

The ompass

Newsletter of the Cameron Station Community Association, Inc.

Volume 13 Issue 3 • May/June 2012



The West End Farmers Market greeted nearly 1,000 visitors on opening day May 6. (See page 5.)

Photo by Judy Coleman

Splash into Summer at the Annual Pool Party

By Stephenie Zvonkovich

Cameron Station's Annual Pool Party will take place Saturday, June 16 from 11am to 3pm, on Kilburn Street adjacent to the pool and clubhouse. The party will be catered by Red Hot & Blue, known for their award-winning barbecue.

This is a time to celebrate the community. The Common Area Committee will present the annual Pride of Ownership awards, and there will be an inflatable slide and moon bounce for the kids.

Residents will need their community ID cards (facilities passes) for admittance and a meal voucher.



Pool Party

Saturday, June 16
11am - 3pm



RED HOT & BLUE
BBQ GRILL

Please note that Kilburn Street will be closed between Cameron Station Boulevard and Medlock Lane from 6pm on Friday, June 15, to 6pm on Saturday, after the party. If your vehicle has not been moved from the street before the closure, it will be relocated.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The committee is seeking volunteers to assist with the event. Interested individuals should email events@cameronstation.org.

Stephenie Zvonkovich is the chairperson of the Activities & Events Planning Committee.

Save the Date

June 12 - City Council Democratic Primary Election (see page 7)



June 16 - Pool Party



June 19 - Board of Directors Meeting



Clubhouse Renovation to Start in June

By Martin Menez

The Cameron Club Renovation Project Team has made significant progress in the planning of the upcoming modifications to the clubhouse, slated to begin at the end of June. The project management team currently expects construction to be complete by the end of 2012.

(Continued on page 3)



CAMERON STATION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC. (CSCA)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org)

Nick Giannotti, President

Mindy Lyle, Vice-President

Tom McClimon, Secretary

Robert Duncan, Treasurer

Alvin Boone, Director

Michael Johnson, Director

Phil Ludvigson, Director

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

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Airielle Hansford, Community Manager
communitymanager@cameronstation.org

Mary Meghan Flynn, Asst. Community Manager
assistantmanager@cameronstation.org

Covenants Administrator
covenants@cameronstation.org

Bethany Lammers, Administrative Assistant
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703-567-4881
703-567-4883 (fax)

CAMERON CLUB FITNESS CENTER

Kevin Horner, Director
fitness@cameronstation.org
703-567-8555

CSCA COMMITTEES

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS COMMITTEE

events@cameronstation.org

Stephenie Zvonkovich – Chairperson

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

arc@cameronstation.org

Craig Wiesen – Chairperson

CAMERON CLUB FACILITIES COMMITTEE

facilities@cameronstation.org

Ray Celeste – Chairperson

COMMON AREA COMMITTEE

commonarea@cameronstation.org

Robert Burns – Chairperson

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

communications@cameronstation.org

Jamie Test – Chairperson

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

fac@cameronstation.org

Andrew McDonald – Chairperson

CONDOMINIUM/MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

Carlton Place Condominium

Oakland Hall at

Cameron Station Condominium

Woodland Hall at

Cameron Station Condominium

Management Company:

Community Management Corporation

Denna Barlish, Manager on site at Cameron Club:

703-212-8020, 703-212-8021 (fax),

dbarlish@cmc-management.com

Main Street Condominium

Management Company:

GHA Community Management, 703-752-8300

After-Hours Emergencies, 888-660-7132

Elevator Emergencies, 800-995-5093

Unit Owners Association of the Condominiums at Cameron Boulevard (Centex Condos)

Judy Wojciechowski, President

Management Company: Klingbeil, Powell & Alutz, Inc.
703-532-5005

The Residences at Cameron Station

Management Company: Armstrong Management

703-385-1133

Angela Luker, Community Manager:

On-site number, 703-751-4070

Board of Directors Gets a Rosy Update for Spring

By Judy Coleman

Pool and common area improvements, the bowling alley site development and new fitness center hours were among the subjects covered at the Board of Directors meetings in March and April. Overall, the Cameron Station Community Association (CSCA) is in healthy financial shape with expenditures currently well below the budget. A summary of the meeting minutes follows:

Preparing for Summer

Community Manager Airielle Hansford reported to the board on preparations to get the pool ready for summer. All of the contracts have been approved by the city, the electrical system has been inspected, and the tiles have been cleaned

June 2012 Meeting Calendar

June 4	Activities & Events Committee
June 5	Architectural Review Committee
June 6	Common Area Committee
June 14	Cameron Club & Facilities Committee
June 18	Communications Committee
June 21	Financial Advisory Committee
June 26	Board of Directors

Board of Directors will meet again on June 26, June 24 and August 28.

Meetings are held at 7pm at the Cameron Club.



and newly grouted. The lifeguard room has been cleaned and repainted. Visitors to the pool will have ten new pool chairs and five new umbrellas to enjoy, and pool signage will be improved. The pool was scheduled to open May 26, with a pool party on June 16. (See page 1).

The board also heard updates on the upcoming renovation of the Cameron Club.

