Newsletter of the Cameron Station Community Association, Inc.

Volume 21 Issue 2 • March-April 2020



Think Spring and Pride of Ownership

By Linda Greenberg

It isn't difficult to "think spring" right now, as daffodils and cheery violas are brightening gardens around the neighborhood. Butterfly bushes along the Linear Path have put forth their green leaves.

Spring arrives on March 19, but there's still time to trim unruly bushes, weed and plan front gardens and generally prepare for the annual Pride of Ownership contest, which is judged in mid-May. You might consider visiting a few nurseries and seeing what new plants or traditional favorites are available.

The deadline for submission of entries this year is May 6.

Maintaining and beautifying each home helps beautify all of Cameron Station and enhances the community's overall visual appeal, as well as its residential value. You can nominate your own home, that of your neighbor or both. Judging considers the overall attractiveness of the residence, the condition of grass or mulch and plants and the creativity of the plantings. Award categories are single-family home, corner townhome, townhome and condominium.

Send nominations by May 6 to commonarea@cameronstation.org. Judging will take place soon after and winners will receive a generous prize. If you are interested in contributing to the prizes for the winners, please email the above address.

Thanks to all for your participation and enthusiasm.

ATTENTION RESIDENTS

This is the last issue of The
Compass that will be printed and
mailed unless you specifically
requested this print option when
you registered for your CSCA
2020 Resident ID sticker. All other
residents who have signed up
will receive the electronic version
– in full color! Thank you for
contributing to our efforts to
Go Green. If you would like to
change your option, please contact
the HOA office at 703-567-4881 or
admin@cameronstation.org.
Thank you!



2020 RESIDENT ID STICKERS

Registration for 2020 began on January 2. To ensure equitable use of the Cameron Station shuttle bus and the Cameron Station facilities (fitness center, basketball court and pool), all users must register and show their 2020 CSCA Resident ID. Deadline to register is March 31, 2020.

Cameron Club Security Town Hall

By Ray Celeste and Dan Ogg

Join your friends and neighbors from Cameron Station on Sunday, April 19, 6-7pm, in the Victoria Hebert Great Room in the Cameron Club, to discuss the need for improved security at our clubhouse. All Cameron Station residents (including those in Condominium Associations) are welcome and encouraged to attend and provide your thoughts and input. Refreshments will be served.

The Town Hall will solicit the input of residents on the need for, and the extent of, security upgrades for all Cameron Club facilities, which include the administrative offices, meeting rooms, exercise room, multipurpose gym and pool. Several incidents in recent years have led to greater interest in improving the security of the clubhouse. These incidents include malfunctioning door locks leading to doors being open overnight; some instances of missing exercise equipment and personal cell phones from the exercise room; and the unauthorized use of clubhouse facilities by non-residents.

The Town Hall will include a short talk from a representative of the Alexandria Police Department describing common security problems noted at Alexandria businesses and recommending steps that can be taken to improve building security. Possible security upgrades that may be considered, among others, include installing card readers at exterior doors to allow access into the building (along with installing door cameras and a remote-unlock capability from the front desk), installing security cameras or installing a full security system.

If you have suggestions regarding clubhouse security before the Town Hall, please contact Dan Ogg at 703-307-4814, or at dano150@aol.com.

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. Pease send us an email at TheCompass@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: Marian Cavanagh

Editorial Staff: Carla Besosa, Lily Engle, Scott E.Z. Franklin, Pat Sugrue and Rene Zimmer **Recurring Contributor:** Lenore Marema Photographer: David Thorpe

Committee Corner HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

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communications@cameronstation.org
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FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

fac@cameronstation.org
Takis Taousakis - Chairperson

Traffic, Transportation, Redevelopment and Sunken Ships at the Civic Association Meeting

By Jeff Powers

A nice crowd assembled for the February 5 General Membership Meeting of the Cameron Station Civic Association, which was held in the Victoria Hebert Great Room in the Cameron Club. Three great speakers joined the group for a discussion that involved lively rounds of questions and answers.

Hillary Orr, Deputy Director-Transportation and Chris Ziemann, Chief-Transportation Planning, were on hand to discuss various transportation policies and plans and how they might impact transportation and traffic in the West End. The vision for the City of Alexandria is to make our streets usable for all residents and to achieve zero traffic fatalities. Major focuses for the city are safety, multi-modal access and reducing congestion. Residents expressed concerns with speeding in and around Cameron Station, specifically Cameron Station Boulevard and Somervelle Street. Another concern mentioned is that there is not enough time for pedestrians to get across crosswalks, such as at Pickett and Duke streets, with oncoming traffic from left-hand turns.

Eleanor Breen, City Archeologist discussed a new project to stabilize and store historic ship timbers discovered during recent excavations on the Alexandria Waterfront. The hulls of wooden ships have been unearthed at the Hotel Indigo and the Robinson Terminal sites. Timbers from these ships are currently being catalogued by archeologists until funding can be secured to reconstruct the ships' hulls and possibly put them on display. The scientists are looking at several bodies of water, including Ben Brenman Pond, to sink and store the timbers until they can be raised for further work. This will not negatively impact the ecology of the pond.

Ken Wire of Wire Gill LLP discussed the concept plan for the redevelopment of the Vulcan Materials site off Van Dorn Street across from Virginia Paving Company. The development plan includes townhomes, a multi-family building and a hotel. A large open green space is also slated for the site. The land sits much lower than the surrounding road infrastructure, so redevelopment will necessarily include significant entry and exit modifications, particularly for emergency vehicles. Plans for the site could go to the Planning Commission in the fall of 2020.

A lot is happening around Cameron Station here in the West End. Get involved now and come to the next General Membership Meeting on **Wednesday, May 6**, at the Cameron Club!

If you are interested in being a part of the Civic Association, please email Sash Impastato at aimpastato54@gmail.com.

