

The ompass

The Official Publication of the Cameron Station Community Association

Volume 21 Issue 4 • September-October 2020

Pride of Ownership Winners, 2020

By Linda Greenberg, 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.

For the last several years, Kathy McCollom and I have greatly enjoyed walking through Cameron Station seeing the attractive and well-tended gardens of Cameron Station residents. Along the way, we often discover outstanding gardens that have not been formally nominated. These are also considered as contestants.

Perhaps because more of us were at home this spring and summer to avoid the coronavirus and thus devoted more time to gardening, there was a good selection of candidates for Pride of Ownership awards. In fact, in addition to the four winners, there is one Honorable Mention.



Photo credit: David Thorpe

The winners for 2020 are as follows: Roni and Daniel Modica, 5250 Tancreti Lane, corner townhouse; Dawn Marie Fiorentino, 180 Cameron Station Boulevard, corner townhouse; Anna Dean Millikan, 5242 Tancreti Lane, corner townhouse; and Gail Caravella, 331 Cameron Station Boulevard, single family house. The Honorable Mention is Christopher Alex and Paula Caro, 5228 Tancreti Lane.

The Modica garden has just been rejuvenated with spring pinks and whites and extends to Cameron Station Boulevard; the Fiorentino garden presents a pleasing profusion of well-selected shrubs and flowers. The Millikan garden shows peonies at their best. The Caravella garden offers a more formal arrangement of flowers and shrubs in defined beds. The Caro garden shows flowers that thrive in Cameron Station.

(See Pride of Ownership Winners continued on page 2)

DON'T MISS THE YEAR'S MOST IMPORTANT MEETING!

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020, 7:30PM
TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY**

Mark your calendars now for the Cameron Station Community Association (CSCA) Annual Meeting, which will be held virtually. The Board of Directors will bring the community up to speed on current and future projects, as well as the community's financial status, and hold elections for three director positions. A quorum of 10% of homeowners is required for the election to be held. See weekly email blasts for more details.



5242 Tancreti

Photo credit: Linda Greenberg



5228 Tancreti

Photo credit: David Thorpe

(continued from page 1)

In fact, all the plants in these gardens are examples of plants other residents might consider for their gardens, as they usually thrive if watered and tended.

The winners received generous gift certificates from four local businesses: Home Depot, Harris Teeter Supermarket, IndoChen Restaurant (formerly London Curry House) and Cameron Café.

We hope you will think of entering your home in next year's Pride of Ownership contest. With a little planning, some garden work and sun and water, you can create a prize-winning garden. If you have landscaping questions, the volunteer committee would be glad to assist. Please contact Kathy McCollom at Gardeners@cameronstation.org.

Flower-full and healthy gardens give pleasure to all; they are gifts to be shared and appreciated.



331 CS Blvd

Photo credit: David Thorpe



5250 Tancreti

Photo credit: Linda Greenberg

About . . . *The Compass*

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 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, Eliza Dolin, Lily Engle, Scott E.Z. Franklin, Mayu Molina Lehman, Pat Sugrue and Rene Zimmer

Recurring Contributor: Lenore Marema

Photographer: Sally McConnell

Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org)

Michael Johnson - President

Sarah Meyer Walsh - Vice President and Liaison to Activities and Events Planning Committee

Tom Sugrue - Secretary and Liaison to Communications Committee

Joan Lampe - Treasurer and Liaison to Financial Advisory Committee and Common Area Committee

Kim Canter - Director and Liaison to Architectural Review Committee

Jon Dellaria - Director and Liaison to Cameron Club Facilities Committee

Andrew Hill - Treasurer and Liaison to Financial Advisory Committee and Common Area Committee

CSCA COMMITTEES

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS PLANNING COMMITTEE

(events@cameronstation.org)

Andrew Yang - Chairperson

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(arc@cameronstation.org)

Karen Diener - Chairperson

CAMERON CLUB FACILITIES COMMITTEE

(facilities@cameronstation.org)

Ray Celeste, Jr. - Chairperson

COMMON AREA COMMITTEE

(commonarea@cameronstation.org)

Robert Burns - Chairperson

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

(communications@cameronstation.org)

Tricia Hemel - Chairperson

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(fac@cameronstation.org)

Takis Taousakis - Chairperson

Meet the Candidates Night

There are three open seats on the Cameron Station Board of Directors that will be filled at the Annual Meeting on Monday, November 9, which will be held virtually. Watch for further information in the weekly email blasts to learn more about this event and hear from the candidates who are running for these important positions.

Not Receiving *The Compass* Regularly?

If you have not been receiving the newsletter 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 communitymanager@cameronstation.org 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 Compass*.

Maximize the value of your home.

With Compass Concierge, I can help you sell your home faster and for a higher price. From painting to flooring, Concierge helps transform your home with zero upfront costs and no interest.

STRATEGIC STAGING

FRESH PAINT

UPDATED FLOORING

Podolsky GROUP COMPASS CONCIERGE
 202.271.3050 | cameronstation.com
 Aaron Podolsky, Real Estate Strategist

Greetings From CAMP Management

Community Association Management Professionals (CAMP), Cameron Station's new management company, is excited about this new chapter for the community, and we look forward to working with the Board of Directors and residents in a collaborative and productive manner to achieve all of the great things planned for Cameron Station.

We appreciate your patience as the new management team learns all of the "ins and outs" of the community. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email Susan Cassell, the On-Site Manager, at managers@cameronstation.com or scassell@gocampmgmt.com. You may also email Heather Graham, CAMP's Executive Vice President, at hgraham@gocampmgmt.com.

CAMP was happy to retain Mimi Kebede as the Covenants Administrator (bkebede@gocampmgmt.com).

You may also have noticed Mark Bondurant out and about on site as the new Maintenance Technician (mbondurant@gocampmgmt.com). CAMP will be adding to the on-site team over the coming weeks and will update you accordingly. You may also call the site office (703-567-4881) or reach CAMP's Customer Service at 855-477-CAMP (2267), where they can help you with account questions, take your payments over the phone or help with resale products.

If you wish to make an appointment to use the gym or pool, please reach out directly to fitness@cameronstation.org.

We look forward to working with all of you; we are thrilled to be the management company for your beautiful community and are excited about all of the great things we will be able to accomplish together!

Get to Know the CAMP Team

We asked CAMP, our new management team, to tell us a little bit about themselves. Here's what they had to say. We look forward to getting to know them all even better when social distancing is a thing of the past!

General Manager **Susan Cassell** was born in Virginia and has lived most of her life in the greater DC area. She's been in management since age 18 and has managed properties of varying size for over 10 years. For recreation, she enjoys gardening, hiking and cooking/baking.

Assistant Community Manager **Janeva Sharps** has been in property management for 10 years. She began her career with Cassidy Turley Management, later worked with JBG Smith, then worked on the brokerage side with Jones Lang LaSalle. She is excited to be a part of a community association working on the HOA and residential side. Some of her favorite things include: cooking, writing poetry and spoken-word performance and home decor DIY projects.

Covenants Administrator **Bethlehem Kebede** (most of you know her as Mimi from her time here with CMC) has lived in Alexandria for the past 13 years. She worked as an administrative assistant at a different property in Alexandria for seven years and then worked in Cameron Station for the past 10 years. In her free time, she enjoys listening to music and reading books.

Administrative Assistant **Juana Michel** was born and raised in Alexandria. After graduating from Marymount University, she worked in the university's housing office for a few



Photo credit: Sally McConnell

The CAMP team (l-r) Susan Cassell, General Manager; Janeva Sharps, Assistant Community Manager; Juana Michel, Administrative Assistant; Mimi Kebede, Covenants Administrator; Mark Bondurant, Maintenance Technician.

years. Some of her favorite things to do in her free time are baking, listening to music and practicing hand lettering.

Maintenance Technician **Mark Bondurant** was born and raised here in Alexandria. He graduated from Edison High School and attended Elon College in North Carolina. This is his first time working with a property management company. He'll be the guy riding around on the golf cart (and when not at Cameron Station you may find him at the golf course).

While **Psy Scott** is not a member of the CAMP management team, he is a vital part of community management! Psy has been Director of the Cameron Club Fitness Center for almost six years. We're lucky enough to still have him with us, along with Mimi Kebede, who's mentioned on page 4.



Photo credit: Sally McConnell

Juana Michel, Administrative Assistant; Mimi Kebede, Covenants Administrator; Susan Cassell, General Manager; Mark Bondurant, Maintenance Technician; Janeva Sharps, Assistant Community Manager.

CAMP Assessment Information

CAMP has been transitioning CSCA (Cameron Station Community Association) information from the community's previous management company.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to sign up for Direct Debit or would like to make an E-Check or credit card payment, you can do this with your account information by going through the Resident Portal at www.gocampmgmt.com and scrolling to the bottom of the page. If you use a Bill Payer service, you must update them with the new billing address so that your payment can be properly processed; otherwise, the payment may be taken from your account, but will NOT be transmitted to CAMP. If you are a condo unit owner, this management change does not affect you, and you should continue making your assessment payments directly to your condo management company.