Common Area Improvements

The pocket parks on Pocosin Lane, John Ticer Drive and Bessley Place will be getting facelifts. The board approved the proposals by Lancaster Landscape for these upgrades, as well as for the spring flower installations. New irrigation should be installed soon, as well. Earlier this year management repaired seven of the wooden benches in the common areas.

Bowling Alley Development

The board approved a request for an easement from the owners of the site at 100 S. Pickett Street, currently the site of the bowling alley building and soon to be the location of a new mixed residential-commercial development. The easement grants the developer access to Cameron Station's storm-water drainage system.

(Continued on page 4)

Clubhouse Renovation (Continued from page 1)

No closures of the pool are planned, but once construction starts the fitness center may be closed intermittently. The project team aims to keep closures to a minimum and to prevent any effect on pool access during the summer. Residents will be alerted to any closures through the weekly e-mail blasts and fitness center email updates.

Residents who want to learn more can consult the Renovations page on the Cameron Station website (www.cameronstation.org/renovations). The project team also presents its monthly update on cost, schedule and performance at the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors.

To date, the architecture firm Rust | Orling and general contractor R.W. Murray Co. have met with the project team three times to plan the design details and select materials. The team expects design, cost and construction documentation to be finalized at the end of May.

Martin Menez is a member of the Cameron Club Facilities Committee as well as the Renovation Project Team.



Courtesy of Facilities Committee

Project Management, Design Review and Interior Design Committee members from left to right: Airielle Hansford, Martin Menez, Alvin Boone, Ji Hee Kim, John Sullivan and Karen Diener.

West End Farmers Market Sees Record Attendance

By Susan Birchler

The West End Farmers Market had a great opening day. We had 963 visitors, a record for us. We also collected 16 shoeboxes for the United Way's 2012 "Shoebox Initiative" to collect basic needs and emergency preparedness items.

Customers were happy to see familiar vendors and to try out some new ones. Thanks to the early spring, vendors were able to provide shoppers with early strawberries; early peaches and blueberries will be coming up soon.

We have also launched a new project to hand out recipes so that our shoppers can try out some of the vegetables they haven't used before. This was a success on opening day, and we hope to continue it.

On the non-produce front, Cameron Café will be selling coffee and muffins at the market this year, and one of the new vendors is a real French baker — as in actually from France. And one of our returning vendors continues to offer on-site knife and scissor sharpening.

Susan Birchler runs the West End Farmer's Market. For more information, visit www.westendfarmersmarket.org.



Photos by
Nicole Gauvin &
Judy Coleman

NFL Players Greet Wounded Warriors, CS Residents

By Dubey Liffman

Cameron Station volunteers ran a Spring donation event for wounded veterans at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on March 12. While there, three football players and three cheerleaders from the Jacksonville Jaguars came to visit the warriors, too. The event ended with upbeat moods and many smiling faces.

If you would like to donate money or clothes to our grassroots organization, please contact me at 703-370-6362.

Dubey Liffman is a resident of Cameron Station.



Courtesy of Dubey Liffman



Cameron Station Home Sales Heat Up

By Irina Babb

This year so far 34 homes have sold and 23 homes are under contract. (These figures include both condos and townhomes.) Fifty percent of the homes sold this spring were priced from \$500,000 and 600,000 and sold in sufficient time.

According to a study released by RBI in March 2012, the housing market in Northern Virginia experienced an increase in home sales while the active listing inventory decreased 9.7% from this time last year, stabilizing the housing supply.

The study also indicated that jobs in the region grew by more than 68,000 in the past twelve months and consumers are feeling 88% more confident than they were a year ago — all very good news for the housing market.

Irina Babb is a realtor and a former resident of Cameron Station.

Transportation Survey Due July 15

A reminder from Community Manager Airielle Hansford: Residents are encouraged to complete the 2012 Semi-Annual Residential Transportation Management Plan (TMP) Survey. Responses are due July 15, by email or by July 13 if delivered in hard copy to the Cameron Club.

The survey is available at <http://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/ResCameronStation-2012> and on the Cameron Station website (www.cameronstation.org, under Forms & Surveys). The objective is to collect information for the city and for the Cameron Station Community Association to allow for better transportation planning and compliance.

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City Council Race Features Four West End Residents

By Judy Coleman

The field of candidates for Alexandria City Council is growing on a daily basis, but of the 19 candidates, only four live in the West End. None live in Cameron Station.

On Tuesday, June 12, voters will have their first opportunity to trim the field down to a manageable size, when the 14 Democratic candidates face off in a primary for the party's six nominations. There will be no primary on the Republican side, which is fielding three candidates. Two other candidates are running as independents.

Unlike previous years, the final council election will take place in November, instead of May. Strongly held views about the Beauregard Small Area Plan may prompt more West Enders to hit the polls.

As *The Compass* went to press, the only candidates from the West End were incumbent Del Pepper, long-time planning commissioner Donna Fossum and newcomers Michael Hepburn and Sean Holihan.

So far, the candidates have been defining themselves by their stands on three prominent development projects: the Old Town Waterfront project, the Beauregard Small Area Plan and a proposed development in Arlandria, the area just north of Del Ray.