The Compass 3 www.cameronstation.org _______ March-April 2020

Community Management

Cameron Station Community Association

Community Management Corporation (CMC) 703-631-7200 – Onsite Office 703-567-4881 After-Hours Emergency: 301-446-2635 Brittoni King, Acting Manager bking@cameronstation.org

Bethlehem Kebede (Mimi), Covenants Administrator covenants@cameronstation.org

Nicole Davis, Administrative Assistant admin@cameronstation.org

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

Condominium Management

The Residences at Cameron Station - A.K.A. Cameron Station Condominium

Angela Luker, Community Manager

angela.luker@fsresidential.com 703-751-5002 After-Hours Emergency: 703-385-1133 Corporate Phone: 703-385-1133

Carlton Place Condominium

Abaris Realty

Dany Abebe, Property Manager dabebe@abarisrealty.com 301-468-8919
Lawan Trent, Administrative Assistant Itrent@abarisrealty.com 301-468-8919
After-Hours Emergency: 301-468-8919

Condos at Cameron Station Boulevard Oakland Hall Condominium

Main Street Condominium

GHA Community Management John Lyons, Property Manager jlyons@ghacm.com 703-752-8300 ext. 706 Lauren Gentry, Administrative Assistant lgentry@ghacm.com 703-752-8300 ext. 716 After-Hours Emergency: 888-660-7132

Woodland Hall Condominium

Richter Management

Steve Richter, Community Manager steve@richtermanagement.com 703-503-1234 After-Hours Emergency: 703-624-9591

IN MEMORIAM



Our good neighbor on Grimm Drive, Mark Reiter, passed away on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. Most know Mark as the very friendly guy with the two little Australian Shepherds, since he walked them up and down the Linear Pathway behind Cameron Station - sometimes off-leash, as they were both so well behaved!

Early in his career, Mark worked for New York Mayor John Lindsay and Rep. Bella Abzug and then spent ten years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In 1992 he joined the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) as manager of legislative and international affairs, and recently served as vice president of government relations. While accomplishing many things during his years at ISRI, he was most proud of the work he did alongside that grassroots network to lobby for the passage of the Superfund Recycling Equity Act (SREA) in 1999. SREA saved the industry hundreds of millions of dollars and created the precedent for recognizing recyclers as distinct from disposal or waste operations. He truly made a difference in the industry.

Mark's little dogs now have a good home with his nephew, Brian. R.I.P., Mark. You will be missed.

"Carrizo" - The Unlikely Upbringing of an American Diplomat

by Mayu Molina Lehmann

Our neighbor, Victor Abeyta, had a successful career in the U.S. Foreign Service. Among other postings, he was assigned to the Defense College of Canada, consul general in Winnipeg, Mexico City, and director of the anti-narcotic program in Colombia.

Victor's career is in striking contrast to his humble roots. He was born in northern New Mexico on a homestead so remote that it had no running water or electricity. His parents acquired land under the Homestead Act in 1918 and, with a dream in their hearts, embarked on settling and raising a family. His book "Carrizo: Portrait of a New Mexican Family" tells their story of endurance, hope and heartache.

In early February, I had the pleasure of interviewing Victor for *The Compass*:

Why was it important for you to write this book?

I wanted to reflect on the heritage my parents left me: Work hard and strive for education.

Your mother gave birth and tended to family needs with nothing more than the help of one book...

Before moving to the homestead, my mother, knowing the family would not have access to medical attention, visited the local doctor for advice and guidance. He gave her a copy of "The Practical Guide to Health," a book that became her medical bible. From its pages she learned how to treat broken bones, treat arthritis and other serious illnesses.

Cameron Café's Wine Bar Is Now Official!

History was made on Monday, February 24, as dozens of Cameron Station residents turned out to watch neighbor Ginger Barbash cut the ribbon for the official opening of Cameron Café's new Wine Bar. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres were served, and special pricing was offered on all wine and beer!



Café co-owners and siblings Dayan Worku and Rhoda Addis, along with a crowd of well-wishers, watch as Ginger Barbash officially opens the new Wine Bar.



Mayu and Victor discuss "Carrizo."

Until the rattlesnake...

Yes, a rattlesnake bit my older brother when he was six years old. My parents traveled by horse and buggy for two days to reach the nearest doctor. Miraculously, he survived.

The book also includes awe-inspiring, exhilarating moments, like the capture of wild mustangs.

My father was a great horseman. He would capture wild mustangs to break and sell. I have never seen a man use a rope the way he did! There was one particular horse of great beauty that my father was determined to capture -- a strawberry roan stallion he named "El Champurrao." It took him four years, but after a wild chase he managed to capture him.

In 1940 your family permanently left the homestead and moved 70 miles to the village of Blanco. There, in 1952, something remarkable happened. What was it?

The arrival of electricity! Finally, my mother had access to modern conveniences such as a refrigerator and washing machine!

Although your parents only had limited formal schooling, they provided a college education for seven out of their eight children. How do you explain this?

My parents made it their lives' quest to educate their children. They knew it was the door to the future. My father used to say, "I cannot leave you riches. I can only encourage you to make the best of the intelligence God gave you. With that, you will do well."

This book strikes me as a quintessential American story of perseverance and success. Is this how you see it?

Absolutely!

"Carrizo: Portrait of a New Mexican family" is available on Amazon.com in English and Spanish versions.

Committee

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF

Corner

OF OUR RESIDENTS

Activities and Events Committee

By Andy Yang

At the end of January, the Activities and Events Committee hosted a "frozen-themed" movie night, which included pizza, cool drinks and ice cream sundaes. About 80 residents participated in the screening of the Disney classic "Frozen," and some even came in costumes!



A fun "frozen-themed" movie night in Cameron Station.

The annual Casino Night event was moved up to March 7 this year. Players were able to test their luck or skill in casino games with a chance to win prizes.

Looking ahead to April, the annual Spring Eggstravaganza (in partnership with David and Stephanie Thorpe Homes) will be held starting at 11am on Saturday, April 11, at the Kilburn Street and Donovan Drive pocket park. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

Finally, the Spring Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 18 (8am-1pm), with a rain date of April 25.