Photo credit: Sally McConnell

Fitness Director Psy Scott is grateful the Center has reopened and residents are following the safety requirements, but looks forward to post-COVID-19 time when all the equipment can be safely used!

Community Management

Cameron Station Community Association Community Association Management Professionals (CAMP)

703-821-2267 – On-Site Office 703-567-4881

After-Hours Emergency: 703-821-2267

Susan Cassell, General Manager

scassell@gocampmgmt.com

Janeva Sharps, Assistant Community Manager

jsharps@gocampmgmt.com

Bethlehem (Mimi) Kebede, Covenants Administrator

bkebede@gocampmgmt.com

Juana Michel, Administrative Assistant

jmichel@gocampmgmt.com

Mark Bondurant, Maintenance

mbondurant@gocampmgmt.com

Psy Scott, Fitness Director, Cameron Club Fitness Center

cameronclubfitness@gmail.com 703-567-8555

Condominium Management

The Residences at Cameron Station - A.K.A. 400 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

ltrent@abarisrealty.com 301-468-8919

After-Hours Emergency: 301-468-8919

Condos at Cameron Station Boulevard Oakland Hall Condominium

Community Management Corporation (CMC)

703-631-7200 - After-Hours Emergency: 301-446-2635

Gita Lainez, Portfolio Manager

glainez@cmc-management.com 703-230-8578

Brittany Byrd, Assistant Community Manager

BByrd@cmc-management.com 703-230-8576

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

BLAST OFF TO JUPITER

Farewell David & Stephanie Thorpe

By Carla Besosa

No, this is not about interplanetary travel; it's about a move from Cameron Station to Florida. We bid *adieu* to neighbors David and Stephanie Thorpe. After being an essential part of our community for seven years, it's Southward Ho! to start the next chapter of their lives in Jupiter, Florida. They will definitely be missed, and we sincerely want to thank them for all they've done for our neighborhood.

The Thorpes repeatedly sponsored and orchestrated the Spring Egg Roll for the kids in Cameron Station. David, with his hi-tech audio equipment and massive DJ repertoire, offered his services as our "Music Man" for many neighborhood events. The Thorpes' Halloween display on Grimm Drive was always a second-to-none production, providing fun for massive numbers of trick-or-treaters. People came from far and wide to share in the joy! The Thorpes also were integral to the continued success of the open house Martini Monday socials.



Photo credit: David Thorpe

David and Stephanie Thorpe with Lucy the Labradoodle, outside their new home in Jupiter, Florida.

David created the Cameron Station Grapevine Facebook page for the purpose of keeping us all informed about what's what, both in and around the neighborhood. The Thorpes brought the Little Free Library concept to our development and orchestrated its implementation: take a book, leave a book.

David and Stephanie were my partners in crime, assisting me with my restaurant reviews for *The Compass*. They would graciously order additional menu items into which I could stick my fork (with great decorum, of course). David would take the restaurant photos, along with any others that were needed for our publication, documenting events, seasons and residents' interactions—for posterity!

In 2018, David was the recipient of Cameron Station's cherished Mark Pillow Award, in recognition of all of these contributions and more to our community.

We wish David and Stephanie (and beloved Goldendoodle Lucy) the best as they "Blast Off to Jupiter." We hope their new Florida neighbors are as welcoming to them as they have been to new residents here over the past seven years.

CHEERS to David and Stephanie Thorpe!

The Mark Pillow Award: Giving Thanks for Good Neighbors

By Pat Sugrue

Those of us lucky enough to have known Mark Pillow, who died in December 2005, remember him as a great 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 in honor of those who have followed in his footsteps, the Common Area Committee established "The Mark Pillow Community Spirit Award." The Board of Directors now manages it and is asking for nominations **by Monday, October 26**. The award will be presented (virtually) at the Annual Meeting on **Monday, November 9**.

Please think of 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, serve on the Board of Directors, work on the Civic Association – 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, before the pandemic, would provide rides to doctors and airports. And now with COVID-19 in our midst, so many neighbors are offering to do grocery and pharmacy shopping for those at higher risk. All these folks offer the important day-to-day neighborliness that makes such a difference in our lives.

How to thank these neighbors? Nominate them for the Pillow Award. You may nominate as many neighbors as you wish. Send their names and a description of their contributions to boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org. Then please attend the virtual 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.



Mark Pillow with his dog Geoff.

Photo credit: Don MacVittie

Put a Lid on Garbage

Rats, raccoons, crows and all sorts of furry and feathered creatures can easily eat their way through garbage bags left on the curb. Please remember to put all garbage in trashcans with tight-fitting lids.



Painting Your World Beautiful



**WILLIAMS
PROFESSIONAL
PAINTING**

We've added beauty and value to Cameron Station homes (like yours!) since 1979

(703) 768-8143 - Virginia • (202) 751-2026 - Washington, DC
williamsprofessionalpainting.com

Sustainability, Victory Center Redevelopment and COVID-19 Update at the Civic Association Meeting

By Jon Dellaria

The General Membership Meeting of the Cameron Station Civic Association was held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, September 2. The number of people attending ranged from 20 to 35 during the one-and-a-half-hour meeting.

Four great speakers joined the group for a discussion that involved lively rounds of questions and answers.

Ellen Eggerton, P.E., Sustainability Coordinator City of Alexandria, Virginia, Transportation & Environmental Services Department/Office of Environmental Quality, discussed various policies and plans and the progress that Alexandria has made to make the city more ecologically friendly. The discussion covered the 10 areas in the City's Environmental Action Plan 2040 ("EAP"), which are energy, green building policy, land use and open space, solid waste management, addressing climate change, air quality, water conservation, environmental health, transportation, and implementation plus education and outreach on the EAP. She also provided a list of best practices for energy sustainability within our homes. To view the city's strategic effort to achieve sustainability, go to <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Eco-City>.

Bill Eger, Energy Manager for the City of Alexandria, discussed the formation of the Energy and Climate Change Task Force, stating that city press releases would be coming out this October or November seeking applicants to be on the task force. Their goal is to prepare a report setting forth the specific actions needed to be taken in Alexandria in order to achieve the environmental objectives set forth in the EAP.

Mary Catherine Gibbs, with Wire Gill LLP, and Greg Ruff of *Winchester Homes* discussed the rezoning of the parking lot of the Victory Center for the development of a town home community. The current proposal to the city will include 139 homes and central open spaces and implement the street grid recommendation of the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan (SAP). They are about mid-way in the planning process and have held several feedback forums over the past months. They will be offering a community-wide virtual feedback forum, should anyone want to join. They hope to present to the planning commission in January 2021.

Natalie Talis of the *Alexandria Health Department* provided details of COVID-19 and its impact on Alexandria. As of September 2, 2020, Alexandria has had 3,415 cases, 300 hospitalizations and 62 deaths. These numbers are well below the averages that have been experienced by other areas of Virginia. Ms. Talis also noted that the most effective things to do to prevent contracting the virus are to wear a mask, wash hands by using soap or a sanitizer and maintain at least six feet of distance from any other person (ten feet if you are engaged in heavy exercise or singing). Data on COVID-19 and information on where to get tested is available at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus> or <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>.

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, November 4, 2020, on Zoom.

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

Annual membership dues are only \$10.00.



HVAC Plumbing Electrical

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

HVAC and Plumbing maintenance contractor
@ Cameron Station Condo since 2009
Speciality indoor air quality

Service, Installation & Maintenance

- Air condition/ Heating
- Water heater/ Drain clog
- Electrical problems

Most preferred, Most referred!

Resident Badges

All residents must update their current resident ID badge for 2020 in order to use any of the facilities. If you have not already done so, please contact admin@cameronstation.org for the required form.

Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

Activities and Events Planning Committee

By Andy Yang



Photo credit: Megan Podolsky



Photo credit: Liz Johnson



Photo credit: Mayu Molina Lehman

Due to the pandemic, the Activities and Events Committee has spearheaded fewer events than usual. We did hold a virtual Trivia Night and virtual Magic Show online back in May and June, respectively. A socially distanced graduation recognition "drive by" was held in June to congratulate our 2020 graduates.

This year's Fourth of July event followed a similar format. Aaron Podolsky led a patriotic parade along Cameron Station Boulevard, as hand sanitizer was given out to residents along the way. Residents were treated to ice pops at the Cameron Clubhouse and in front of the condos at 400 Cameron Station Boulevard. Thanks to Podolsky Group for sponsoring this event.

As conditions permit, the Activities and Events Committee will continue to organize events while following social distancing guidelines.

