participating products at www. BTFE.com/products. Here are some examples of the range of products: Bisquick, Nature Valley Cereals, Ziploc bags,

Summer Time at Tranquility Hall Warrior Café

By Dubey Liffman

It's always a pleasure to go to Tranquility Hall at Walter Reed Hospital in Bethesda and visit our wounded and ill warriors. Our visit took place on July 7 when we distributed donations of swimming trunks, gym shorts, shirts (some for women), sunglasses, and batteries. We had not finished placing the items on the table and clothes rack when we were swarmed by soldiers, and most of the items were gone within the first half-hour. We thank those individuals who made these much-appreciated donations.

Visits are planned for the fall and winter. We welcome donations of long-sleeve shirts, golf shirts, light jackets and baseball caps. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Dubey Lifmann at 703-370-6362 or email dubeyd@comcast.net.

Green Giant vegetables, Lysol cleaners, Progresso soups, Kleenex, Land O' Lakes butter and cheese products, Yoplait yogurts, Annie's snacks and crackers, Motts juices, Hefty paper products and trash bags, and so much more.

Support Tucker While Shopping on Amazon

Do you love Amazon? Would you like to support Tucker without ever leaving your house? The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has teamed up with the Amazon Smiles program to donate to Tucker every time you shop at Amazon. Simply start at http://www.smile.amazon.com/ and designate Samuel Tucker PTA as the charity of your choice. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases.

Note, you must begin your shopping at *smile.amazon.com* or use the following link https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1998920.





ComCom to Create PR Subcommittee

The Communications Committee is in the process of forming a Public Relations Subcommittee.

Since the Cameron Station Community was founded 18 years ago, many new residential communities have been built in the West End of Alexandria, and more are under construction – several of them right outside our door. Potential homebuyers who are interested in living in this part of the city now have more options than ever, many of them brand-spanking new.

The Committee feels that the best way to protect the value of our homes in the face of this competition is to let people know why we believe our community offers more than the others, even if we have been around awhile. And the best way to do this is through a strong public relations campaign.

ComCom is seeking residents who have a background in public relations, marketing, or advertising to join the new PR Subcommittee. If you would like to volunteer, or would like more information, please contact *communications@cameronstation.org*.



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INTERESTED IN PLACING A CLASSIFIED AD? See the information on page 17.

Neighbors in the News

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

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Carla's Picks

By Carla Besosa

Arena Stage (DC)

Sept. 23-Oct. 30 - The Little Foxes

Oct. 28-Dec. 24 - Carousel Nov. 18-Dec. 24 - Moby Dick

The Barns at Wolf Trap (Vienna)

Nov. 9-10 - Sheila E.

Nov. 16-18 - Eric Burdon & The Animals

Nov. 29-Dec. 1 - Art Garfunkel

Birchmere (Arlandria)

Oct. 16 - Keiko Mastui

Oct. 28 - Hiroshima

Nov. 1 - Suzanne Vega

Nov. 2-3 - Brian Culbertson

Nov. 11-13 - Paula Poundstone

Nov. 15 - Acoustic Alchemy

Nov. 17 - Simply Three

Nov. 20 - Herman's Hermits

Nov. 30 - A Peter White Christmas

Black Rock Center for the Arts (Germantown)

Nov. 5 - Edmar Castaneda

Blues Alley (Georgetown)

Oct. 21-23 - Najee

Nov. 3-6 - Jonathan Butler

Nov. 25-27 - Alex Bugnon

Carlyle Club (Old Town)

Nov. 26 - Motown Christmas

Creative Cauldron (Falls Church)

Oct. 6-30 - Ruthless: The Musical

Nov. 4-20 - Oliver Twist

DAR Constitution Hall (DC)

Oct. 24 - Lindsey Stirling

Del Ray Artisans Gallery (Del Ray)

Nov. 4 - Opening Reception: H2O Waterworks

Dulles Expo Center (Chantilly)