Architectural Review Committee

By Gayle Hatheway

Spring will be here soon, and that is always a good time to clean and clear away dead plant material from the winter and refresh your landscaping. Keep in mind that any changes or additions to your exterior landscaping must be approved by the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). This includes, but is not limited to, fences, decks, patios, landscaping, play equipment, exterior painting, shutter replacement, door replacement, additional outside doors and window replacement.

The ARC review criteria is based on:

- Validity of concept: Is it appropriate to surroundings and does it comply with the Design and Maintenance Standards (DMS)?
- **Design compatibility:** Is the design compatible with the master plan of Cameron Station?
- Location and impact on neighbors: Will it impact access, view, sunlight, ventilation, tree obstruction or drainage of adjacent properties?
- Scale: Is it compatible with adjacent structures and surroundings?

- **Color:** Does the color match the existing items such as roofs, doors, shutters and trim?
- Materials: Are the materials compatible or do they match the original house?
- Workmanship: Does the quality of the work equal or exceed the original construction?
- **Timing:** Approval may be revoked if construction has not commenced within 30 days of approval and completed within 30 days of commencement and/or within the dates specified by a City building permit, if applicable.

Making an application to the ARC is easy. The deadline for applications is ten days before the next scheduled meeting. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Here are a few tips that will help your request glide through the process.

- Complete a legible Exterior Modification Application or Private Tree Replacement Application.
- Include your plat map. Homeowners are provided a plat map of their property at closing.
- Provide photos of current design.
- Include legible drawing, sketch or photos of proposed design and photos or sample materials to be used.
- Check with the management office for approved color schemes and trees.
- We strongly suggest attending the ARC meeting when your application is being reviewed. It is very helpful for the committee to ask follow-up questions regarding the application at that time. This could mean the difference between your application being approved or delayed until the next meeting.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to review the DMS, which was revised and effective on April 15, 2019. The aforementioned applications and the revised DMS can be found on the Cameron Station Website at https://www.cameronstation.org/our-neighborhood/board-committees/architectural-review-committee/architectural-review-committee.

Communications Committee

By Tricia Hemel

Welcome new residents! 2020 saw the launch of the Cameron Station Welcome Committee, composed of

members of the Communications Committee and other generous volunteers. In the first two months, the committee members contacted more than 40 new residents - both new homeowners and renters - to welcome them to the neighborhood and schedule a short visit to review neighborhood information, provide answers to any questions they might have and drop off a welcome package. This includes a Cameron



Photo by David Thorpe

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Station tote bag, a list of nearby businesses and restaurants, coupons from businesses in Cameron Station and a cookie treat.

These new neighbors have appreciated the friendly welcome, which has allowed them not only to get more info on their new home, but also to make a contact and a new friend in Cameron Station. If you would like to volunteer to be part of the Welcome Committee, please contact Tricia Hemel at communications@cameronstation.org.

Common Area Committee

By Kathleen McCollum

The mild winter weather has given the landscapers a head start on what is usually early spring work - the ground didn't freeze this year! Work includes repairing brick walkways, removing dead bushes and general pruning and trimming best done while plants are dormant.

Every year there are new common area problem areas popping up in spots that were previously fine. As trees get bigger, the shade gets deeper, and this can kill grass or bushes underneath. Mulch is usually the best solution. Where runoff has created bare-dirt erosion problems, or standing water is no longer draining, some regrading or stone channels are needed. Tree roots can make walkways uneven. Residents are encouraged to report any of these issues to management for investigation and repair.

The Common Area Committee manages and judges the annual **Pride of Ownership awards**. **Judging of private community gardens will be in May.** Past winners are not necessarily over-the-top, professionally designed spaces. Many are elegant, simple designs very well kept. Others have used stone or paving with accent plants for a sleek, low-maintenance look. Over time, neighbors have cooperated to design their front spaces in an attractive, coordinated way. You may nominate your own effort or a neighbor's. We look forward to this annual community event!

Financial Advisory Committee

By Takis Taousakis

As we have entered the new year, the Financial Advisory Committee is focusing on continuous improvement of our financial reporting and control systems and promulgating best practices. Specific areas of focus are:

- Improve timing of accrued expense information. The management accounting system is a modified accrual system, which means that some expenses (contractual obligations) are current to date while other expenses are recorded as invoices are received (expenses by vendors outside contractual work, committee expenses). We have been working with Management to record in an Excel spreadsheet all the expenses as they are committed, so we know the full obligations of the community in near-real time.
- Mis-categorization of expenses. One reason why the expense categories can get mixed up is when an invoice from a vendor or contractor does not have an accounting number (GL code) on it and clerical personnel in the

management central offices need to guess the correct one. We want to have local management check every entry and give an opportunity to the appropriate committee (CCFC, CAC, Events, etc.) to review the GL codes assigned and agree to their accuracy.

- **Delay in billing and payment**. This issue is particularly important at the end of the year, but it can create confusion on how much budget is left in a particular account during any part of the year.
- CSCA Investment Policy update. The committee has been working on updating the Investment policy. It is important that we safely maximize the return on our accumulated cash, even though we are living in a low-interest-rate environment. The Committee should have the updated policy ready for legal review and review by the BOD in the next couple of months.

We want to remind our community that we are in need of two qualified volunteers to join our committee to continue this very important work of reviewing our financial documents and advising the Board on financial matters. Thank you!

Facilities Committee

By Ray Celeste, Jr.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Psy Scott, our community's Fitness Director, for his outstanding performance day in and day out. He has done a highly professional job in teaching classes (Boot Camp and Stretch/Core) and coordinating a total of seven complimentary fitness classes. Psy is also a wealth of knowledge on fitness in general, diet and lifestyle choices. He will gladly discuss these important health issues.



Psy makes sure everyone gets the most out of their classes!

In addition to his personal training skills, Psy has received degrees in environmental education and Advanced Culinary Arts and has traveled around the world as a professional salsa dancer and instructor for over 20 years, performing with some of the top dancers of our time. He's even been featured in programs on BET, MTV and Telemundo.