Beauregard Small Area Plan Approved

By Judy Coleman

The Alexandria City Council approved massive changes to the area around Beauregard Street in a 6-0-1 vote on May 12. The Beauregard Small Area Plan, which has been the subject of previous articles in *The Compass*, would provide for complete redevelopment of an area stretching roughly from Holmes Run to the Mark Center.

Cameron Station resident Don Buch led the Beauregard Corridor Stakeholders Group, which advised the city on the proposal in its earlier stages. Although Buch does not foresee any "direct impacts" to Cameron Station from the plan, he added, "It will hopefully be a catalyst to move the redevelopment of Landmark Mall forward."

The plan became increasingly contentious in April and early May because development would require the demolition of a large number of units currently occupied by middle- and low-income families. The March-April issue of *The Compass* reported that developers had planned for 700 committed units of affordable housing, but developers later raised the number to 800 in the hope of placating upset residents.

Several candidates for City Council have criticized the Beauregard Plan, as well as the city's procedure for approving it, but others say it is a necessary and welcome change to the area.

Tucker Elementary Update for CS Residents

By Jocelyn Katsock



Happy Spring to our Cameron Station neighbors! Here are a few updates from Samuel Tucker Elementary, where we've had a very busy Spring so far.

Registration: Kindergarten registration closed June 1. If you have any new neighbors with children, please remind them that the school operates on a modified calendar and starts the first week of August. Interested parents can contact Samuel Tucker Elementary to schedule a tour (generally one to two hours) and register their child. The school holds an open house every Spring as well.

Community Events: Our annual PTA-sponsored Spring Fling featured raffle prizes, \$1 pizza and a silent auction. It

was a successful event that helps fund student and teacher programs. A big thank you to the members of Cameron Station and surrounding communities, whose contributions made it a special night for everyone.

On April 24, Tucker held a fundraiser at Chick-Fil-A, which donated 20% of the proceeds to our school, and on May 19, we held the Tucker 5K Fun Run for our students, their families and community members. The Tucker 5K was developed for the TROT (Tucker Runners on Track) program, as well as to promote healthy and active lifestyles for the Tucker community. The 5K race took place on the surrounding bike and walking trails of Cameron Station.

Volunteers: We welcome any community members who would like to volunteer at Tucker Elementary. If you are interested in volunteering for the next school year, please contact Jacqueline Rojas at 703-933-6300. You can also get more information online at www.acps.k12.va.us/getinvolved.

Jocelyn Katsock is a resident of Cameron Station and has two children in Samuel Tucker Elementary.

From Afghanistan to Alexandria: One Dog's Journey to Cameron Station

By Pat Sugrue

It's hard to imagine a more dog-friendly city in Virginia than Alexandria. Dog parks are scattered around the city; there are doggie day care centers, dog sitters and dog walkers galore; (Google "dog services in Alexandria" and you'll find more than a million results!) several Old Town restaurants offer seasonal outdoor pet-friendly dining; and even the upscale Hotel Monaco has carried on the tradition of Doggie Happy Hour, started years ago by the Old Town Holiday Inn.

Within Alexandria, it would be hard to find a community with more dog lovers than our own Cameron Station. At certain times of the day and night it is rare to see someone walking without a furry companion. That's why it is not at all surprising to learn that one of our neighbors, Emily Jeter, didn't hesitate when asked to take into her home a little stray white puppy that was found bleeding on the streets of Afghanistan, 8,000 miles away.

Emily and her new puppy, Polly Bravo, were featured in March on WRC News, as well as online on the Huffington Post. From the video of Polly frolicking outside his new home, it's clear that he has recovered from his traumatic ordeal.

An Important Discovery – Or Two

Polly was discovered by several U.S. soldiers who had been out doing security patrols and spotted the stray pup bleeding from his neck. When they took a closer look, the soldiers discovered that the dog's neck was infected from a tight collar that had become embedded into his fur.

The troops originally called him Puli, for the area in which he was found. Because they had only seen him from a distance, they thought he was a female, so the dog became Polly. When they learned he was a male, they did not want to change the name because they had developed such strong connections to their "Polly." Instead, they added the word



Courtesy of Emily Jeter

Polly Bravo shortly after he was rescued (left) and now happy and healthy with his new family (above).



Courtesy of Emily Jeter

"Bravo" to the name, which also recognizes the bravery of those defending our country.

From the Taliban to Ticer Drive

With this group of soldiers was a government contractor who lives in Old Town Alexandria. She was the one who reached out to the Afghan Stray Animal League (ASAL), a Virginia-based nonprofit organization that operates a shelter and veterinary clinic in Afghanistan for abandoned, injured or sick small animals. ASAL also tries to find potential owners back in the United States. The woman who contacted ASAL also knew Emily and shared Polly Bravo's incredible story with her. A match was made!

It took four months from the first email to get Polly Bravo to Washington, D.C. According to Emily, the first challenge of this journey was coping with the limited communications from Afghanistan about Polly's well-being. The contractor's ability to get updates on Polly was hampered by intense security constraints.

The only updates Emily received were grim. At one point she was informed that Polly Bravo had gotten gangrene from his wounds and that he might not survive. Meanwhile, Emily also learned that dogs are considered the lowest form of life in the Middle East and "entitled" to abuse.

"Miraculously, and in true character of this survivor, Polly Bravo pulled through," said Emily.