Communications Committee

By Tricia Hemel

Over the summer, the Communications Committee has welcomed over 40 new residents to Cameron Station via email rather than the in-person meetings we were doing before COVID-19. We have also worked with management to get information out to the community via email blast in an easier-to-read format. The committee is currently working on updating our community map to include more detailed information about amenities such as pet stations, Little Free Library locations and walking paths within our community.

(See Committee Corner continued on page 10)

Want to Take on a Painting Project?

There's a New Little Free Library in Town!

At the beginning of the summer, Sherri LeGoff and her husband, Dj, installed a Little Free Library in the pocket park at the intersection of Cameron Station Boulevard, Tancreti Lane and Ferdinand Day Drive, and it's become very popular! "I check on it a couple of times a week," says Sherri, "to rotate books that do not seem to be moving, keep it tidy and make sure there is nothing offensive." The family purchased it while living in San Diego, but never installed it because they'd decided to move here. "It's painted all gray because it had to blend into our San Diego townhouses," she adds. "But I'd be happy to have someone with artistic talent paint it so it is easier to identify!" If you're so inclined, please contact Sherri at sherrilegoff@gmail.com, and thanks!



Photo credit: Dj LeGoff

Sherri LeGoff in front of the Little Free Library she and her husband brought all the way from San Diego.

Voting Information

By Sally McConnell

This year's election has generated lots of interest. In Virginia, you may vote three ways: mail-in absentee, early in-person with or without an absentee ballot, or at the polls on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3.

For any election questions, contact the Alexandria Registrar of Voters, 132 N. Royal Street (by the Alexandria City Hall in Old Town) at 703-746-4050.

To vote absentee, either by mail or in person, go to elections.virginia.gov to request an absentee ballot. You do not need an excuse to get an absentee ballot.



Ballots are scheduled to be mailed September 18. Although you have until October 23 to request your absentee ballot, it is not a good idea to wait that long. You should request your ballot immediately. Once you receive it, read and follow all instructions carefully and fully. Sign your ballot and have your signature witnessed. Your witness can be a member

of your household, a neighbor or other friend, etc. Your ballot does not need to be notarized.

If you are mailing in your ballot, be sure to have at least two stamps ready because extra postage may be required. Mail it in as soon after receiving it as you can to counter any possible delays in mail service.

If you prefer to vote early in person, you must bring your absentee ballot if you have one, or you may simply show up. Be sure to have your driver's license or other identification with you. Because of the pandemic, wear a mask, have hand sanitizer with you and bring your own pen. Use your sanitizer immediately after leaving the voting site and wash your hands as soon as possible. Practice social distancing.

You may vote early at the Alexandria Voter Registrar's office at 132 N. Royal Street from September 18 to October 29. Specific days and hours for voting at this office are as follows:

Weekdays, 9/18-10/23, 8am-5pm

Saturdays, 10/3, 10/10 and 10/17, 8am-8pm

Saturdays, 10/24 and 10/31, 8am-5pm

You may also vote early at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street:

Weekdays, 10/23-10/30, 8am-6pm

Saturdays, 10/24 and 10/31, 8am-5pm

On Election Day, vote at your usual designated polling place between 6am and 7pm. **But if you requested an absentee ballot and decide to vote in person instead, you MUST bring that ballot.** Wear your mask and bring your identification, hand sanitizer and pen with you. Practice social distancing.

Recent elections have received dismally low turnout and were decided by relatively few votes in key districts and states. EVERY VOTE COUNTS. Please do your part!

(continued from page 1)

Common Area Committee

By Kathy McCollom

The Common Area Committee (CAC) is working on two major multi-year contract re-bids for contracts that expire at the end of this year for trash pickup and landscaping. Members have updated proposal requirements and worked closely with management to obtain bids and interview potential finalists.

The CAC is also working with the board and management for a contract to re-pave the private streets in the community, a project that should be completed next year.

This is budget planning time. Now that the community is 20 years old, more original common area plants and features need major maintenance or replacing. This summer, the CAC once again completed monthly walks through the community to assess problem areas.

Working with the new CAMP management team, CAC is checking benches throughout the community, as many need the original wood slats replaced. Wherever possible, existing metal frames are reused to save costs, and there are several different styles. Some frames can support long-lasting synthetic wood; others need stronger natural wood.

Brick walkway repairs are ongoing throughout the year. Tree roots and ground settling can turn a slightly uneven spot into a serious trip hazard. Please report these areas as you see them to the management office so they can be added to the maintenance list for a future brickwork day.

Facilities Committee

By Ray Celeste, Jr.

The Cameron Club Facilities Committee (CCFC) is grateful to the Board of Directors, employees of ProFIT, our Fitness Center management company and lifeguards of American Pool for a successful reopening and pool season.

We have overcome many challenges to get our pool and fitness center open after suspending operation on March 17. We reopened on July 15 after a great deal of planning and looking at potential scenarios on how to open in a safe and responsible manner.

Special thanks are in order for Dan Ogg, Vice Chair of the CCFC, who spent countless hours devising draft guidelines for safely re-opening our pool and fitness center. These guidelines were briefed by Dan to the board members in detail in a special meeting held in early July. The guidelines have worked remarkably well.

Todd Sinkins, CSCA's counsel, also reviewed these guidelines and made edits both to protect our residents' health and to legally protect CSCA. Dan and Todd, Mimi Kebede, Tom Sugrue and Jon Dellaria were helpful in getting us up and running again. I also want to thank CCFC members Brendan Hanlon and Tim Regan for their wise guidance, as well as Sandesh Risal and Ben Rogers of American Pool.



Photo credit: Sally McConnell

Residents enjoy time at the pool while social distancing.

We are also grateful for our residents' compliance with these guidelines. We respectfully request that, if you make a reservation for the fitness center, pool, a class or the basketball court and you cannot keep the reservation, you cancel it online or call the fitness center front desk at 703-567-8555. We anticipate operating with a reduced capacity through the winter, so by being thoughtful you will give other residents the opportunity to use our fine facility.

Our thanks also go to the ProFIT and American Pool staff who have made our reopening a success "on the ground." The ProFIT personnel are Rich (owner), Psy (Fitness Center Manager), Jill, Cody, Carol, Dana, Vivian, Blessing and Enrique. I also want to thank Exodus, who has left us for another position, for serving our community well! The American Pool staff lifeguards, who have done an admirable job, are Roxroy (Pool Manager) Bianca, Ari, Valeria, Emma, April, McKenzie, Madee and Aidan. Thank you to all, and please keep it up!

Financial Advisory Committee

By Takis Taousakis

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) has been working on the 2021 Cameron Station Community budget formulation. The budget timeline is fluid; however, the estimated calendar is as follows:

- All committees submit draft budget requests to management by the third week of August.
- New management company (CAMP) issues the first budget draft to FAC and the Board of Directors by the end of August.
- CAMP, FAC and Board of Directors review the budget requests with each committee during September.
- CAMP, FAC and the board develop the second draft budget and potential assessment rates by the end of September.



Photo credit: Sally McConnell

A sunny day at the pool with families and friends.

- If necessary, CAMP, FAC and the board meet to update the budget review in late September to mid-October.
- Final 2021 CSCA budget by the third full week of October.
- CAMP develops the monthly budget spread with FAC and committee members before December 31, 2020.

GIBBERMAN DENTAL

FAMILY, COSMETIC & IMPLANT DENTISTRY

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Paul Gibberman was recognized in the 2019 issues of *Washingtonian Magazine* and *Northern Virginia Magazine* as being one of the area's **Top Dental Professionals!** In addition, both Dr. Paul Gibberman and Dr. Lauren B. Gibberman were recognized in the 2019 issue of *Virginia Living Magazine!* The reason our office has been so successful is because we understand that you and your family are the most important part of our practice. Utilizing *state-of-the-art technology*, we are able to deliver the *highest quality, personalized dental care* focused on your goals. Call our office or visit our website today to schedule an appointment!

703.823.6616

Beauregard Square
 6303 Little River Turnpike
 Suite 205
 Alexandria, VA 22312

www.gibbermandental.com



Things We Never Thought We'd Do: How Cameron Station Residents Are Coping with the Pandemic

By Lenore Marema

Few will ever forget the pandemic of 2020. We asked residents of the community what they did in 2020 that they likely never would have done but for all the time they spent at home this year. Here are some of the ways our neighbors have been coping.

• **Home Improvements:** Those much-needed repairs and remodeling jobs that you were able to ignore when you came home from work and were foraging for food for dinner now glare at you 24/7. We've heard that many neighbors have taken on projects of all sizes – hopefully with great success!

If you're in the process or about to make some improvements, please send "before" and "after" photos, with a short description, to thecompass@cameronstation.org.

• **Physical Fitness:** Cameron Station residents have gotten into yoga and biking. One resident, in the absence of two-hour commutes, got yoga and meditation certifications, then practiced and taught. Several did Positive Energy Yoga and barre3 by Zoom. We have a biker who, in one day, can travel between 50 and 200 miles round-trip, including the entire C&O Canal Towpath and all of Skyline Drive from Front Royal to Waynesboro, Virginia – and back!