We are delighted with his performance here in Cameron Station, and look forward to having him with us in the years to come. We appreciate your support, Psy! If you have not met him, please stop by the Fitness Center to do so. Better yet, please take one of the classes he offers.

A Conversation with London Curry House Chef Ram Thapa

By Rene Zimmer

In late January, I sat down and enjoyed a conversation with Chef Ram Thapa. We discussed his early life and his current plans for our neighborhood restaurant. Here's what I learned:

As a child growing up in Nepal and always interested in food preparation and seasonings, Ram would stand beside his mother, helping her cook and prepare meals. It worked out; by 1994, he was an apprentice chef in a local hotel. He went on to enroll in a culinary school, spent time in Dubai and became known as Chef Ram, working on a U.S. army base camp in Iraq.

He came to the United States in 2007 and continued his career in Boston before working at the Masala Indian Cuisine restaurant in McLean, VA. Ram and Kumar KC had been friends in their native Nepal and had long dreamed of Chef Ram dressed for his kitchen. opening a restaurant. Together with

Ashok Tamang and Hari Lama, their dream became a reality when this talented group of restaurateurs purchased The London Curry House (LCH) in August of 2018. A year later, Washingtonian Magazine and Open Table recognized it as a top area restaurant.

Chef Ram prides himself on making food that's a little different from traditional Indian fare. He introduces variations in tastes and food presentation that reflect his Nepalese roots; is very involved in the selection of food from local farms; and picks the very best chicken, lamb, goat and seafood from area distributors. He shops at our local farmers market and gears his dishes to what's fresh and available. He toasts and blends many of his spices at home before arriving at the LCH kitchen. He'll try out different sauces with a focus on the taste and feedback from his current clientele and develops menus that reflect



Rene Zimmer enjoys a chat with Chef Ram.



seasonal vegetables. Salads vary according to what's available and of good quality. The very popular lentil soup usually stays on the menu; others appear at just the right time - the fall favorite is the superb squash soup – be on the lookout!

There are exciting plans for new additions to the LCH menu in the near future. In addition to wild boar and quail, Chef Ram is going to honor customers' requests and try some vegan entrees. He's never used tofu in recipes before, so he's looking forward to experimenting. He'll modify the dessert menu by adding at least one new item with each menu change.

Chef Ram is very grateful to the Cameron Station Community. He appreciates their support of the restaurant and their help in spreading the word to the greater community. He

also enjoys hosting gatherings and creating special menus for such recent events as the Super Bowl and Valentine's Day. There were overflow crowds each time!

London Curry House is one of the highlights of our community. Please stop by and say hello to Chef Ram and the entire team of owners. They thank you for your loyalty, patronage and ideas.



Opening Day: Sunday, May 3 Ben Brenman Park, southern parking lot, 8:30am-1pm

> Get out your tote bags we'll see you there!



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Join the Civic Association!

The Cameron Station Civic Association (CSCA) is a growing group of Cameron Station residents who focus on civic affairs in the broader Alexandria community that have an impact on our community. It also serves as a conduit of information to residents. The Civic Association is separate and apart from the Homeowners Association (which every homeowner automatically becomes a member of).

The Civic Association has been around since 2000 and has been key on numerous projects such as getting the tot lot in Ben Brenman Park and reducing emissions from the nearby asphalt plant. Membership is open to any resident, real property owner or business establishment owner of a property located in Cameron Station. Membership is only \$10 a year.

Ifyou'd like to become a member, please contact Sash Impastato at aimpastato 54@gmail.com. Meetings of the CSCA are held quarterly and are open to all Cameron Station residents and businesses. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for May 6 and September 2. Please join us!



Alexandria Library Talking Book Service

The Charles Beatley Central Library houses the Alexandria Library Talking Book Department, which offers reading machines that play prerecorded tapes that contain complete, unabridged books for the blind and physically challenged. To learn more, call 703-746-1760 or visit www.alexlibraryva.org/talking-book.



Congressman Beyer Visits Samuel Tucker

Congressman Don Beyer read to Alexandria Tutoring Consortium (ATC) first grade Book Buddies at Samuel Tucker on February 18 to kick off Read Across America celebrations. The Book Buddies program is an eager group of students who receive extra attention from community volunteers and the ATC. Tutor-student pairs meet twice weekly to work on reading, with the kids showing excellent progress so far this year. At the end, Congressman Byer gave them each a gift book from the ATC.



Joining the fun were several of Tucker's adult Book Buddy tutors, including Cameron Station residents Kay Brown (2nd from left), Walt Jarrett (center) and Fern Schwartz (3rd from right), as well as Tucker Book Buddies Coordinator Debbie Glenn (far right).

LET'S HEAR IT FOR MOTHER EARTH!

Earth Day is being celebrated around the world on Wednesday, April 22. Alexandria's Annual Earth Day Event will take place on Saturday, May 2, on Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park. Get more information at https://www.alexandriava.gov/EarthDay.

Here are a few more things to consider to help the health of our Mother Earth:

- Recycle your glass containers at one of four area drop-off centers:
- S. Whiting Street (At the end of S. Whiting Street, intersecting at Tower Court)
 - 3224 Colvin Street
 - 4251 Eisenhower Avenue
- Jones Point Park (On the left, at the end of S. Royal Street, heading south)
- Be sure you're receiving the electronic (vs. printed) version of The Compass.
- Start sorting through your closets, drawers and garages now in preparation for our Neighborhood Yard Sale, scheduled for April 18 (rain date April 25).

Kindergarten Registration at Tucker Elementary

By Melissa Vayra

Spring is here and it's almost time to register your rising kindergartener for school next year! Students must be five years old by September 30 to begin kindergarten in Virginia.

Photo by Ajashu Thomas

Appointments are required to register for school at Tucker. You may schedule an appointment for registration on/after our March 13 open house. The registration time frame begins on April 15, 3-7pm, which will be the ONLY evening available for registration. However, all other appointments will be available Monday-Friday from 9am until 12:30pm. Registration may take up to 30 minutes to complete. Please review the ACPS website (https://www.acps.k12.va.us/) for more details on registration requirements. Kindergarten readiness information is also available here: https://www.acps.k12.va.us/cms/lib/VA01918616/Centricity/Domain/24/Kinder%20Readiness.pdf.