Coming to America

The next challenge was to ensure that the pup's journey to his new home would be secure. To do this, the transport would need to occur largely under the radar. Emily explained that

(Continued on page 9)

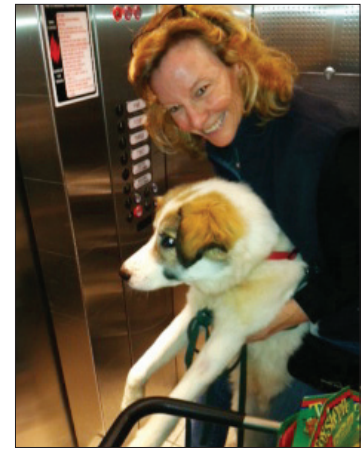
"This dog continues to be both a survivor and a message to all of us – there is good and beauty when those who deserve a second chance get it."

the complexity of this journey was multiplied by the fear of the Taliban's finding out about Polly's rescue – if the Taliban learned about the rescue organization, its facilities would be destroyed.

In early March, at long last, Emily picked up Polly Bravo from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. A friend caught the meeting on tape and told reporters that Polly came right out of the crate and up to Emily, kissed her and bonded with her immediately. Of course, the connection and emotional investment had started many months before.

Here is how Emily speaks of Polly's life today:

"It goes without saying that Polly Bravo continues to be an amazing dog. For those of you who have met us in the park or have seen the story on the news or internet, this dog continues to be both a survivor and a message to all of us – there is good and beauty when those who deserve a second chance get it. It truly is all about the journey. And yes, it does take a village to make that change happen."



Courtesy of Emily Jeter

CS resident Emily Jeter and Polly Bravo.

For more information on the Afghan Stray Animal Rescue League, visit www.afghanstrayanimals.org.



Cameron Café Now Even More "Like"-Able

By Dayan Worku

The Cameron Café has launched a new website (www.cameroncafe.com) and opened accounts on Facebook and Twitter (@cameroncafe1). It has also started participating in a loyalty program called Belly, which allows customers to keep all of their local stores' loyalty points on a card or smartphone app.

The café will use the new sites to announce new and seasonal products and services. It will also help us gather feedback and connect with the community in real time. The ultimate goal of these and other marketing efforts will be to strengthen our brand and increase in-store traffic from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Back in the "real" world, the café will have a booth at the West End Farmers Market this year. We hope to see you there.

Dayan Worku is the co-owner of Cameron Café.



Cameron Station Community Website Accepting Ads

The Cameron Station website, www.cameronstation.org, is accepting advertising.

Advertising space is limited and is filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ads will be scheduled to start on Mondays and will run for 28 days.

Ads are published on the site solely at the discretion of the Cameron Station Community Association Communications Committee.

For complete information, including closing dates, rates, material specifications and payment, visit www.cameronstation.org.

Lights, Camera, Cameron Station Actress!

By Carla Besosa

Our splendidly diverse neighborhood lends itself to a variety of interesting encounters, but few so intriguing as *Beef Encounter*.

This is the clever and curious title of the one-woman show written, produced and performed by Cameron Station neighbor Claire Carroll.

In the play, which is featured in this summer's Capital Fringe Festival, Claire delivers 50 minutes of comical and thought-provoking introspection as Belinda Donovan, Belinda cogitates about all aspects of her life and is captivated by the self-realization that occurs as she pontificates to the unsuspecting herd of grazing bovines she encounters – that is, the audience.

After taking a course at Drama Studio London 14 years ago, Claire decided that acting was her calling. Since then, she has performed in film, television and stage productions. No stranger to British audiences, she is now taking audiences by storm on this side of the Pond.

In addition to *Beef Encounter*, Claire will be performing in *The House Halfway* (part of the Source Festival at the Source Theater in DC), June 14-July 1, and in *Big Love* (The Hub Theater in Fairfax), July 13-August 5. As if a fulltime acting

career were not enough to keep her busy, Claire also plays lacrosse, breeds canaries, sculpts, runs marathons and sits on the council of The Actors' Charitable Trust (TACT). She is a one-woman show all unto herself.

In addition to her many pursuits here and abroad, Claire is a delightful neighbor who instantly makes you feel as though you have known her for years. Her talent, charm and wit are a welcome addition to our community.



Courtesy of Claire Carroll

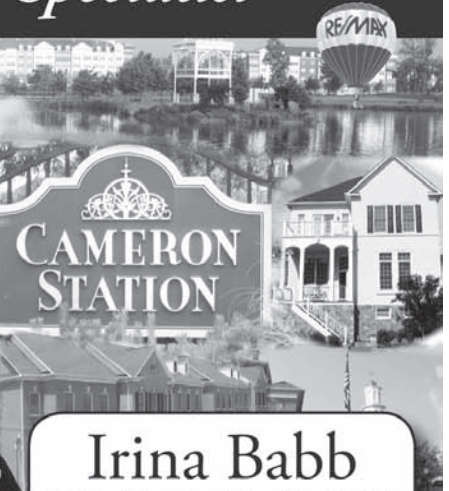
Claire will perform *Beef Encounter* during the Capital Fringe Festival. Check out one of her five performances at Caos on F Street, between July 15 and 26. (See Carla's Picks, page 20.)