• **Home Cooking/Baking:** Several parents involved children in some or all of planning a meal, grocery shopping, food preparation, cooking and cleanup. One resident hired an out-of-work chef to teach her how to prepare healthy meals and nourish her family. Many baked homemade bread and all raved about the aromas coming out of their ovens – even when the appearance was not so pretty. Another resident made homemade cinnamon rolls for the first time. Sourdough starter kits got mixed reviews, with one resident asking how to kill the thing!

And then there were these very interesting activities that might spur others on in the coming months:

- Did the Ancestry DNA test.
- Took an online class at Yale University.
- Finally organized the pantry and grew herbs on the deck.
- Rekindled a love of needlepoint and found it to be a stress reliever.
- Opened a 3000-piece puzzle received as a gift ten years ago; it's about 50% done.
- Conducted a weekly Skype call with a 2013-2014 exchange student.
- Purchased the Great Courses and studied the New Testament.
- Sorted through generations of pictures and now have multiple albums with the identity and date of the pictures – on to the old scrapbooks!

- Made a scarf using a loom because I don't know how to knit.
- Took on data entry work at home.
- Sewed face masks.
- Started learning Italian.
- Bought a Cricut for craft projects.
- Knitted ear-savers for the winter.
- Organized the garage.
- Spent more time on the telephone talking to friends.
- Created activities and sent them to families with children out of school and not in summer camps.



- Bought a new home/office chair.
- Ordered take-out and delivery-only from small local businesses.
- Orchestrated semi-weekly Trivia Challenges and created Tiny Condo Concerts (like NPR's "Tiny Desk" concerts).
- Grew zucchini and made bread from it.
- Our whole family cleaned out every closet and drawer – so many things to give away!
- Bought a bird feeder.
- Tried my hand as a day trader –

good thing I have a day job!

- Took our cats to curbside vet visits.
- Learned how to cut my family's hair.
- Answered 1-800-calls and engaged the callers; loved the ones pretending to be grandma stranded in New Jersey needing \$5,000!
- Returned to crafting that I haven't done in years.

Kudos to this perfectly honest Cameron Station resident (everyone will understand and relate to the story): "I spent most every Sunday on Zoom Happy Hour calls with my friends – drinking wine and eating my weight in cheese. BUT when the pandemic is over, I am going on a serious diet and will incorporate more walking in my exercise routine. Honest. I promise."

NEW CAMERON STATION ANIMAL RESIDENTS?

We know that several Cameron Station residents have opened their hearts and homes to new pets during the pandemic. In the Nov/Dec edition of *The Compass*, we want to publish pictures of these new friends. Please send a picture and include the name of your pet to thecompass@cameronstation.org. Thank you!

IndoChen Emerges Victorious In Cameron Station!

By Carla Besosa

The former London Curry House has been transformed and has emerged as **IndoChen**. The concept calls for Indo-Chinese comfort food in a casual, modern setting. Same wonderful owners, same talented chef, unique incarnation! You are welcome to dine in or *al fresco* or take out (delivery options available soon).

Although the coronavirus imposed many limitations, the downtime in the restaurant industry, oddly enough, enabled the transition. While doors were closed to indoor dining, these guys were hard at work making their vision tangible. The walls are now a cool blue-gray, shades replace drapes and light fixtures are modern industrial style. The seating has been reconfigured, and comfy booths replace tables on the park side. The space has a relaxed, up-to-date feel. Management is dedicated to the safety of guests and staff and is operating in strict compliance with state guidelines for capacity, distancing and sanitizing. There's even a scannable QR code for touchless menu perusing. I've been enjoying the patio seating with park and sunset vistas, but patrons are dining inside as well in a distanced configuration.

IndoChen kicked off their Grand Opening by inviting neighbors to an outdoor reception. Complimentary samples were served on the patio to an excited and receptive crowd. The event served not only as a preview of the new menu, but a thank you to residents for their support. Many reception attendees decided to stay for dinner, which certainly speaks well of the experience.



Photo Credit: Kumar K.C.

Chef Ram Thapa has been wanting to put his Indo-Chinese cuisine on display, and neighbors have been raving. He obtained a Sous Vide certification and is putting it to good use. Conceptually,

Indo-Chinese cuisine adds an Indian flare to Chinese dishes. The result is delicious, and there's nothing else like it anywhere in the area. *Northern Virginia Magazine* and *The Washingtonian* have already jumped onboard recently, with features on IndoChen and Chef Ram.

The menu is divided into two main categories: Small Plates and Large Plates. This makes it easy to customize your order to fit your appetite. It's also quite conducive to grazing. I like to sample a variety of Chef Ram's



Photo Credit: Sally McConnell

Grand opening cheers to the owners and staff of IndoChen!

creations by ordering multiple Small Plates to share. I've grazed my way through the *Melon Chaat*, *Kale Chaat*, *Vegetable Manchurian*, *Chicken Spring Rolls*, *Sesame Tofu*, *Dumplings*, *Fish Balls*, *Fried Sardines* and everyone's favorite, *Orange Shrimp*. Don't worry, they've kept prime picks from the old menu such as *Butter Chicken*, *Palak Paneer*, *Lamb Rogan Josh*, *Chicken Tikka Masala* and others. And I've enjoyed new Large Plates such as *Chicken Chow Mien*, *Salmon* and *Fried Rice*.

There are also some Shared Plate items designed to serve two (though I'd vote for three). Their version of *Fried Chicken* has been an amazingly huge hit. *Biryani* and *Pork Ribs* are also "super sized" for sharing. How exciting to have so many new options to try! There are even a couple of new tasty desserts: *Malai Cake* and *Melon Pudding*.

In addition to Chef Ram's creations, check out some of the new vintages on the wine list. Some of the favorites, like my *Franciscan Chardonnay*, have actually dropped in price as better deals were negotiated with the distributor! Two new cocktails with a nod to Cameron Station are the *Brenman Park* (vodka/ginger/lime) and the *Cameron Blvd* (bourbon/walnut/cinnamon/bitters).

Welcome to the neighborhood, IndoChen. Thank you to Chef Ram, Kumar, Ashok and Hari for keeping the faith during these challenging times, creating a new experience for your Cameron Station friends to enjoy!



Photo Credit: Sally McConnell

MAIN STREET RETAILERS



CAMERON CAFÉ

caffeinate.congregate.celebrate

4911 Brenman Park Dr, Alexandria, VA 22304

Try our Seasonal House Specials Espresso Drinks:

Pumpkin Spice Latte • Caramel Mocha Latte • Wedding Cake Latte

We have loved you for 10 years and, although the future is completely unpredictable, we sincerely hope to be part of your daily routine for the next decade as well. Thank you for your unwavering support, especially as the pandemic upended life for almost everyone in 2020. We truly appreciate your patience with all the changes we've made to adhere to ever-changing restrictions. You are the HOW and WHY we stay open.

Open for Take-Out Mon-Fri: 7am-6pm; Sat: 8am-5pm



FOLLOW US! CAMERON CAFE



Bright Start Learning Center, LLC



4920 Brenman Park Drive Alexandria, VA

Tel: (703) 370-8414 Fax: (703) 997-0487

www.brightstartva.com

CAMERON STATION DRY CLEANERS

- Drapery & wedding gowns
- Household items
- Suede & leather services
- Alterations
- Embroidery & Monogram
- Same day service with no extra charge !! 😊



♪ STORE HOURS ♪

Mon-Sat
8am-5pm

4903 BRENNAN PARK DR.
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304
Tel: 703-823-0606

WE CLEAN YOUR GARMENTS WITH **ECO-FRIENDLY** PROCEDURE!

....

CAMERON STATION DENTAL CARE
181 Comay Terrace, Alexandria Va
www.cameronstationdentalcare.com

Family Oriented Practice

Specializing in:

Implant Restoration

General Dentistry

Crowns

Bridges

Full/Partial Dentures

Invisalign and Braces

Root Canals



[fb.com/cameronstationdentalcare](https://www.facebook.com/cameronstationdentalcare)

Cameron Station Welcomes Pawsh Dog Wash!

By Rene Zimmer

The Cameron Station Community welcomes our newest business, **Pawsh**, a dog grooming and care center that also includes washing, nail clipping and a “self-serve” area that allows owners to wash their own pets. Located on Brenman Park Drive, right near Cameron Station Valet and Cameron Café, the shop will also carry some retail pet items made by local businesses.

I enjoyed meeting the shop’s owner, Mary Phillips. Her family is originally from Brooklyn, New York, but she grew up in Loudoun County. Mary started her career as a veterinary technician, during which time she fostered and later adopted a dog named Norman. (If you look at her very informative Pawsh website, www.pawshdw.com, you can read the touching story of how Norman inspired her current career.)