The 2020-2021 school year will begin at Tucker on Thursday, August 6. For more information about kindergarten registration or the upcoming open house, contact the school registrar, Adele Gedeo, at 703-933-6300.

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The People's Drug

By Carla Besosa - Cameron Station Foodie

"This drugstore reminds me of those old apothecaries I'd visit as a kid. Everyone behind the counter knows you. You're more than just a number in a computer." (Ed Thompson)

Another great little quirky restaurant! I've been curious about this cozy little spot in Old Town, which opened about two years ago. I grew up going to Peoples Drug Stores, enjoying chocolate milkshakes, grilled cheese sandwiches and french fries at the counter with my mother. So name recognition was a draw, as well as the intimate feel of the five-table, ten-stool venue.

The restaurant is cleverly appointed with nostalgic bits and pieces reminiscent of the old drugstore. The white marble counter, the chrome bar stools and the big, lighted "DRUGS" sign are all memory-inspiring.



The chicken salad is scrumptious!

I suggest you order the Herb Parmesan Truffle Fries while you peruse their fun menu. The sandwiches are much more gourmet than the drugstore's ever were. The People's Burger is an impressive stack of Banyuls-onion jam, ovster mushrooms, cheddar. house-made pickled cucumbers and a savory sauce atop a

juicy burger expertly cooked to order. The folks seated adjacent to our table were raving about their impressive looking Cuban Mojo - braised pork shoulder, prosciutto, pork belly, swiss cheese, cornichons, truffled mayo and mustard. They offer three Bowl concoctions, The Red, The Yellow and The Green. I very much enjoyed my Red Bowl with red guinoa, avocado, arugula, peas, asparagus, dried cherries and honey-lime vinaigrette served warm. What a delightful medley of flavors! Their Chicken Salad, with red seedless grapes and almonds, is scrumptious and served on a fresh croissant (but have a fork handy). Each menu item is prepared with an original twist that takes it way beyond ordinary.



Lenore and Carla get ready for a feast at The People's Drug.



The bar is open!

In addition to the uniquely prepared food offerings, the restaurant has become known for their Signature Craft Cocktails. Their popular Happy Hour is daily, 3-7pm. Check out the artistic libations with clever names like Alfred's Penicillin - Power's Irish whiskey, Laphroaig, cinnamon brown sugar, grapefruit juice and rosemary tincture. Or on a brisk day, perhaps Hazel's Hot Cocoa would hit the spot - citrus vodka, hazelnut orgeat and hot cocoa crowned with torched marshmallow.

Since The People's Drug is a small establishment, I highly recommend going at an off time (though patio seating expands their capacity in pleasant weather). We fared well doing lunches at 11:45am and 2:45pm. I'm looking forward to returning; I need to try the Crispy Fried Brussels Sprouts, other chefcrafted sandwiches and their brunch.

Go ahead...treat yourself!

103 N. Alfred St Alexandria, VA 22314 571.257.8851 www.thepeoplesdrug.com

Hours Daily 11am - midnight

> **Happy Hour** Daily 3-7pm

Price Sandwiches \$10-\$13 Bowls \$10 **Sharable Snacks** \$5-\$11 Sides \$5-\$12

> Bar Full

Smoking No

HC Access Yes

Parking Street

Reservations No No Parties Greater Than Six

Photos by David Thorpe



The People's Burger next to the Chicken Salad Croissant.

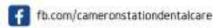
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London Curry House Welcomes a Super Bowl Crowd

It was standing room only in the bar at London Curry House (LCH) as neighbors gathered to watch this year's Super Bowl. Beer and wine were available for \$5 even before game time and came with a complimentary cheese spread. A \$5 bar bites menu offered lots of traditional game-time treats, and the \$5 main menu made some of LCH's most popular items available for partiers, including butter chicken, Don's tandoori chicken breast and salmon sliders. So nice to party in the neighborhood on this fun occasion!



hoto by David Thorpe

Feeling Out of the Loop?

Decisions on community matters made by the HOA Board of Directors and committees are discussed, debated and determined in public, with the exception of private matters between residents and the board that are discussed in closed Executive Session. If you want to know what is going on in Cameron Station, attend the monthly board and committee meetings (and/or read the minutes posted on the website); read The Compass newsletters; visit the community website, www.cameronstation.org; and sign up for email blasts. If you have any questions for the board, committees or HOA management, send an email. These addresses can be found in The Compass newsletter.

After-Hours Assistance

The community management office is open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, and Saturday, 9am-1pm. If you need assistance after closing, please leave a message on the office answering machine, 703-567-4881. Calls will be returned the following business day. In case of emergency, call CMC at 301-446-2635. That number is answered after hours by an answering service that directs calls to the CMC on-call manager. During business hours, CMC's corporate phone number 703-631-7200.

Classified Ads

Are you a dog walker, child-care provider, house painter, handyman, or have some other skill that's useful to Cameron Station residents? Consider taking out a Classified Ad in an upcoming edition of *The Compass*. If you live here, you've got an advantage - the rate is only \$5 for a 35-word ad; non-residents are charged \$25. More information can be found on page 18 of this issue.

Renters, We Value Your Participation!

By Pat Sugrue

Renters in Cameron Station are a valuable and vibrant part of our community. But they don't always feel that way. We'd like to correct the notion that only homeowners are invited to participate in community life.

The only restriction on renters is regarding voting rights. To be a member of the Cameron Station Community Association (CSCA) and be able to vote on issues that affect the CSCA, you must be a homeowner, and your assessments must be paid and up-to-date. This also means that renters may not be voting members of a CSCA committee, nor may renters vote for board members at the Annual Meeting.

But those are the only restrictions.