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Dear Irina:

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- Neal and Clara Hulkower



Irina Babb

CRS, GRI, ABR, ASP, CSSA

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The Compass Explores ... Easton, Maryland

By Eliza Dolin

This article is the first in a series exploring interesting, entertaining and educational places and events around the region that can be appreciated by residents of Cameron Station in a day trip.

Looking for a fun, sophisticated and welcoming small-town destination for a day trip with the family? Easton, Maryland is all that and more.

Located on the Eastern Shore in the center of Talbot County, Easton is steeped in history, having celebrated its 300th year in 2010; blessed with abundant natural beauty; and dedicated to cultivating both cultural sophistication and rural ambiance.

This delightful blend of old and new is on full display in historic downtown Easton, with its brick sidewalks, Victorian and colonial architecture, boutiques, cafés and cultural centers.

Here's a listing of just a few of the fun family activities Easton offers:

Cycling: Talbot County provides a map of six themed bicycle trails, covering 180 miles of terrain. Featuring farmland, big sky, water and historical vistas, the trails are notable for another reason: they are F - L - A - T, meaning everyone in the family can enjoy them. Two favorites: the School Days Trail, a 28.3 mile loop located northwest of Easton that features the Little Red Schoolhouse and a cemetery for black Civil War soldiers; and the 28.1 mile Cemetery Quest Trail, running south of Easton, which features a number of historic cemeteries.

Dining: Talbot County is a cornucopia, offering fresh ingredients harvested from field, farm, and bay. That's surely one reason for the recent influx of talented chefs who have chosen to make the Easton area their home, generating a number of excellent Zagat's ratings in the process. Visitors can find innovative menus and carefully stocked wine cellars, as well as traditional Maryland favorites.

Our sources tell us to try Scossa for "upscale Italian" and Out of the Fire, for "good casual American nouveau." And don't miss Easton Market Square, the Easton Farmers Market and the Amish Country Farmers Market, each offering a plethora of locally sourced goodies.

Learning: The Historical Society of Talbot County offers museum and garden tours, while the Academy Art Museum's permanent collection contains more than 1,000 pieces, including core holdings of European and American works on paper. The art deco-themed Avalon Theatre offers everything from the symphony to bluegrass and comedians to art festivals. Speaking of festivals, Talbot County has dozens a year, from the Waterfowl Festival to the Plein Air-Easton! Festival.

Shopping: Easton hosts a number of boutiques, antique and collectible shops, art galleries, and specialty shops. It's

a great place to "hunt" or to "gather." For example, for those who are in home-decorating mode, there are plenty of shops offering enough unique items to prettify an entire townhome. Fashionistas will find frocks both chic and funky. The First Friday Gallery Walk combines a bit of exercise with refreshments at several galleries. And around the holidays, the whole town gets into the swing of things with decorations, music and frivolity.

Visitors can plan their trips in advance by visiting www.eastonmd.org, or play it by ear. The folks at the Talbot County Office of Tourism, in historic Easton, are always happy to help with an itinerary.



Courtesy of Talbot County Office of Tourism

ALIVE! Fundraiser at Café Pizzaiolo

Café Pizzaiolo hosted a fundraiser for ALIVE!, a local organization of community service volunteers that helps those in need in Alexandria. The May 2 event was part of the citywide initiative "Spring to ACTION," which this year raised over \$300,000 for local charities.



Cameron Station resident Manorma Malik (right) learns how to donate to ALIVE online.

Historic Carlyle House was Model for Cameron Station Homes

By Penny Waite

Summer is a great time to explore the history close to home. In this case, it's very close.

Set back on Fairfax Street in Old Town across from Market Square, you will find the Carlyle House, an 18th-century stone house. A visitor from Cameron Station would see a familiar sight: the façade of the house was the inspiration for the "Carlyle" model single-family homes in our neighborhood.

The real Carlyle House, which was built in 1753, is open to visitors year-round. Its story parallels the early history of Alexandria, colonial Virginia and the United States itself, and is brought to life through costumed interpreters, guides and fun family programs.

English merchant John Carlyle built the house for his young bride Sarah Fairfax, and the home quickly became a center of social and political life in early Alexandria. One of the founders of the town of Alexandria in 1747, John Carlyle was also a colonel in the Virginia militia during the French and Indian War.

In 1755, British General Edward Braddock made the Carlyle House his headquarters. Braddock summoned five colonial governors to meet there to plan the early campaigns of the French and Indian War. Their decision to tax the colonists to help pay for the war eventually sparked the American Revolution.

During the next two centuries, the house was used as a Civil War hospital and then made into tenement apartments. It fell into disrepair. Since 1970, though, the house has been owned by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority,

which restored it to its original appearance and reopened it to the public during the statewide celebrations for the American Bicentennial in 1976.

On the National Register of Historic Places, Carlyle House has the distinction of being the only 18th century Palladian-style stone house in Alexandria. Original nails, plaster and stone used to construct the house over 250 years ago are still visible, and the museum holds a world-class collection of 18th century furnishings, prints and decorative arts including original Carlyle family pieces.