Oct. 21 - Arts & Crafts Festival

Nov. 11 - Northern Virginia Christmas Market

Fireflies (Del Ray)

Oct. 13 - Janna Audey

1st Stage Theater (Tysons)

Nov. 10-Dec. 18 - Broadway Bound

Ford's Theater (DC)

Nov. 17-Dec. 31 - A Christmas Carol

4MR Stage (Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market)

Oct. 23 - Back Alley Blues Boys

Nov. 6 - Janna Audey

Gala Theater (Adams Morgan)

Oct. 8-22 - Volcanoes: Tales of El Salvador

Nov. 4-6 - Fuego Flamenco

GW Lisner Auditorium

Oct. 16 - Joan Baez

Oct. 17 - Omar Portuondo (of Buena Vista Social Club)

Oct. 20 - Ludovico Einaudi

The Hamilton (DC)

Oct. 19 - The Rippingtons

Nov. 11 - Taylor Hicks

Howard Theater (DC)

Nov. 13 - Gerald Albright

Jammin Java (Vienna)

Oct. 21 - Toby Lightman

Nov. 12 - Lucy Kaplansky

Nov. 13 - Melissa Ferrick

Nov. 17 - Catie Curtis & Maia Sharp

Kennedy Center (DC)

Oct. 27-30 - Freeze Frame by Debbie Allen

Oct. 28 - Hilary Hahn

Little Theater of Alexandria (Old Town)

Oct. 22-Nov. 12 - A Party to Murder

National Harbor (P.G. Co.)

Oct. 27 - Movie: The Jungle Book

Nov. 13 - Tree Lighting Ceremony

Nov. 19 - Holiday Performances

Nov. 26 - Holiday Performances

Nov. 26 - Movie: National Lampoon's Christmas

Vacation

National Theater (DC)

Oct. 15-20 - Bill Burr Live

Nov. 25-27 - Once

Roundhouse Theater (Bethesda)

Sept. 7-Oct. 30 - Angels in America

Signature Theater (Shirlington)

Sept. 13-Nov. 6 - The Gulf

Oct. 4-Nov. 20 - Freaky Friday

The State Theater (Falls Church)

Nov. 25 - The Nighthawks & Skip Castro Band

The Strathmore (Bethesda)

Oct. 20 - Chris Botti

Oct. 28 - Garrison Keillor

Nov. 12 - Black Violin

Nov. 20 - Jake Shimabukuro

Studio Theater (DC)

Nov. 9-Dec. 18 - Straight White Men

Synetic Theater (Crystal City)

Sept. 28-Oct. 30 - Dante's Inferno

Theater J (DC)

Nov. 16-Dec. 11 - The Christians

Twins (U Street Corridor)

Oct. 27 - AfroBop Alliance: Latin Jazz Night

Woolly Mammoth (DC)

Oct. 10-Nov. 6 - Kiss

(Continued on page 16)



Shawarma Guys

By Carla Besosa

Shawarma Guys is a new Mediterranean eatery in Kingstowne. I happened in there one day out of curiosity, and now I'm hooked! And who are the Shawarma Guys? Two brothers who transformed an idea into a delicious reality.

Though the space they occupy is small (six tables and four stools at a counter), their product packs a big flavorful punch! I've eaten there three times, and plan to return. Many of their customers are regulars, and they also have a booming take-out business. I spoke with one gentleman who comes daily for lunch, and a couple that comes two to three times a week. That degree of loyalty certainly speaks to the quality and consistency of the food.

Everything is made in-house, including the pita bread, the desserts, and all the sauces. The owners are hands-on, carrying out their commitment to providing fresh, nutritious, flavorful food at a very reasonable price. Everyone on staff is quite friendly, helpful, and informative, should you have questions. Your order is custom-made and tailored to your preference.