Renter participation in all Cameron Station activities and events is welcome and needed. Renters may join any subcommittee, such as *The Compass* newsletter (a renter can even be Editor-in-Chief!) or the

Website, Public Relations or Welcome subcommittees of ComCom (the Communications Committee). With permission of the committee chairs. you may become an auxiliary member of any committee – Activities & Events Architectural Planning, Review. Common Area. Communications. Cameron Club Facilities or Financial Advisory - offering your time and talents but just not voting. And of course the Activities & Events Committee is in great need of auxiliary members, both renters and homeowners, who can help plan events and lend a hand during them.

Printed copies of *The Compass* newsletter are mailed only to homeowners (who, beginning in 2020, must specifically request this format), but all renters and owners are entitled to an electronic copy, and each issue is posted on the website, *www.cameronstation.org*. And we encourage all renters, as well as homeowners, to sign up at the

management office for weekly email blasts.

Our apologies to any renter who may have felt less than a full member of our community. We're glad you're here, and we look forward to getting to know you.









Monday Night Book Ball

March: Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

April: The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage

Story of the Cold War by Ben Macintyre

Interested in joining Monday Night Book Ball book club? Please contact PJ at *sottilepj@aol.com*. We'd love to have you.

Reading Between the Wines

March: Children of Blood and Bones

by Tomi Adeyemi

April: Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

Third Thursday of the Month

March: The Immortalists by Chloe Benjamin

April: Becoming by Michelle Obama



HVAC Plumbing Electrical Free Consultant & Estimate

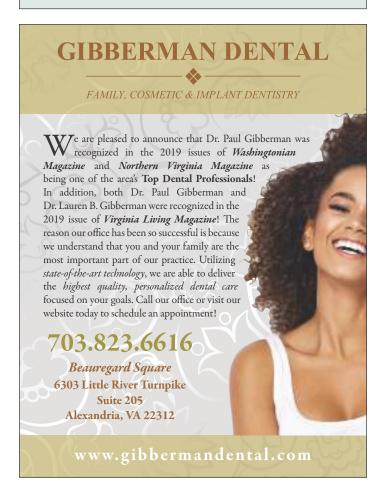
Free Consultant & Estimate 571-432-8956/7 samshomeinc@gmail.com

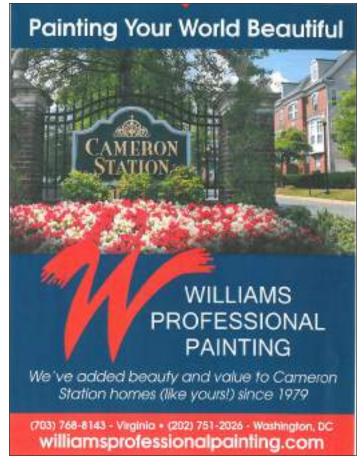
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Carla's Picks

By Carla Besosa

Alden Theater (McLean)

Apr. 22 & May 27 Free Foreign Language Films

Apr. 18-19 The Good Humor Men

Anacostia Playhouse (DC)

May 23-Jun. 14 Theater Alliance: The Blackest Battle

Arena Stage (DC)

Apr. 3-May 3 August Wilson's Seven Guitars

Apr. 23-May 31 Toni Stone

Atlas Performing Arts Center (DC)

Apr. 1-Jun. 20 Mosaic Theater Co.: The Till Trilogy -

The Ballad of Emmett Till

Apr. 30-Jun. 21 Mosaic Theater Co.: The Till Trilogy -

That Summer in Sumner

May 22-Jun. 21 Mosaic Theater Co.:

The Till Trilogy - Benevolence

The Barns at Wolf Trap (Vienna)

Apr. 16-17 Joan Osborne

Apr. 21-22 Jim Messina

Birchmere (Arlandria)

Apr. 17-18 Average White Band

Apr. 30 Shawn Colvin

May 7 Al Stewart

May 19 Herb Alpert & Lani Hall

May 21 Tab Benoit

Jun. 8 Gordon Lightfoot

Black Rock Center for the Arts (Germantown)

May 8 Ivy League of Comedy: Stars of Late Night Comedy

Blues Alley (Georgetown)

Apr. 19 Nick Colionne

Apr. 30-May 3 John Pizzarelli Trio

 ${\it May 12 Edmar Casta\~neda \& Gregoire Maret "Harp vs. Harp"}$

May 22 Earth, Wind & Fire Tribute Band

May 24 Bob Baldwin & Friends

Carlyle Club (Old Town)

Apr. 4 Julia Nixon's Tribute to Burt Bacharach & Hal David

Apr. 17 70's Disco & Funk Dance Party

City Winery (DC)

Apr. 12 Gilbert O'Sullivan

Apr. 19 Sheila E. and the E-Train

Apr. 21 Alejandro Escovedo

Apr. 23 Zepparella - All Female Led Zeppelin Band

Creative Cauldron (Falls Church)

Apr. 23-May 17 Always Patsy Cline

DAR Constitution Hall (DC)

Apr. 24-26 Jim Gaffigan

May 8 Fabulous Funny Comedy Festival

Del Ray Artisans

Apr. 3 Opening Reception: "19th Amendment, The War of

the Roses"

May 1 Opening Reception: "The Art of Nature"

Dulles Expo Center (Chantilly)

May 15-17 International Gem & Jewelry Show

Epicure Café (Fairfax)

May 3 Cristian Perez Guitar Trio

May 8 Eclectic Jam with Cristian Perez

The Fillmore (Silver Spring)

May 30-31 Todd Rundgren

1st Stage (Tysons)

May 7-Jun. 7 The Waverly Gallery

Ford's Theater (DC)

Mar 13-May 20 Guys and Dolls

Gadsby's Tavern Museum (Old Town)

May 10 Free Mother's Day Tours

Gala Theater (Adams Morgan)

Apr. 23-May 17 *Tia Julia y El Escribidor / Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter* (Spanish with English subtitles)

GMU Center for the Arts (Fairfax)

Apr. 16-18 School of Dance - Spring: New Dances

Apr. 24-26 Opera: The Coronation of Poppea

May 3 The Magic of Bill Blagg Live!