Visiting Carlyle House: Daily tours, youth programs, special events, exhibits and lectures offer visitors a chance to experience 18th century life through the eyes of John Carlyle and his family. Docent-led tours are offered Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm, and Sunday, 12-4pm. In addition, Carlyle House and its gardens are available for private event rentals.

Penny Waite is a Cameron Station resident and a docent at the Carlyle House.

Carlyle House Historic Park

121 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria

703-549-2997

Carlyle@NRVPA.org

www.nrvpa.org/parks/carlylehouse



Courtesy of Carlyle House



Photo by Pat Sugrue

At [left], the Carlyle House in Old Town Alexandria, built in 1753. At [right], a Carlyle model home in Cameron Station.]

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The Real Old-Timers: Cameron Station's Ancient Trees

By Judy Coleman

Some Cameron Station residents claim to be "original" because they have lived here since the development was built in 1998. But several area residents put down roots here over a century ago.

Some of these old-timers live at the entrance of Armisted Boothe Park on Cameron Station Blvd. These shortleaf (yellow) pine trees (pictured below) are between 100 and 150 years old, according to City of Alexandria Arborist Rod Simmons. The stand is also regionally significant because development removed most of the other "upland" trees in the area.

Photo by Rod Simmons, City Arborist



Old Age *Pinus Echinata*
(old-age pine)

Just outside Cameron Station, in Tarleton Park, residents can also see one of the few remaining areas of "bottomland backswamp," a favorite habitat of ancient oaks. The giant pin oak at the center of the park's lawn (pictured at right) is the tallest in the city and has likely been on this spot since the Civil War era.

Fall is not the only time to appreciate our deciduous trees, like this oak. Residents interested in restoring the forested areas nearby can participate in native tree plantings along Holmes Run. The next outing is scheduled for the fall.

Giant pin oak



Photo by Greg Zell

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Review: Rice & Spice

By Carla Besosa

Rice & Spice and everything nice ... that pretty much sums up the new Thai restaurant located just up the street in the Plaza at Landmark (Duke and Beauregard streets, just west of 395). Though in a somewhat obscure strip mall (former home of the short-lived Maizbon Afghan Grill), they have successfully given this venue a facelift, and the dining public is discovering this little gem of a restaurant. You have likely received the restaurant's promo postcard with coupons – you need to use them!

After lunching and dining there multiple times, I continue to delight in their culinary creations as well as appreciate the welcoming demeanor of the Rice & Spice crew, the proximity to Cameron Station and the ambiance of the restaurant.

Start with some appetizers to share. My favorites include *Hoy Jor* (shrimp, crabmeat and chicken blended with herbs and wrapped in bean curd), *Garden Roll* (shrimp, lettuce, cucumber, carrot, green onion and rice noodle in a fresh rice paper roll) and *Thai Dumpling* (shrimp, pork, shiitake mushrooms, water chestnuts and cilantro wrapped in a wonton skin and steamed).

Entrees include many variations of chicken, beef, pork, tofu, vegetables, shrimp, duck, squid, lamb, fish, rice and noodles in generous portions. You should have no problem finding something for everyone. The *Chicken Pad Thai* is my litmus test – rice noodles, bean sprouts, tofu, scallions, egg, crushed peanuts and chicken. Always a harmonious blend of flavors. My various dining companions have had nothing but positive feedback to provide about their *Chicken Cashew*, *Eggplant/Gai Sub*, *Pad Woonsen*, *Pineapple Fried Rice*, *Crispy Chicken and Three Flavor Fish*. I sampled these as well (for quality control, you know) and found everything to be not only delicious but also aesthetically presented.

The chef is happy to tailor the degree of “hot” to your preference, and a kids’ menu is available for your diners-in-training.

Desserts include *Mango with Sticky Rice*, *Green Tea Bread Pudding*, a smattering of unique *Ice Creams* (coconut, ginger and green tea) and my personal favorite, *Thai Coffee Tiramisu*. They offer a fully stocked bar (including several sakes), but I think the Thai flavors are most aptly paired with the *Acrobat Pinot Gris*, *Starmont Sauvignon Blanc* or *Kirin* beer.

Speaking of the bar, their happy hour deal sounds rather appealing: daily 4-7pm, discounted beer and wine, five types of cocktails (\$4 each) and six appetizers (think “Thai tapas,” \$4 each).

With each visit, the manager has checked to make sure everyone was satisfied; I always appreciate that. The servers are personable, the menu items are reasonably priced, and the space has a comfortable feel. They even offer free delivery. I will continue to patronize these new neighbors, so perhaps I’ll see you there!



Photo by Pat Sugrue

Rice & Spice

6244-K Little River Tnpk

Alexandria, VA 22312

703-750-1084

www.ricespiceva.com

Hours of Operation

Sun-Thurs: 11am-10pm

Fri-Sat: 11am-10:30pm

Price Range

Appetizers: \$5.95-\$7.95

Soups/Salads: \$5.25-\$8.95

Entrees: \$9.95-\$18.95

Smoking

No

Bar

Full

Handicapped-Accessible

Yes

Parking

Lot

Reservations

Accepted

Happenings at Beatley Library

By Shandra J. Kotzun

There's nothing like reading to make a day complete. Besides a great selection to help you find a new author or genre, the Beatley Library also offers other programs such as discussion groups and English Language Workshops.

