

The compass

Newsletter of the Cameron Station Community Association, Inc.

Volume 13 Issue 2 • Mar/Apr 2012

The West End Grows Up



Photo by Sally McConnell

Tucker Elementary Reaching Capacity

By Barbara Martinez

For the past two years, more students have registered for kindergarten at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary than the school has been able to accommodate. The school has been able to avoid a lottery of registered students, however, by offering parents a choice.

Under Alexandria's Modified Open Enrollment (MOE), families that register at Tucker before a spring deadline are offered the choice to instead attend a nearby school with transportation provided. Enough families have chosen a different school under this system that Tucker has been able to accommodate all students who register prior to the deadline.

Families that register after the deadline might be out of luck.

"To tell someone 'I'm sorry we don't have a space for you' has been very difficult for me," said Jeannette Vidangos, Tucker's Registrar. She has worked at Tucker since it opened almost 12 years ago and was planning to retire at the end of March.

"Everyone has worked so hard to serve the children, and we have been trying to be fair with everyone," she added.

Last year, Vidangos said, all kindergarten, 1st and 3rd grade slots at Tucker were full. The 2nd, 4th and 5th grades had

(Continued on page 4)

Changes to Van Dorn Start This July *By Judy Coleman*



Photo by Dak Hardwick

Attorneys from Walsh Colucci presented several development plans in the area at the civic association meeting March 1.

The Cameron Station Civic Association heard from developers on March 1 about the status of several major projects in the area immediately surrounding Cameron Station, including:

- The proposed mixed-use site at Van Dorn and Pickett
- Renovations to the Shell station at Van Dorn and Edsall
- Redevelopment of the site at Cameron Station Blvd. and Pickett.

These major changes will give the neighborhood a facelift and bring new services to Cameron Station residents.

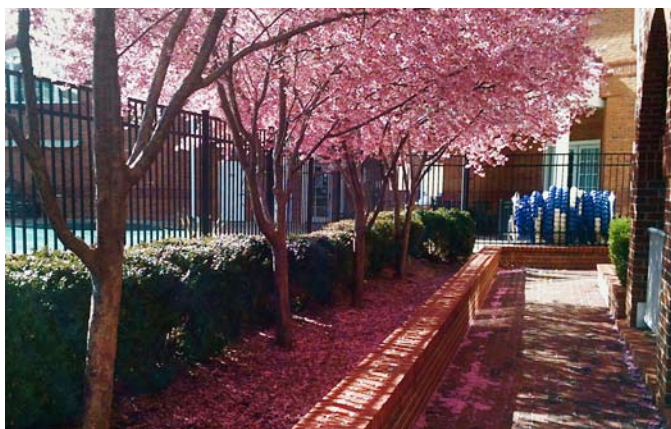
Ground-Breaking at Van Dorn/Pickett

The Landmark Gateway site is on the northeast corner of the intersection at Van Dorn and Pickett, where there is currently a warehouse. Landowner Mike McGwire reported that demolition is scheduled to begin in July, with construction starting in August. The development will create 550,000 square feet of retail and 492 residential units.

Gas Station Upgrade at Van Dorn/Edsall

Attorneys from Walsh Colucci presented a proposal for redeveloping the gas station to include two more pumps, a convenience store and a car wash. The project would also replace the underground gas tanks. Members of the civic association raised concerns about traffic, pointing to the long lines for the Mr. Wash across the street on weekends. A representative from the city's planning staff explained that traffic engineers will consider these concerns when they study the site.

(Continued on page 3)



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

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Airielle Hansford, Community Manager
communitymanager@cameronstation.org

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

Shirley Petrovic, Covenants Administrator
covenants@cameronstation.org

Bethany Lammers, Administrative Assistant
admin@cameronstation.org

703-567-4881

703-567-4883 (fax)

CAMERON CLUB FITNESS CENTER

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

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fac@cameronstation.org

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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

2,000 Units Planned for Beauregard Street

New Development is Two Miles from Cameron Station

By Judy Coleman

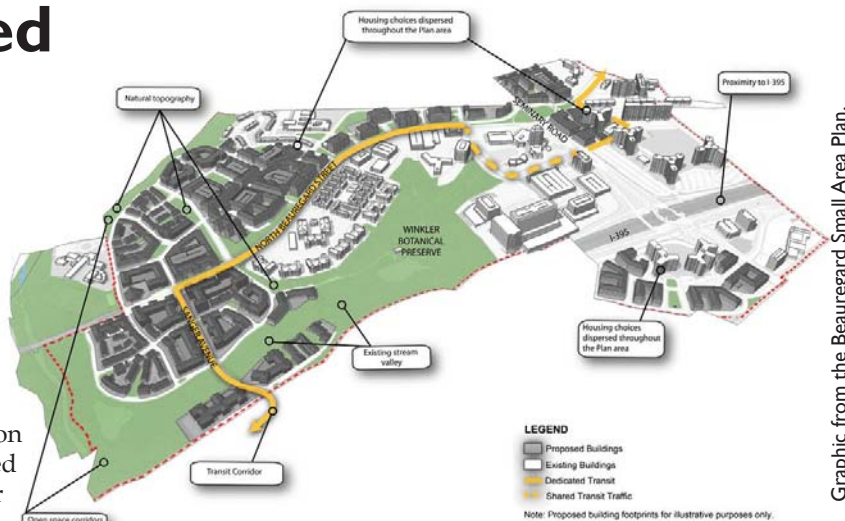
Over 12 million square feet of redevelopment could be coming to the area between Cameron Station and the Mark Center at Seminary Road. Combined with the City of Alexandria's transit proposals for "Corridor C," the plan would remake the northern part of the West End.