Gunston Theater Two (Arlington)

Apr. 24-May 9 Hand to God

The Hamilton (DC)

May 16 Bruce in the USA (Springsteen Tribute)

Jammin Java (Vienna)

Apr. 17 David Wilcox

Apr. 24 Ellis Paul

May 10 Acoustic Guitar: Trevor Gordon Hall & Stefano Barone

Keegan Theater (DC)

Apr. 10-May 10 Memphis

Kennedy Center (DC)

Apr. 7-12 Shen Yun

Apr. 9-19 Washington Ballet: Swan Lake

Apr. 14-26 Jesus Christ Superstar

May 9-23 Gershwin's Porgy and Bess

May 23 Lang Lang in Recital

Lansburgh Theater (DC)

Apr. 10-May 9 Hamlet

May 22-Jun. 14 The Book of Will

Little Theater of Alexandria (Old Town)

Apr. 25-May 16 Blue Stockings

Lorton Workhouse (Lorton)

Apr. 11 Free ArtWalk Concert: Tom Teasley May 16 Next Reflex Dance Collective

Lloyd House (Old Town)

Apr. 10 & May 8 After-Work Concert Series

MGM (National Harbor)

Apr. 18 Juanes May 9 The Temptations & The Four Tops May 10 Boyz II Men

Mount Vernon (Alexandria)

May 2-3 Revolutionary War Weekend May 15-17 Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour

Olney Theater (Olney)

Apr 1-May 3 The Humans

Prince George's Publick Playhouse (Cheverly)

Apr. 18 Gretchen Parlato May 15 Tribute to Earth, Wind & Fire

Signature Theater (Shirlington)

Apr. 14-May 24 Nijinsky's Last Dance May 19-July 12 Hair

Sixth & I (DC)

May 7 Tori Amos May 16 Danilo Pérez

The State Theater (Falls Church)

Apr. 11 Trial by Fire (Journey Tribute) Apr. 17 Zoso (Led Zeppelin Tribute) May 8 Yellow Brick Road (Elton John Tribute) May 30 Tusk (Fleetwood Mac Tribute)

Strathmore (Bethesda)

Apr. 17 Susan Werner Apr. 22 Canned Heat Apr. 24-25 BSO: Holst - *The Planets* Apr. 30 Ann Hampton Callaway May 6 Emanuel Ax

May 12 Paul Anka

May 13 Lyle Lovett & John Hiatt

Studio Theater (DC)

May 13-Jun. 21 Fun Home

Synetic Theater (Crystal City)

Apr. 22-May 17 Life is a Dream

Warner Theater (DC)

Apr. 18 Brian Culbertson May 1 Charlie Daniels Band May 5 Beth Hart May 13-17 Washington Ballet - *Coppelia*

Woolly Mammoth (DC)

Apr. 6-May 3 There's Always the Hudson

And Another Thing...

(in my stream-of-consciousness order)

Now open in Old Town:

- Yagút St. Cafe, 683 N. St. Asaph St. (Next to Sunday in Saigon)
- Hyatt Centric Hotel, 1611 King St.
- French & Southern in the Hyatt Centric, 1625 King St. (Chef: Eric Reid)
- Sephora, 810 King St.
- Lori's Table, 1028 King St.
- Barca Wine Bar at Old Town Waterfront Pier, March through October
- For Five Coffee Roasters open at 1800C Diagonal Rd. (Next to Joe Theismann's)
- The Carlyle Diner now open at Courthouse Square & Ballenger Ave. (Next to The Carlyle Club)

Opening soon, relocating, or changing in Old Town:

- Patagonia to open at 518 King St. (Formerly Old Town Theater)
- Mount Purrnon Cat Café & Wine Bar to open at 109
 S. Alfred St.
- Metro Stage is relocating to 901 N. Fairfax St. (Formerly Crowne Plaza Hotel)
- Misha's Coffee House relocated to 917 King St.
- Hank & Mitzi's replaced Hank's Pasta Bar at 600 Montgomery St.
- Handover (sushi) to replace Eammon's, 728 King St.
- Old Hat Gastropub to replace King Street Blues at 112 N. St. Asaph St.
- The King's Ransom to replace PX upstairs, 728 King St.
- Thai Signature to replace Geranio at 722 King St.
- Sugar Shack at 904 N. Henry St., to become Elizabeth's Counter

In Other Areas:

- Charlie's on the Avenue closed at 1501 Mount Vernon Ave. (The Garden, at 1503, remains open in Del Ray.)
- Taqueria Picoso open in The Shops at Mark Center, 1472 N. Beauregard St.
- The French Open Grand Slam Tennis Tournament is coming up (in Paris!) May 24-June 7.

What Am I Listening to?

Matthew Halsall, Oneness

Molly Johnson, *Meaning To Tell Ya*Rodrigo y Gabriela, *Mettavolution* (Grammy winner)
Halie Loren, *Butterfly Blue*Eliane Elias, *Love Stories* and *Everything I Love*

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. Estimated (not guaranteed) time of delivery for the next issue is the last week of May to the first week of June.

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.

Publishing Deadlines

January/February Decemb	er 30
March/AprilFebrua	ry 28
May/JuneAp	ril 30
September/OctoberAugu	ıst 30
November/December Octob	er 30

Advertising Rates:

Display Ads (Camera-ready)	
1/4 page (3.5" x 4.5")\$1	150
1/8 page (3.5" x 2")\$1	25

Classified Ads

(Limit 35 words)	
Resident\$	5
Non-resident\$2	5
Lost & Found, Carpool, etcFre	e

Checks should be payable to Cameron Station Community Association and sent with camera-ready artwork to *The Compass*, 200 Cameron Station Boulevard, Alexandria, VA 22304. Artwork may be emailed to *admin@cameronstation.org*.

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

Days to Celebrate!

By Carla Besosa

Apr. 2 - National Burrito Day (Check out Taqueria Poblano, Tequila & Taco and Dos Amigos.)

Apr. 3 - National Film Score Day (My faves: Red Violin, Hilary & Jackie, Shine and Desert Dancer.)