Start with *Pita, Salad,* or a *Rice Bowl*. Choose *Falafel, Chicken,* or *Beef/Lamb* (they are also happy to serve those in customized combinations of your choosing). Add a variety of toppings including *Couscous, Hummus, Feta, Olives,* and *Sumac Onions*. Sauce options include *Tahini, Garlic (YUM!), Yogurt & Cucumber,* and *Spicy Tomato Chutney*. My favorite is the *Falafel*: it has the perfect consistency – not dry, not too fried, and not too bland. Their *Garlic Sauce* and *Hummus* serve as perfect complements. All those flavors together just explode in your mouth!

Select some side dishes to share. Sample the *Tabouleh*, *Baba Ghannoush*, *Kibbeh*, *Fatayer* (meat, cheese, or spinach pie), or *Warak Enab* (stuffed grape leaves).

In addition to the usual beverages (sodas, bottled water, etc.), they also do a *Mango Lassi* and their own Afghan version of Sweet Tea.

Room for dessert? If not, get it to go. Homemade *Baklava, Rice Pudding,* and *Halawit Al Jibin* are there to tempt you.

Those with whom I was sharing a meal commented on how fresh and tasty everything was, and they were very pleased with the positive attitude of the staff and their willingness to please. They touted their meals as being some of the best Mediterranean food they'd ever had!

Give it a try! I think you'll be pleased!

(Photographs by David Thorpe)









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Gibberman Dental is excited to announce the addition of Dr. Maria Hodas as our newest dental associate! Dr. Hodas is a native New Englander, but has been living in the Washington, DC area for over a decade. Prior to becoming a dentist, Dr. Hodas worked on Capital Hill and later, for the American Dental Education Association (ADEA).

After graduating from Howard University College of Dentistry, Dr. Hodas finished her residency at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, DC.

In addition to her private practice experience, Dr. Hodas has provided free dental care to the underserved, both internationally and locally.

In her free time, Dr. Hodas enjoys spending time with her husband and son. She also enjoys spinning, cooking and traveling.

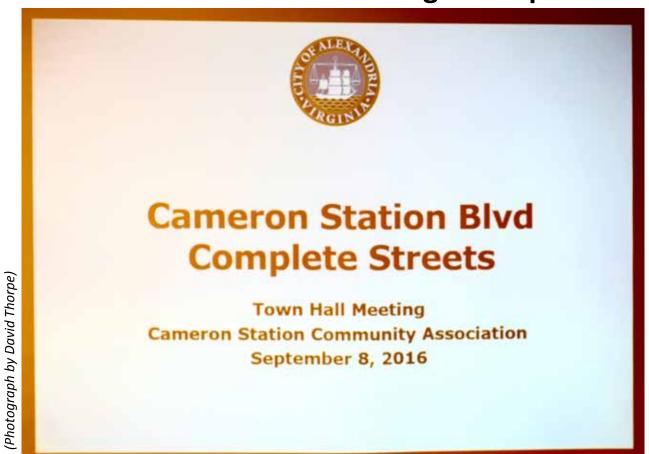
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Photographs from September 8, 2016 Cameron Station Town Hall Meeting: "Complete Streets"





www.cameronstation.org



(Photograph by David Thorpe)



(Photograph by David Thorpe)

Carla's Picks

(Continued from page 11)

And Another Thing... (in my stream-of-consciousness order)

New Eats!

Ashlar 116 S. Alfred St. (Old Town)

Cava Grill open in Foxchase Shopping Center

Dolce & Bean coming to Del Ray (2003-A Mt. Vernon Ave)

Live Oak opened where Monroe's used to be (Commonwealth & Monroe in Del Ray)

Los Tios opening a West End location where El

Primero used to be (Van Dorn Plaza)

Mano's Pizza open (6653 Little River Tnpk/Willow Run)

Pie 360 opening in Foxchase Shopping Center

Quickway Hibachi (Landmark Plaza)

Vola's Dockside & Hi-Tide Lounge (next to Torpedo Factory in Old Town)