Mary has had a pet clientele for several years, and formed her limited liability business in March 2019. She welcomed the opportunity to rent space here in



Cameron Station for her new business. Although she’s the sole owner, she’s had a lot of support from family and friends since the beginning.

Pawsh prides itself on “Humanity Before Vanity,” caring for pets of different temperaments and being sensitive to individual pet needs and personalities. According to Mary, “There are no bad breeds.” Her kind and thoughtful approach to animal care and grooming is both refreshing and inspirational.



Photo credit: Sally McConnell

Mary has additional plans for the future such as a dog food truck called “Woof Bowl” and wine evenings that welcome pets with their owners. Mary also has a mobile grooming van that you may see parked in front of Pawsh at various times.

Mary will open her new business with two groomers in addition to herself. She is trying to stay positive while opening during this pandemic and hopes that the business will be successful enough to allow her to expand her staff at a later date.

Due to some construction and space modifications, the shop’s grand opening was delayed until September 19. But, Mary says, all of the neighbors and Cameron Station business owners have been very welcoming and supportive. She is thrilled to be part of our community. Welcome, Pawsh Dog Wash!

MAIN STREET RETAILERS



Business hours

Tuesday to Sunday
12pm - 9pm

Open for dine-in and take out service.

4906 Brenman Park Dr.
Alexandria, VA 22304

www.indochen.com
703-419-3160



LET US HEAR FROM YOU...

The staff of *The Compass* welcomes your comments and suggestions about the newsletter and community updates. Please send them to thecompass@cameronstation.org. Thank you.

“Tails” of Cameron Station

By Carla Besosa

We normally run a “Neighbors in the News” piece in *The Compass*, featuring the accomplishments of a fellow resident. Well, it came to my attention that there is a segment of our population that’s heretofore been overlooked. I have, therefore, conducted a brief series of interviews with “Canines in COVID.” How is this cherished four-legged faction coping during these challenging times?

In choosing my subjects, I selected those whom I encounter most frequently, usually in front of Cameron Café. I figured they’d be more apt to open up about their true feelings. The Westminster Dog Show has nothing on the parade of handsome hounds that frequent our coffee shop! On occasion, the pooches’ people had to assist with some interpretation; for that, I thank them.

BUDDY

First I spoke with Buddy, a soft, cuddly, brown Australian Labradoodle who says he came from a breeder in Mount Jackson, Virginia, a little over a year ago. He underwent a bit of culture shock moving from Shenandoah County to

inside the Capital Beltway, but is loving the urban life (minus the leash). Buddy says things have been going well for him during COVID-19. All his humans are home, and that’s a good thing. He gets to see his puppy friends more often and visits the dog park twice a day. His favorite thing about Cameron Station is coming to Cameron Café, where he’s sure to get treats from Joyce, Ginger and Marilyn. I asked him if he had any words of advice for his two-legged neighbors. “Keep smiling, people, and don’t forget to carry dog treats. Then everything will be OK!”



Photo credit: Carla Besosa

Things are going well for Buddy and Cassie.

MILAN

Next I had a chat with Milan, an attractive silky, gray Staffordshire Terrier with shiny gray eyes. Milan shared a moving story about his rescue. He’d been abandoned by the side of the road in Great Falls. “I was hungry, dizzy and so weak I could barely stand. I was distrustful and afraid of everyone and everything.” I asked him how he ended up on the side of the road, but, understandably, he doesn’t like to talk about that time in his life. He just said that, out of nowhere, a nice man appeared and scooped him up. “I was afraid, but he gave lots of hugs, and I was too weak to resist, so I went home with him. He’s been so good to me, and I’m eternally grateful; he saved me.” Milan has only been on the scene in Cameron Station three months. “I’m slowly getting used to people,

thanks to the beautiful, sweet ladies I visit every day at Cameron Café,” he said coyly, buttering up his friends who provide him with unconditional dog treats. “It seems to me that people are a bit anxious these days, and I know how that feels. But I’m having a great time and have been spending more time with other dogs; their owners are taking them out more often. I want to tell you two-legged beings that, just because there’s this COVID-19 thing, it doesn’t mean you can’t carry treats at all times, learn dog language, share food and be kind. When in doubt, err on the side of giving. Remember to sniff from a distance. Follow my advice and everyone should be just fine!



Photo credit: Carla Besosa

Milan and his very best friend, Ethan.

LUCY

Little Lucy was up next. You may have seen her, or maybe you blinked and missed her. She was initially about six inches long – perhaps nine now. As you can see from the photo, she was very focused on our interview. She says she’s a Snorkie – a cross between a Schnauzer and a Yorkie.



Photo credit: Angela Calos

Lucy and Carla discuss the advantages of being cute.

She’s spent her life (3½ years so far) in Cameron Station. “Mommy says she gave birth to me. I guess that’s her way of explaining the birds and the bees. It’s a bit confusing, but makes me feel even more like part of the family.” Lucy loves Cameron Station and all the nice people who give her treats, but her “BFF” is Victor at the coffee shop. When asked how she’s coping, Lucy confided, “I’m having the time of my life! I’ve never spent so much time with people, and they all think I’m cute ... and I am! However, when I look in the mirror, I can tell I’ve put on a few pounds from all the extra treats.” She’s

decided not to worry about it; her collars still fit. She suggests that humans not get stressed out about such things either, and instead spend time outside enjoying the fresh air and socializing with friends at a distance, even if they don’t give you treats.

COOPER

I concluded with Cooper, a lovable Golden Retriever with an endearing smile. "I came to Cameron Station as a foster doggie, then decided to keep my people," he said proudly. "We got along well, and I felt they were trainable." When asked if he was a purebred Golden Retriever, he replied, "Mommy tells be I'm 'part bear, part potato.' I'm not sure what that means, but it makes me feel important." Cooper's actually enjoying COVID-19 because his people are home much more often. "They're just as weird as ever, but



Photo credit: Sally McConnell

Cooper, next to his "Mommy" Mere, checks Carla's notes for clarity and accuracy.

they're still in training," he observed. "They sit in front of rectangular screens and bang on a keyboard instead of thinking of dog things to do." He says Cameron Station has lots of nice places to walk and lots of nice people to scratch him behind his ears. "At 87 pounds, I pretty much go where I want. I get lots of fresh air and exercise. I think that's good for people, too." When asked if he had any words of wisdom for his two-legged neighbors, Cooper replied, "Keep a squeaky toy nearby for stress relief, and stay away from the kitty!"



All four subjects were happy to participate in this series of interviews, and were very excited about being in *The Compass*. The pup perspective on COVID-19 issues is obviously unique. They focus on the opportunities presented by the situation. Quality time and interaction (within guidelines) are important, as are sharing, kindness and communing with nature. They want you to take everything in stride and not let anxiety rule. "Things are RUFF", they say, "but we'll survive this together ... especially if you can be a little more like us."

The Importance of Getting Enough Sleep

By Psy Scott, Fitness Director

Sleep plays a vital role in good health and well-being throughout your life. Getting enough quality sleep at the right times can help protect your mental health, physical health, quality of life and safety.



The way you feel while you're awake depends in part on what happens while you're sleeping. Sleeping is important for various aspects of brain function. This includes cognition, concentration, productivity and performance. All of these are negatively affected by sleep deprivation. Sleep enables the body to repair and be fit and ready for another day. Getting adequate rest may also help prevent excess weight gain, heart disease and increased illness duration.

While sleep requirements vary slightly from person to person, most healthy adults need between seven and nine hours of sleep per night to function at their best. Children and teens need even more. Despite the notion that our sleep needs decrease with age, most older people still need at least seven hours of sleep.

Residential & Commercial
www.augustineroofng.com
703.281.7663

\$350 OFF
All Roof Replacements

\$75 OFF
All Roof Repairs

GreenSky
2018 Angie's List
VISA MasterCard

Fall Gardening Tips 2020

By Linda Greenberg and Kathy McCollom, Cameron Station Volunteer Gardeners

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

Fall is the ideal time to remove declining or dead bushes and replace them. Keep those newly planted bushes well-watered so they get established, and keep them watered through the first summer. Have a spot for something unusual? Gardenia bushes (three different varieties) are now flourishing around Cameron Station. Check out the cold-hardy varieties.

The attractive cushion mums available everywhere (surprise!) are perennial. They'll survive winter outside in pots with no special attention. Trim back the dead foliage in late fall. New foliage will appear at the base in early spring. Every month through June, trim back new growth by half to shape the plant, then let the buds form for a repeat fall show.

Some trees can be pruned in late fall, but for others, late winter is better. The trick is to remember which trees and bushes need pruning while they're full of leaves. One way to remember is to take photos, another is to make a quick sketch. Branches can look healthy without their leaves, making it difficult to locate the problematic branch. Dead branches or a branch that pokes every sidewalk pedestrian can be cut any time of the year. Remember, if the tree is on your private property, even if builder planted (check the plat), keeping it trimmed is your responsibility.