Apr. 5 - National Deep Dish Pizza Day (Del Ray Pizzeria and Bugsy's)

Apr. 7 - National Beer Day (Explore the selections at Port City, City Kitchen, Cameron Cafe and Aslin Brewery. My default beer: Yuengling - if you're going to drink it, learn to spell it!)

Apr. 12 - Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day (Try Hops N Shine's "Loaded Grilled Cheeses," Cheesetique's "The Grown-Up Grilled Cheese" and Nectar Del Ray's "Grilled Gorgonzola with Prosciutto & Fig Spread.")

Apr. 13 - Scrabble Day (Pat Sugrue, this is for you!)

Apr. 19 - National Garlic Day - People consume an average of two pounds of garlic per year!

Apr. 23 - English Language Day (I'm silently correcting your grammar!)

Apr. 24 - Sauvignon Blanc Day (Go with Kim Crawford from the Marlborough region of New Zealand, or splurge on the Linden Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc from Linden, VA.)

Apr. 25 - World Penguin Day (Wear your tuxedo...and waddle. Fascinating bird! Watch the movie *March of the Penguins*.)

Apr. 26 - Pretzel Day (Crab Pretzel at Glory Days Grill...YUM!)

Apr. 27 - Independent Bookstore Day (Visit One More Page on N. Westmoreland St. in Arlington.)

Apr. 30 - International Jazz Day (Listen to Ascenseur pour l'échafaud by Miles Davis.)

May 11 - Twilight Zone Day (Here's to Rod Serling!)

May 25 - National Wine Day (Keep it close to home: London Curry House's Franciscan Chardonnay/CA and Cameron Cafe's Ken Wright Pinot Noir/OR.)

May 28 - National Hamburger Day (The best-tasting burgers I had recently were the Happy Hour sliders at Delia's Mediterranean Grill.)

Trending in the Food World in 2020

By Lenore Marema

• Plant Party: Veggie protein is not just for hamburgers anymore. Flexitarians like meat, but want to substitute vegetable proteins and grains for some of their animal protein. Harris Teeter, Whole Foods and Aldi's sell JUST Egg, a bean-based substitute for eggs. Halloumi cheese from Cyprus, which is high in protein, also is being used as a meat substitute. While plant-based protein likely is the number one food trend, consumers need to read labels and use their judgment about whether all the products marketed that way will produce the expected health benefits.

- Elevated Breakfast: Japanese soufflé-like pancakes, whipped up with egg whites, are popping up on breakfast menus.
- Hot Spicy Fried Chicken: You were lucky if you missed the traffic jams around Popeye's on Pickett during the debut of the hot spicy chicken sandwich. Not to worry; Nashville hot and spicy is spreading everywhere.
- No Booze Happy Hours: Low- or no-alcohol drinks are increasingly on bar menus. Neither Baby Boomers nor Millennials are going back to Shirley Temples. It's a good bet that a new name for low- or no-booze cocktails will develop in 2020, as going out for mocktails doesn't cut it. It's no surprise that Japanese whiskey, with its lower alcohol content, also is on more bar menus. Boozy kombucha and alcohol seltzer cocktails also are on the rise.
- Flour Power: Fruits and veggies are increasingly the basis for flour. Cauliflower flour now is available in bulk rather than as an ingredient in a pizza crust. Coconut and tiger nut flour are in the process. Check the labels, but the early read is that these flours also deliver some more protein and fiber than regular flour.
- Nutter Butter: Substitute spreads are being made from chickpeas, pumpkin and watermelon seeds instead of butter. Almond butter opened the door to cashew and macadamia nut butters. These alternatives, generally fatand cholesterol-free, are not to be confused with seasonal flavored dairy butters. If marked vegan, they are also dairy free. Grains and bean-based yogurts are starting to appear.
- **BBQ:** Korean barbecue will be a hot item in 2020, and the Filipino version is right behind.
- Lowdown on Sugar: Federal regulations now in place require that the sugar, and added sugar, in food and drink must be disclosed. Reduced-sugar chocolates have started showing up on the shelves. Nestle's Wowsomes and some Cadbury chocolates have 30% less sugar.
- Going, Going: Millennials increasingly are becoming America's parents and they are pressuring restaurants for healthier options on the children's menu. Think hemp or

some other alternative flour pasta with sunflower seed ghee and non-breaded salmon sticks.

Look for changes in, and perhaps the eventual extinction of, the kids' menu.

• Real Simple: We realize that prepared food generally has more salt, sugar, fat and calories and that DIY at home is a better option. Most of the food magazines are including simple recipes for soup and simple meals with four to five ingredients. 2020 is not going to be the year of fancy, must-have kitchen gadgets. Most of the cookware shops this year are touting the Dutch oven as the essential kitchen tool - some of which have fancy price tags.

• Pea Milk: For those who are vegan or are lactose or gluten intolerant, there are many choices of milk alternatives. The USDA has information on its website (www.usda.gov) on how non-dairy beverages measure up to its total nutrient requirements. Pea milk is this year's newcomer. It is made from yellow peas and at least matches the amount of calcium, with no sugar and more protein, than regular milk. Although pea milk is neither yellow nor green and claims not to taste like peas, the bottom line is: What little kid is going to drink pea milk voluntarily? Pea powder is best left to additives in protein shakes.

Monthly Committee Meetings

Activities and Events Committee

First Wednesday of the month, 7pm, Cameron Club/ Small Meeting Room

Architectural Review Committee

First Tuesday of the month, 7pm, Cameron Club/ Henderson Room

Common Area Committee

Second Monday of the month, 7pm, Cameron Club/ Henderson Room

Communications Committee

Third Wednesday of the month, 7pm, Cameron Club/ Small Meeting Room

Facilities Committee

Second Thursday of the month, 7pm, Cameron Club/ Henderson Room

Financial Advisory Committee

Last Monday of the month except for May (May 21) and August (August 24), 7pm, Cameron Club/Henderson Room

Board of Directors

Last Tuesday of the month (except for November and December, TBD) 7 pm, Cameron Club/Henderson Room

The compass

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