Yates Pizza Palace coming soon (still!); delay related to permits for rooftop deck

Stomping Ground now open for dinner Thursdays/ Fridays (2309 Mt. Vernon Ave)

MUSIC

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Advertising & Submissions Policies & Procedures

Advertising:

The Compass newsletter is published bimonthly and distributed to approximately 1,800 residences, as well as displayed on the Cameron Station website. 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 (see box). Payment must accompany all ads. Artwork must be camera-ready in JPEG or TIFF format: 65 line screen or 300 dpi. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ARE PREFERRED. Ads appear in black/white in printed copies; but are displayed in color on the website. Advertisers will receive a copy of the newsletter in which their ad appears. Estimated (not guaranteed) time of delivery for the next issue is the last week of November to first week of December.

Article Submissions:

Any submissions for publication must include the writer's name, address, and phone number and must be received **by the 30th of the month preceding issue date** (*see box*). The newsletter staff, Communications Committee, or Board of Directors reserves the right to edit submissions. 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.

Book Clubs

Reading Between the Wines

October: The Secret History by Donna Tartt November: All the Light You Cannot See by

Anthony Doerr

December: Saint Maybe by Anne Tyler

Third Thursday of the Month

October: The Widow by Fiona Barton

November: Kill Em and Leave by

James McBride

December: Annual Holiday Party

(in lieu of reading)



Publishing Deadlines

January/February	December 30
March/April	February 28
May/June	April 30
September/October	August 30
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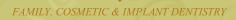
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Checks should be payable to Cameron Station Community Association and sent with camera-ready artwork to *The Compass*, 200 Cameron Station Boulevard, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. Artwork may be emailed to *admin@cameronstation.org*.

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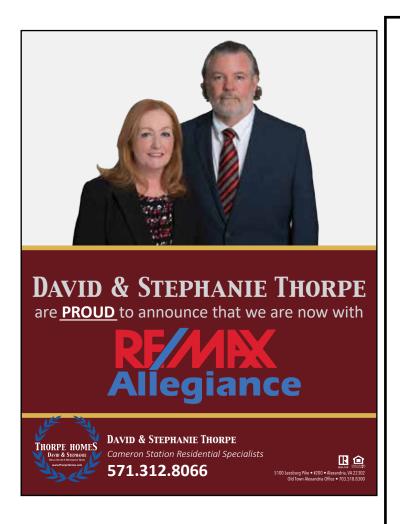


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COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Cameron Station Community Association Community Management Coporation (CMC)

Phone: 703-631-7200 Onsite Office 703-567-4881 After Hours Emergencies 301-446-2635

Bette Sanft, Community Manager *communitymanager@cameronstation.org*

Deirdre Baldino, Assistant Community Manager assistantmanager@cameronstation.org

Meghan Marville, Covenants Administrator covenants@cameronstation.org

Bethlehem Kebede, Administrative Assistant admin@cameronstation.org

Psy Scott, Director Cameron Station Fitness Center *cameronclubfitness@gmail.com* 703-567-8555

CONDOMINIUM MANAGEMENT

Cameron Station Condominium "The Residences"

FirstService Residential Management
Onsite Office: 703-751-5002; Corporate: 703-385-1133
After Hour Emergency: Same
Angela Luker, Community Manager
angela.lucker@fsresidential.com

Carlton Place Condominium

Abaris Realty

Phone: 301-468-8919 After Hour Emergency: Same Dany Abebe, Property Manager, *dabebe@abarisrealty.com*

Condominiums at Cameron Boulevard

CMC

Phone: 703-631-7200

After Hour Emergency: 301-446-2635 Gita Lainez, Manager, glainez@cmc-management.com

Main Street Condominium

GHA Community Management
Phone: 703-752-8300
After Hour Emergency: 888-660-7132
John Lyons, Property Manager, *jlyons@phacm.com*

offit Lyons, 1 toperty Manager, Jiyons@phucm.com

Oakland Hall & Woodland Hall Condominiums

CMC

Phone 703-631-7200 After Hour Emergency: 301-446-2635 Jackie Deane, Property Manager jdeane@cmc-management.com

Fall Gardening Tips

By Cameron Station Volunteer Gardeners Linda Greenberg and Kathy McCollom

When it comes to gardening excitement, spring gets the attention. What you do in the fall, however, can make a big difference in what happens next spring, and next year, plus it has some excitement all its own.