The neat and uniform look of a mulched garden bed is very satisfying. In addition, mulch helps retain moisture, keeps out weeds and hides clayey soil. However, when spreading mulch, make sure it doesn't touch tree trunks or the base stems of bushes. When that happens, it provides a pathway for bugs, slugs, plant rot and disease.

Avoid the artificially colored or hardwood mulches. Hardwood is okay for an otherwise bare area, but around plants, it will suck up nutrients to aid its own decomposition, drawing those nutrients away from plants. Colored mulch may be made from chemical-soaked old pallets or junk wood of unknown origin. Again, this is not good for other plants.

Compost is the best mulch to use around plants. Fine pine bark chips and pine straw are also good. You will see some all-mulch coverage in the common areas that are in deep shade around Cameron Station.

Most likely your front garden gets a heavy dose of sun. If so, this is the ideal time to think about adding some bulbs. They can be planted as late as December as long as the ground hasn't frozen, although October is better. They need fall moisture to start growing roots and may even poke up a bit of green. Planting bulbs is a chore, but while you're 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'll plant the bulbs so that you've loosened the soil. Dig down at least eight inches, 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 looks like the standard size, but 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're especially nice in sunny spots among bushes or perennials because they'll bloom before the other plants get leaves. There's just enough sun to rebuild the bulb for next year before the green part fades, and then the bush leaves will hide the fading green. Always let the green fade back naturally without cutting.

Another delightful early spring bloomer is little crocus. The first ones can pop into bloom in mid February. Again, plant in clusters; they're 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, although squirrels may pull them out before they realize they don't taste good. The bulbs will naturally multiply and re-seed some distance from where you planted the bulbs, turning up in unexpected places in a delightful way.

If you need help with garden ideas or identifying what a previous owner planted, contact the volunteer gardeners at gardeners@cameronstation.org, and we'll be happy to get you started.



Photo credit: Kathy McCollom

Daffodils in all their splendor.



Photo credit: Kathy McCollom

Crocuses in bloom.

Adopt-a-Family Needs Your Support

By Mindy Lyle

Once again, the Cameron Station community will be able to help those less fortunate to have a Merry Christmas. Over the past 20 years, our residents have adopted hundreds of families from Samuel Tucker Elementary School who, without our help, might not have any Christmas celebration.

While this year has been challenging for all of us, it's been extremely difficult for these families. Many who were already living day-to-day have lost their jobs due to businesses closing. Their needs are greater than ever.

Family needs are screened by Tucker's Social Worker and School Principal. Lists of needs – some are as basic as dishes – are compiled by the school, along with clothing sizes, shoe sizes, etc. Cameron Station residents can then "adopt" the selected families.

Over the years, residents of various streets have banded together, families have adopted another family, and one

condo community even adopted four families. Many area businesses have also participated.

Since we are all aware that sourcing and shipping are a challenge, the program's lists will be available by the end of September.

A 501(c)3 has been established to accept monetary donations, which can be mailed to the following address:

Greenhill's Pickett Place Community Foundation
4901 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 200
Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

Please put "Adopt a Family" in the subject line.

If you are interested in helping to continue this Christmas tradition, please email adopttuckerfamily@comcast.net. Thank you!

Cameron Station Websites

There are a number of sites where Cameron Station residents can get information, share their thoughts and ideas, ask questions and offer suggestions on everything from dog walking and home improvements to medical needs and home deliveries. Here are some of them:

Next Door Cameron Station

<https://nextdoor.com>

Cameron Station Grapevine

www.facebook.com/CameronStationGrapevine/

Cameron Station Community Association

www.facebook.com/CameronStationCA/

Cameron Station Marketplace

www.facebook.com/groups/456302854414369/

Cameron Station Moms

www.facebook.com/groups/254390294592987/

400 Cameron Station Boulevard

www.facebook.com/groups/278367039856678/

The Grimm Corner

www.facebook.com/groups/1404962063065714/

Golden Doodles Of Alexandria VA

www.facebook.com/groups/LucyThorpe/

Cameron Station Social Distancing Club

www.facebook.com/groups/222657665452244/

Cameron Station Entrepreneurs

www.facebook.com/groups/2169133246695557/



Book Clubs

Monday Night Book Ball

September: *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

October: *It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis

November: *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi

Reading Between the Wines

September: *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides

October: *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See

November: *The Stationery Shop* by Marjan Kamali

Help a Child Learn to Read

Do you have an hour a week to help a child learn to read? The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium (ATC) is tutoring Alexandria City Public Schools children virtually, October 2020 through May 2021. ATC will provide training and support and match you with a student. Sessions are held on Zoom or a videoconference platform mutually agreeable to the student and the volunteer. For more information, write to ljacobs@opmh.org or sign up here: <https://alexandriatutors.org/tutors/sign-up-to-become-a-tutor/>.

Editor's Note: A number of Cameron Station residents tutor with ATC's Book Buddies reading program. If you would like a first-hand account of this program, neighbor Pat Sugrue has participated for many years at both Tucker and Polk elementary schools (including this past semester when tutoring was virtual) and would be happy to chat. She can be reached at sugrue@comcast.net or 703-307-3939.

And Another Thing...

(Newsy Notions & Other Fun Facts)

By Carla Besosa

CARLA'S PICKS is on hiatus. Event schedules are way too unpredictable to provide you with any semblance of accuracy at this time!

Patio Possibilities

Many of us have been in search of restaurants where we feel comfortable dining al fresco in small numbers. There are many possibilities, and restaurants have worked diligently to create innovative outdoor space while respecting guidelines for safe health practices. Let's focus on the West End, because that's where we live!

I'm looking for easily accessible locations that are close by and have arranged their seating in compliance with distancing guidelines. Kudos to **Cameron Café** and **IndoChen** for offering pleasant patio seating right here in the neighborhood. Cameron Café is sporting some new umbrellas for greatly needed shade. IndoChen offers a park view to the east and sunset to the west.

Other West End options are fairly plentiful. **Los Tios** has a nice patio, and other establishments in Van Dorn Plaza are following suit (**Van Dorn Diner**, **The Club**, **Java Loco**, **Emma's**, etc.) with patio seating. **Shooter McGee's** and **Los Toltecos** have comfortable decks with umbrella coverage. **Rockland's BBQ** has a front patio.

I want to mention several of my favorites that may not have occurred to you. **Taqueria Picoso** (reviewed in the May-June issue) is located in the Shops at Mark Center. They created a nice side patio, and the tables have very adequately sized umbrellas. Throw down a few cold drinks with some tasty Mexican street food. **Glory Days Grill** in Alexandria Commons has a sizable covered patio with flat screen TVs. Seasonal specials keep the menu interesting. **Aldo's Italian Kitchen** is a favorite of mine; their front patio offers a combination of shade and sun plus covered and open seating. Homemade Italian cuisine in the fresh air! **Foxfire Grill** in Pinecrest Plaza is another favorite: what was formerly just a side patio now wraps around the entire front as well, making it an excellent option for al fresco foraging. Seating is primarily undercover, the menu is delightfully varied and quality is consistent.

Taqueria Picoso – 1472 N. Beauregard Street

Glory Days Grill – 3141 Duke Street

Aldo's Italian Kitchen – 2850 Eisenhower Avenue

Foxfire Grill – 6550 Little River Turnpike

For other options, see www.visitalexandria.com

What's New?

- IndoChen has replaced London Curry House in Cameron Station.
- Choong Man Chicken opened at 4686 King Street.
- Hank & Mitzzi's Italian Kitchen replaced Hank's Pasta Bar at 600 Montgomery Street.
- Caffé Eutopia & Bar opened at 410 E Glebe Road.
- Thai Signature, Local Thai Street Food & Bar, opened at 722 King Street.
- Mount Purrnon Cat Café & Wine Bar opened at 109 S. Alfred Street.
- Ruby's Jamaican Kitchen opened at 2817 Schooley Drive.
- Crafty Crab has replaced Portner Brew House at 5770 Dow Avenue.
- Piece Out replaced Catch on the Avenue at 2419 Mount Vernon Avenue.
- Silver Diner has opened at 4630 #A3 King Street.
- Zeke Hookah Lounge opened at 512 #E S. Van Dorn Street.
- Lidl grocery store is open in Pinecrest Plaza.
- Taco Rock is opening in Pinecrest Plaza.
- Nectar Del Ray has closed at 106 Hume Avenue.
- Charlie's on the Avenue has closed at 1501 Mount Vernon Avenue.
- King & Rye replaces Jackson 20 in the Alexandrian Hotel at 480 King Street.

What Am I Listening To? (Rather, To What Am I Listening?)