Discussion groups are also a great way to share thoughts about books, find new interests, and learn something you might have overlooked in your reading. Beatley Library is having two book discussion groups in June. The first one is Friday, June 14, from 7-8:30pm, and the topic will be Latin American books. The other is on Friday, June 21, from 7-8:30pm, and will be a Great Books Discussion Group. Call 703-746-1702, ext. 3, for more information.

In June, English Language Workshops will be held each Tuesday, and Thursday from 10:00am to noon. Also, ESL - Intermediate Level classes will be held each Tuesday 3-5pm.

While it might be fun to celebrate Independence Day with a good book before the fireworks start, you'll have to pick one up early. The library will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of the holiday.

Book Club Readings

The Compass offers readers a look at what our neighborhood book clubs are reading. Although these two book clubs are not currently accepting new members, we welcome reading lists from other Cameron Station book clubs and discussion groups. Please e-mail them to thecompass@cameronstation.org.

Monday Night Bookball

May: *Wisdom's Daughter: A Novel of Solomon and Sheba* by India Edghill

June: *The Soldier's Wife* by Margaret Leroy

July: *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes



Reading Between the Wines

May: *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer.

June: *Confederates in the Attic* by Tony Horwitz

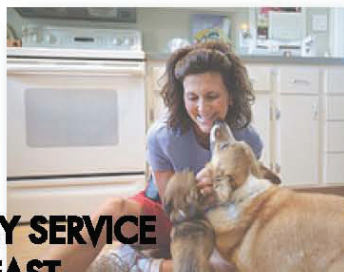
July: *A Different Sky* by Meira Chand

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Fitness Center News

By Kevin Horner

Group Exercise Classes: 2012 is flying by! Our third group exercise session of 2012 began May 20. Residents can always drop in on a class for a \$10 fee. See the Spring/Summer Activities Schedule below for classes and times.

Email Updates: If you do not receive emails from the fitness center and would like to be on our list, please email me at fitness@cameronstation.org.

Personal Training: The fitness center offers the Exceed Personal Training Program. Because everyone has unique goals and schedules, we offer both one-hour and "express" half-hour training programs.

Fitness Center Reminders:

- As a courtesy to others, please re-rack the weights when you are finished using them.
- Please wipe down the equipment when you are finished!
- All cardio equipment has a 30-minute time limit.

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

For information on any of the programs, please call the fitness center at 703-567-8555 or email us at fitness@cameronstation.org.



SPRING/SUMMER ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:00/7:00AM			6:00-7:00PM *Tone 2 Tighten (Kara)		6:30-7:30PM *Tone 2 Tighten (Kara)		
8:30/9:00AM		8:30-10:00AM Workout Parents		8:30-10:00AM Workout Parents		8:30-10:00AM Workout Parents	
9:00/9:30AM			9:00-10:00AM Yoga (Denise)		9:00-10:00AM Yoga/Sculpt (Denise)		9:00-10:00AM Fitness Fusion (Denise)
10:00AM							10:15AM-11:15AM Yoga (Sarabeth) 10:00AM-12 NOON Pick-up Basketball
3:30PM		3:30-5:00PM Workout Parents		3:30-5:00PM Workout Parents		3:30-5:00PM Workout Parents	
6:45PM		6:45-7:45PM Cardio Boot Camp (Sarah)					
7:30PM			7:30-8:30PM Pilates (Denise)	7:30-8:30PM Zumba (Nastasha) 7:30-8:30PM Beginners Yoga (Kittie)	7:30-8:30PM Yoga (Sarabeth)		
8:00PM			8:00-10:00PM Pick-up Basketball				



Drop-ins are welcome on a space-available basis for \$10.

This schedule can change at any time due to low class participation, so please call the fitness center or check the website for an updated schedule.

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Cameron Club Fitness Center Hours

Monday-Friday
5am-11pm

Saturday-Sunday
7am-8pm

The Fitness Center's regular
hours will be in effect every
day, except for the following:

Closed:

Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New
Year's Day

Closing at 6pm:

Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Eve, New Year's Eve

Opening at 8am:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day,
Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Columbus
Day, Veterans' Day, Day after Thanksgiving



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(5pm - 12:30am)

Monday 1/2 price burgers with burgers
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Tuesday 45 cent wings with 15 sauces

Wednesday Lobsters
1.5lbs \$18.99, 2lbs \$22.99, 3lbs \$38.99

Thursday award winning ribs
Half rack \$11 or full rack \$14.00

Sunday Brunch (10:00am-3:00pm)
Legendary a la cart brunch menu

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Carla's Picks

By Carla Besosa



Alexandria Birthday Celebration

July 7 Oronoco Bay Park
Entertainment/Food/Music/
Fireworks

American Century Theater - Gunston Arts Center, Arlington

July 27-Aug 25 Marathon '33
A journey through music, dance,
history and desperation

Arlandria Chirilagua Festival

July 29 Four Mile Run Park
Latin American arts & crafts

Artomatic

May 18-June 23 Crystal City (www.artomatic.org)
Amazing eclectic array of works. A
"playground for artistic expression."
Check out Cameron Station neighbor
James Wang: 9th floor, #907 and my
friend Amy Flatten: 4th floor, #234.