Some trees can be pruned in late fall, though late winter is better. Now, while trees and bushes are full of leaves, remember exactly what needs pruning, and consider taking photos or notes. They can look very different with the leaves off, when it's hard to tell exactly which was the problematic branch. Dead branches, or branches that threaten to poke sidewalk pedestrians, can be cut at any time of the year.

The neat and uniform look of a mulched garden bed is the mark of a good fall effort. In addition, mulch helps retain moisture, keeps out weeds, and hides clay-colored soil. However, when spreading mulch, make sure it does not touch tree trunks or the base stems of bushes, which can provide a pathway for bugs, plant rot, and disease.

If there is an area that is usually in the shade, where nothing seems to grow – perhaps in your rear garden with a surrounding fence – a thicker layer of mulch may cover and unify the area. You will see some all-mulch patches in common areas covered by deep shade around Cameron Station.

Many front gardens get a heavy dose of sun. This is the time of year to think about bulbs. They can go in as late as December as long as the ground hasn't frozen, although October is better. Bulbs need fall moisture to start growing roots and may even sprout a bit of green. Planting bulbs is a chore, but while you are digging, remember how wonderful it will be to see those first blooms in early spring. Bulbs grow best in light, sandy soil, not in the rocky clay found in Cameron Station. Ideally, dig up the area where you will plant the bulbs so that you have loosened the soil. Dig down about a foot, pick out rocks and pebbles, mix the area soil with a fine mulch or lightener, replace the soil, and then plant the bulbs.



The alternative is to select bulbs that somehow don't mind the clay and are disliked by squirrels. A good tough daffodil variety is the small *Tete-a-Tete*. The bulb itself appears standard-sized

while the daffodil will only be about six inches tall. Plant them in groups with bulbs a few inches apart. Over time they will multiply and form very attractive clumps. They are especially nice in sunny spots among bushes because they will bloom before the bushes get leaves. There's just enough sun to rebuild each bulb for next year before the green part fades. Then the bush leaves will hide the fading green.



Another delightful early-spring bloomer is little crocus. The first one can pop into bloom in mid-February. Again, plant in clusters. They are very tiny bulbs. One variety to look for is *Tommasinianus*, usually a word in the

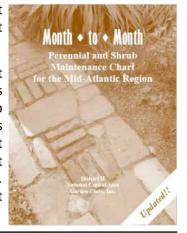
fine print of the bulb bin label. Most are purple or purple and white. This variety is not appealing to squirrels. The bulbs will naturally multiply, and it will also re-seed some distance from where you planted the bulbs, turning up in unexpected places in a delightful way.

Many gardeners are eager for more information about how to care for their plants, or which to select for their garden. There's a great, user-friendly, 44-page guide written especially for this area, in an easy-to-use chart format, with actions needed month-to-month. It is produced by the local district (District II) of Garden Clubs, Inc. *The Perennial and Shrub Maintenance Chart for the Mid-Atlantic Region* is full of helpful information. It can be obtained directly from them for \$17.50, shipping included.

Mail your name, address, and phone/email contact to: Garden Chart, 12200 Ashley Ct., Manassas, VA 20112. Make your check for \$17.50 payable to "District II." If you

have any questions, or want multiple copies, contact gardenchart@aol.com.

The guide does assume that you know what kind of plants you have. If you need help identifying what a previous owner planted, contact the volunteer gardeners at gardeners@cameronstation. org and we'll be happy to get you started.



The Compass

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