Vanessa Collier – *Meeting My Shadow*

Caro Emerald – *The Shocking Miss Emerald*

French Composer Erik Satie – *Gymnopédies/Gnossiennes/Sarabandes*

Monsieur Perine – *Hecho a Mano*

Los Hacheros – *Bambulaye*

Andrea Motis – *Do Outro Lado Do Azul*

Black Pumas – *Black Pumas*

And blowing the dust off of a few oldies but goodies: Grass Roots, Toto, Tommy James and the Shondells

What Am I Reading? (A rare occurrence)

Johnny Randolph Hunt – *Asking the Moon to Leave*

Rich Barnett – *The Discreet Charms of a Bourgeois Beach Town: Rehoboth Beach Stories*

Jim Gaffigan – *Dad is Fat*

Tucker Starts School with Virtual PLUS+

By Mayu Molina Lehmann

Dr. Gregory Hutchings, Superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), has announced that the 2020-21 school year will begin using a virtual format. This decision came after a thorough review process and input from staff, students and families, with an emphasis on what was feasible, and in accordance with the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Education.

For our neighborhood school, Samuel Tucker Elementary, an additional change was implemented. Since its founding, Tucker had been proud to be the sole school within ACPS to offer a year-round calendar starting in early August (Mt. Vernon Elementary tried it for one year but returned to the traditional calendar), with a short summer break and two intercessions during the year. This year, however, it was deemed important to align the schedule with the rest of the school system, to ensure all city schools could respond in unity to the health crisis. Therefore, Tucker has aligned its calendar (this year only) with the rest of ACPS, starting classes on September 8.

The virtual system to be implemented is called Virtual PLUS+. It will draw from the experience ACPS has acquired since the school closings in March, which forced all learning to be conducted virtually. It should be noted that ACPS developed and offered a successful summer program in July aimed at mitigating possible loss of learning due to the pandemic.

Virtual PLUS+ was designed with equity in mind and in line with the goals of the 2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All. As such, the model allows for targeted support for students and families who may need additional backing this fall.

The "PLUS+ approach" includes five key areas:

- Enhanced and formalized social, emotional and academic learning supports
- Expanded technology resources

- Childcare options for the most vulnerable families
- Continued meal distribution
- Live multilingual phone support

This program will be assessed at the end of the first quarter and every nine weeks subsequently to evaluate the feasibility of in-person instruction.

Fortunately, we can count on the leadership of Mr. Rene Paschal (ACPS' 2019 Principal of the Year) to lead Tucker at this juncture. With his 36 years in education, we are confident he will continue to guide Tucker with a steady hand throughout this crisis. We wish him and his dedicated team the best during this unprecedented school year.

Best of luck, Tucker Tigers!

REMINDER

Harris Teeter Account Renewal

Please remember to re-link your Harris Teeter VIC card with Tucker Elementary, as it expires every school year. When you shop Harris Teeter brands, a percentage of your purchase is donated to the school that your VIC card is linked to. You can link your number online or visit the customer service desk and provide our school code, 6272. Thank you!

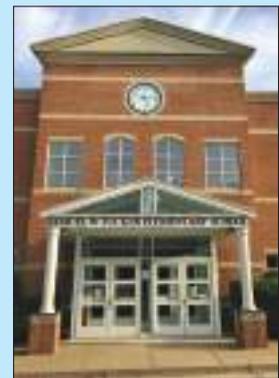


Photo credit: David Thorpe

On the Up Side...

By Carla Besosa

Today's unprecedented challenges prompt us to reinvent our day-to-day lives. Though we may become frustrated, annoyed and anxious at times, there is a silver lining, a glass half full, an UP SIDE! (See also: **Things We Never Thought We'd Do - p. 12**).

- People are spending less on gasoline, parking, Metro and other transportation.
- Women in particular are spending less on haircuts and coloring and manicure/pedicure.
- Dining-out expenses have dropped.
- People are discovering that there's no need to waste lipstick if one is wearing a mask.
- Folks are catching up on books and movies.

- New musical discoveries are plentiful, with live streams available.
 - Neighbors are reaching out to one another to lend support and assistance.
 - People are getting in touch with long-lost friends and faraway relatives.
 - Home projects are being tackled at an unprecedented rate.
 - The imagination and innovation of humankind has been put to the test and is flourishing.
 - Most of all, people have had a chance to reassess their priorities and realign their focus, making us better as a species!
- ...Now if I could just "social distance" from the refrigerator and eBay, all would be well.

Out and About

By Lenore Marema

With the pandemic continuing, many of us are growing tired of our own cooking, take-outs and deliveries. Here are some fun new food trends I hope you enjoy.

Lidl Opens in Alexandria

Lidl (lee-dil), a German-owned discount grocery store, has opened in the Pinecrest strip mall on Little River Turnpike. Lidl markets many of its own private label products – “Preferred Selection” – which it discounts. They carry national name-brand products for the convenience of its customers, but the cost savings are on the Lidl brand products. The stores are larger than Aldi’s, claim to have a wider variety of produce and bakery and have a rewards card. Bring your own grocery bags and pack them. Aldi and Lidl both are German-owned but are not related to each other, and are, in fact, competitors in many markets.

Ice Cream Alert

Häagen-Dazs is marketing new boozy ice cream. The flavors are Rosé & Cream, Irish Cream Brownie, Rum Tres Leches, Bourbon Vanilla Bean, Stout Chocolate Pretzel Crunch and Bourbon Praline Pecan. Black Cherry Almond Toffee is a new non-dairy alternative. All the varieties will have 0.5% or less alcohol, which means they can be sold with all the other ice cream (in other words, there’s not enough booze in them to warrant regulation). You can eat the whole pint without feeling any effects of alcohol, but you might get a tummy ache.

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 every issue of *The Compass* newsletter.

No Soliciting

Solicitations are not permitted in Cameron Station. Residents who find flyers, business cards, etc., at or near their doors should turn them in at the Cameron Club so community management can take action.

Truth Be Told?

When you saw the advertisement, were you one of the folks who ran out to try the new Baskin Robbins pickle flavored ice cream, only to find it was a hoax? The press release showed a green-colored ice cream sprinkled with dill and a quarter-slice of dill pickle in a waffle cone. A closer look at the press release showed it had no logo or picture of a Baskin Robbins store. No Virginia, there is no pickle ice cream.

A Hershey Halloween

It’s not clear what Halloween will look like this year in Cameron Station, but Hershey’s has a new lineup of Halloween treats:

- Peanut Butter Franken-Cups: The same milk chocolate on top and peanut butter in the middle as a classic peanut butter cup, but with a green Franken bottom.
- Witches Brew Kit Kat Wafer: A marshmallow-flavored filling with a mint-green chocolate coating.
- Vampire Hershey’s Kisses: A classic milk chocolate kiss with bright red strawberry filling that oozes out.
- Cookies & Cream Fangs: Bite into the snack-size bars and reveal the fangs in the bottom layer.

M&M’s Brighten the Holidays

M&M’s had white chocolate and fudge brownie M&M’s for spring. Its December holiday-limited edition will be Sugar Cookies, featuring a crisp cookie center covered in white chocolate. No milk or dark chocolate versions will be available, and the only colors will be red, green and white.

Cheers to the New Girl Scout Cookie for 2021!

The Girl Scouts will add Toast-Yah! to their cookie sales. It’s shaped like a piece of French toast, and is crunchy with hints of butter and cinnamon and a thin layer of icing in the middle that melts in your mouth.

First Dog Bar to Open in Alexandria

Barkhaus, a dog park with a bar, will open in the fall at 529 East Howell Avenue in Del Ray. It will feature an off-leash dog park where food and liquor will be served. The food menu will feature items made by the Laughing Pig, based in Cody, Wyoming.

Classified Ad

Refinance now while interest rates are at all-time lows. Savings can be substantial. Some options are to lower your payment, change the term/length of the mortgage, consolidate debt, or change from an ARM to a fixed rate mortgage. Contact this experienced loan officer for a free consultation. Rita Povich, Fairway Asset Corporation, NMLS License #322033. rpovich@facloan.com. (703) 819-7372 (cell).

Not Even a Pandemic Holds Back Carpenter’s Shelter

By Shannon Steene, Executive Director, and Steve Valley, Communications and Development Associate of Carpenter’s Shelter

Over the past few months, things have been busy at Carpenter’s Shelter. We’ve been helping others and working with donors and the generous gifts they’ve given, and we’re getting ready to move back into our permanent new offices in Old Town in the beginning of October.

Here are some of the highlights of our efforts:

- **Residents Remain COVID-19 free!** That’s right: since the outbreak of the virus, Carpenter’s Shelter has not had a single resident with a case of COVID-19 – knock on wood. With a lot of hard work and using good sense, our residents and volunteers have been able to continue working and providing the service that our shelter has become known for, all while keeping everyone safe and healthy! If you would like to help, we still have need of donations of hand sanitizers and personal protective equipment such as surgical masks (not cloth) and gloves.