Atlas Theater - H Street NE

June 21-24 Step Afrika!

Barns at Wolf Trap

June 29-July 7 Mozart's Don Giovanni

Birchmere

June 18 Hilary Hahn/violin and Hauschka/
piano
(Hmmm...How did the Birchmere
lure Hilary away from the Kennedy
Center?)

And Another Thing...

With the warm weather comes the return of the Mojito Iced Tea to Cameron Café; very refreshing! Also check out their new Belly Full of Rewards program; earn reward points when you visit Cameron Café (see page 9).

Blues Alley

June 1 Frederic Yonnet/harmonica
June 3 Cravin Dogs/roots rock
June 29-July 1 Regina Belle

Creative Cauldron - Falls Church

June 2 Veronneau/Latin Jazz, Gypsy Swing

Del Ray Artisans Gallery

June 1 Opening Reception: "Art on the Edge"

Del Ray Music Festival

June 23 Over a dozen musical performances
showcasing folk, rock, country and
reggae

Dulles Expo Center

July 21-22 DC Big Flea Market
July 12-29 7th Annual Capital Fringe Festival
An unjuried venue for the expression
and development of artistic vision
Tickets on sale June 18. Check out
Cameron Station neighbor Claire
Carroll's one-woman show, *Beef
Encounter*, at Caos on F, July 15-26. (See
page 10.)

Gadsby's Tavern

June 14 Wine & Dine with Thomas Jefferson

Kennedy Center

July 10-29 The Addams Family

St. Elmo's Coffee Pub

June 6 Janna Audey/singer-songwriter

Strathmore

July 20 Soul of Summer - Jonathan Butler,
Warren Hill, Maysa

Wolf Trap

July 29 Happy Together Tour 2012 - Turtles,
Micky Dolenz of the Monkees, Gary
Puckett & the Union Gap, Grass Roots,
Buckingham

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***Sat 8:00AM~8:30PM**

***Sun 9:00AM~8:00PM**

So, Tom & Cindy, how's the Market?

Happy Springtime to all! We wanted to share our take on this year's market. Before writing, I read my update from this time last year and was struck by how similar the market has remained. Overall we continue to be positive and think it will be a busy year.

We started off the year with low inventory. All of our agents had buyers they were working with, but not many quality homes to show at various price ranges. So when the right home came on the market, it was snatched up...frequently at or very close to list price - sometimes with multiple offers. There are a couple of houses we are putting on the market this weekend that I bet will be gone by next Tuesday.

No, we're not quite back to the days of 2005. However, owners that have made their properties really shine and have worked with us to price them correctly, have had consistently great results. It just feels like, in many price ranges, there is an upward pressure on prices.

Meeting with appraisers to share relevant comps that support value can be critical to the best properties going to settlement at the originally agreed-to price.

With that said, owners that have chosen not to make needed upgrades or take care of maintenance issues and/or that have placed their homes at unsupportable price points, continue to see them sit on the market month after month. Time and days on the market are not your friend if you are a seller. If a home in the range of \$750,000 or less has not had an offer in 45-60 days, then it is not priced correctly or there are staging issues.

The lower the price range, the more people can afford the house. So townhomes under \$450,000 and single-family homes under \$600,000 should sell more quickly. The good news is that the first-time and the move-up buyers are both actively engaged in finding the right homes to buy.

Over the last year we've seen the big influx of people moving into our area as part of the Fort Belvoir base realignment, but what happened last year is that many of them either were not ready to buy or already own homes in other places that they can't sell. So rental demand and prices shot up quickly. A home that had rented in January for \$1,800 would rent for \$2,100 by the time June arrived. The rental market is still hot.

As I write this, interest rates are fantastically low. A 30 year Conventional fixed load is available for 3.875% with no points! A 30 year fixed FHA loan is available for 3.75% with a CREDIT to the purchaser. No one has a crystal ball, but having great rates and stable prices with more people moving to the area and the improving jobs outlook seems to be stacking the cards in favor of home ownership.

It's true that qualifying for a loan is more cumbersome and regulation changes have made for more paperwork and closer scrutiny, but people with good credit and income to debt ratios are having few problems purchasing.

Every home is different. Every lot is different. Generalities don't apply in real estate when it comes to your home. If you are thinking of selling, we'd be happy to customize our advice to your own unique situation. No cost, no obligation. It's just what we do.

TOM & CINDY
AND ASSOCIATES

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For the rest of this article go to
HelloVirginia.com. Click Sellers, then
click Market Info and Statistics.



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Article Submissions:

Any submissions for publication must include writer's name, address and phone number and must be received **by the 30th of the month preceding issue date (see box).** The newsletter staff, Communications Committee or Board of Directors reserves the right to edit submissions for typos, length, tone and content. They will also determine the newsletter to be "full" at their discretion. Articles are to be factual and of public interest. Editorial content may be deemed inappropriate at the discretion of the newsletter staff, Communications Committee or Board of Directors. Photographs submitted will be returned to sender if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

*Advertising Deadlines

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August 30 for July / August

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***There is no July/August issue of *The Compass*.**

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

Back issues of *The Compass* are available online at www.cameronstation.org. Roll over the "Community" button at the top and go to "Newsletters."

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