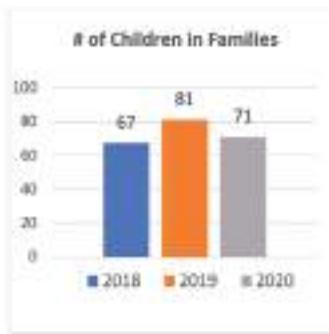
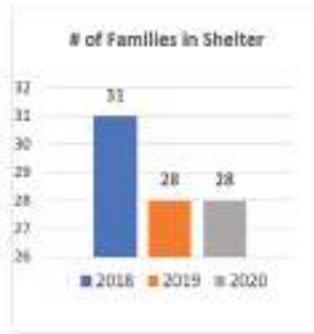
- **Off-site Sheltering:** During the Governors “Stay at Home” order, we started up a 24-hour shelter at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. In June we wound it down.

- **Take Out to Give Back:** After postponing our annual signature event, Carpenter’s Cook-Off (somehow putting over 500 people in a small space picking up food and putting it in their mouths just didn’t seem COVID-19 friendly!), we are creating a virtual event on October 8. Check our website at <https://carpentersshelter.org>, for details.

- **Volunteering:** We’re so happy to have volunteers once again working in the shelter and providing the necessary help to make sure everything runs as smoothly as possible. We’re always looking for more volunteers; please consider donating your time to help others.

- **We’re Moving to Our New Home!** The anticipation grows as we move toward occupancy – the brick work is mostly – nearly – done, most of the windows have been installed, and walls have started getting paint. Our new home will soon be filled with the sounds of a shelter, and we can’t wait for the doors to open in late October! Stay tuned for more information on the grand re-opening!

- **Our Families with Children Needs Have Increased!** Carpenter’s Shelter serves a diverse and large set of groups; the charts above represent just one facet of the shelter’s residents: families with children. As expected, the numbers in the charts paint a picture of families and children in need of safe shelter. The interesting story about these families is that, due to COVID-19, we now have to be both an “in-person high touch” safe caring space and a virtual classroom. Like all homes across the country, our shelter needs to be a digital learning space.



These numbers are from the past 3 fiscal years (CS’s Fiscal year runs June – May)

So, although the number of families with children has remained constant and the number of days in shelter have gone down (HOORAY!), we need to do more for the families in shelter. We now need to offer a scalable robust digital learning space to anywhere from 6-to-12 kids. We’re currently working on ways to solve this new demand and will have more news soon about this subject.

Thinking about helping with any of the items listed above? Visit our website (<https://carpentersshelter.org>) and you can get more information on all of the projects, events and ways to help that we have to offer! If you have questions about anything related to our work, please email ShannonSteen@CarpentersShelter.org.

About Carpenter’s Shelter: Carpenter’s Shelter supports the homeless to achieve sustainable independence through shelter, guidance, education and advocacy. As demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, our doors never close as we provide the more than 625 homeless and formerly homeless men, women and children access to Carpenter’s Shelter’s services each year. We are a safe refuge for people who are homeless during their time of need.

Shannon Steene Honored

Congratulations to Shannon Steene, Executive Director of Carpenter’s Shelter, who was recently awarded the 2020 David Bradt Nonprofit Leadership Award by the Greater Washington Community Foundation. One of three recipients, Shannon was recognized for his efforts to help the shelter live out its mission of helping residents struggling with homelessness achieve dignity and independence through shelter, guidance, education and advocacy, as well as his ability to lead the organization through immense growth and rapid change. Bravo!



Photo credit: Carrie Keen

Neighbors Step Up for StepALIVE!

By Pat Sugrue

On Saturday, September 12, Cameron Station neighbors, friends and families joined together to participate in the 39th Annual StepALIVE! Walkathon to raise money to help needy Alexandria residents. Almost two dozen “Cameron Station Marchers,” organized by neighbor Mary Eileen Dixon (Vice President of the ALIVE! Board of Directors), began their walk with an update from neighbor Gerry Hebert (Chair of the ALIVE! Development Committee), who explained the crucial role ALIVE! is playing in Alexandria during the pandemic. They then took several laps around Brenman Park pond while maintaining social distancing.

ALIVE! is one of our city’s major food distributors, and this year is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Pre-COVID-19, the ALIVE! monthly distribution averaged 30,000 pounds of food; in August, it was 170,000 pounds!

One of this year’s Walkathon sponsors was our own Cameron Café, so a number of participants stopped by for refreshments after their walk. Thanks to co-owner



Dayan Worku for his support, and to all who participated, both in-person and virtually. For more information on this important local charity, visit www.alive-inc.org.



Photo credit: ALIVE!

Compass Photographer Needed!



Thanks so much to Sally McConnell, current photographer for *The Compass*, who will need to retire from her position after this issue. We are looking for someone to take her place – a volunteer to take photos of our community throughout the year – general neighborhood shots as well as activities and events. If you have the time and energy to join our staff, we would be grateful and appreciative! Please contact thecompass@cameronstation.org.

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, which will enable the city to let you know what action they took to address it. 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.

**PLEASE
DRIVE
CAREFULLY!**

**PLEASE DRIVE
EXTRA-CAUTIOUSLY
AND OBSERVE THE 25MPH
SPEED LIMIT THROUGHOUT
OUR COMMUNITY.**

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 last week of November to the 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.

Days to Celebrate!

By Carla Besosa

- Sept. 16** – Mexican Independence Day (Celebrate at Los Tios, Los Toltecos or Taqueria Picoso.)
- Sept. 18** – National Cheeseburger Day (I hear The Club in Van Dorn Plaza has very good burgers.)
- Sept. 20** – National Pepperoni Day (Pepperoni means pizza! Try Reynolds, Savio's or Aldo's.)
- Sept. 22** – National Ice Cream Cone Day (Dairy Godmother in Del Ray has a huge following. Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams on South Patrick Street in Old Town is all the rage.)
- Sept. 24** – National Punctuation Day (I thought a semicolon was the result of a gastrointestinal surgery!)
- Sept. 26** – National Pancake Day (Go Diner!: Barnside Diner, Van Dorn Diner, Executive Diner, Bob & Edith's Diner.)
- Sept. 27** – National Chocolate Milk Day (When's the last time you had chocolate milk? Grab one at Cameron Café.)
- Sept. 28** – National Good Neighbor Day (Cameron Station has lots of these!)
- Sept. 29** – National Coffee Day (See you at Cameron Café; all kinds of coffee drinks and more.)
- Oct. 5** – Get Funky Day (Go with it!)
- Oct. 6** – National Noodle Day (Try some of IndoChen's new noodle dishes.)
- Oct. 7** – National Kale Day (Lena's Diavolo Pizza topped with flash-fried kale is a must.)

Publishing Deadlines

January/February	December 30
March/April	February 28
May/June	April 30
September/October	August 30
November/December.....	October 30

Advertising Rates:

Display Ads (<i>Camera-ready</i>)	
1/4 page (3.5" x 4.5").....	\$150
1/8 page (3.5" x 2").....	\$125

Classified Ads

(Limit 35 words)	
Resident.....	\$5
Non-resident.....	\$25
Lost & Found, Carpool, etc.....	Free

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.

- Oct. 13** – English Language Day (It's YOUR language; learn the grammar!)
- Oct. 17** – National Pasta Day (Check out Aldo's homemade pasta.)
- Oct. 22** – Eat a Pretzel Day (Get the Crab Pretzel at Glory Days Grill.)
- Oct. 27** – American Beer Day (*The L.A. Times* Domestic Beer Power Rankings has my Yuengling at #4!)
- Oct. 28** – National Chocolate Day (Four things come to mind: Dolce & Bean in Del Ray, Dark Chocolate M&M's, Chocolate Oreos and Pat Sugrue.)
- Oct. 30** – Buy a Doughnut Day (I'm sticking with my Dunkin' Donuts Maple Frosted...unless the "HOT NOW" light is flashing at Krispy Kreme!)
- Nov. 3** – National Sandwich Day (Cameron Café's Chicken Salad Sandwich is quite good.)
- Nov. 6** – National Saxophone Day (Put on a little Coltrane and chill!)
- Nov. 10** – National Vanilla Cupcake Day (Lavender Moon Cupcakery on South Royal Street receives high marks.)
- Nov. 14** – National Pickle Day (Go for the fried pickles at Glory Days Grill.)
- Nov. 16** – National Button Day (My favorite, which lives on my jean jacket, says, "I'M THE GRAMMARIAN ABOUT WHOM YOUR MOTHER WARNED YOU")

West End Farmers Market Open Until Mid-November

The Williams family, owners of our local farmers market, wants to thank all of their customers for coming out to support the market each Sunday and following the guidelines put in place to stay safe during COVID-19. The market will remain open through Sunday, November 15. New vendors have been added throughout the season.



Photo credit: Sally McConnell

The ompass

200 Cameron Station Blvd.
Alexandria, VA 22304

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GAM PRINTERS
PERMIT #379
DULLES, VA



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



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