Attorney Cathy Puskar of Walsh Colucci presented the plan to the Cameron Station Civic Association on March 1. Puskar, who represents JBG Properties, spoke on behalf of a consortium of developers with interests in the new small area plan, which includes the neighborhoods on either side of Beauregard Street between Sanger Avenue and Seminary Road. It also includes the Seminary Hill community on the opposite side of I-395. (See map above.)

The plan has a "30-year vision" for the project area, she said. In the first five years, the developers would construct a new fire station, start work on a mixed-use retail/residential site at the location of current retail stores, and implement the Corridor C bus rapid transit plan.

Phased demolition of the existing apartment buildings in the area would follow. In their place will be walkable neighborhoods of multi-family units and townhomes. A new greenway will encircle the neighborhood, connecting Winkler Botanical Preserve to Dora Kelley Park and Holmes Run.

Currently, the city is shopping the small area plan to citizen



Graphic from the Beauregard Small Area Plan.

commissions and neighborhood groups. In the course of this campaign, the question of affordable housing has become a subject of dispute. The existing apartment buildings serve as home base for many of the West End's middle- and working class families.

The developers' position is that the small area plan, which calls for 703 units committed as affordable housing for 30 years, is superior to the alternative of leaving these units open to piecemeal development without a commitment to affordability.

Cameron Station resident and *Compass* contributor Don Buch also spoke in his capacity as head of the Beauregard Corridor Stakeholders' Group, a citizens' group that helped to develop the plan. Buch pointed out that developers are offering a number of concessions but that these concessions are contingent upon zoning changes.

The city's presentation on the Small Area Plan is available on its website at <http://alexandriava.gov> (click on the link in the left column). Interested residents are welcome to participate and voice their concerns through the Beauregard Corridor Stakeholders' Group at <https://sites.google.com/site/bcsgalex/>.

Changes to Van Dorn Start This July (Continued from page 1)

New Retail at South Entrance to Cameron Station

Jay Klug of JBG Rosenfeld Retail said the company is considering building a mixed retail-residential development on Pickett Street, where there are currently a Midas and other shops backing onto Cameron Station. Klug said a grocery store might be the anchor for the site, which would also include affordable commercial units for smaller businesses. JBG Rosenfeld has completed similar developments around the area, most notably the Whole Foods/residential complex at 1700 Duke Street.

Bowling Alley Site on Pickett

In addition to these developments, the bowling alley on South Pickett Street is slated to be replaced with a mixture of condos, retail and rental units to be known as the Residences of Cameron Station. Thanks to the efforts of the civic association, the proposed parking garage for the site will be moved underground, there will be more green space, quality architectural design and access to the new retail via an easement with Cameron Station.

Tucker Elementary Reaching Capacity *(Continued from page 1)*

a few slots available at the beginning of the school year. Families that move into Cameron Station in the middle of the school year will be lucky to get a slot at Tucker.

This year kindergarten registration begins April 9 and runs through June 15. Last year, letters were mailed in May to families that had registered at Tucker informing them of the opportunity to transfer to Patrick Henry or James K. Polk; June 1 was the deadline to request a voluntary transfer to those two schools. At press time, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) had not yet released this year's timeline.

The trigger for a lottery is enrollment that exceeds a grade's desired class size, which is 20 students per class at the kindergarten level. This year, Tucker's six kindergarten classrooms have 22 or 23 students each, the result of accommodating the siblings of older students, said Kelly Alexander, Director of Communications for ACPS, in an email.

Alexander declined to predict which schools would be subject to MOE this spring, pending a presentation of enrollment projections at the March 22 school board meeting.

Earlier in March, a letter explaining MOE sent by Carri Stoltz, the Early Childhood Coordinator for ACPS, to parents of rising kindergartners inflamed angry discussions on local parenting listservs among those who perceived the letter as a change in policy, who had not previously been aware of the

policy, or who objected to the idea of children being sent to schools not in their neighborhood and contrary to their parents' choice of school. Stoltz's letter did not mention the possibility for registered parents to choose alternate schools and thus avert a lottery.

"Enrollment in ACPS increased this year by more than 400 students," Alexander said. "Enrollment projections indicate that enrollment will continue to increase and our schools are simply nearing capacity with no additional classroom space."

The uproar over MOE hit the same week as the school system released a report by an independent auditor saying that "ACPS has operated in a dysfunctional environment" in relation to its capital improvement projects. A week after the audit was released, the school board met and announced that it had "full confidence" in Superintendent Morton Sherman, who was hired in 2008 and commissioned the audit last fall after learning of accounting irregularities.

Parents can find more information about registering for Alexandria City Public Schools, including the student registration and residency verification forms, at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/enroll/>.

The West End



Photo by Sally McConnell

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Capital Projects Top Board's Agenda in First Quarter

By Judy Coleman

The Board of Directors has chosen RW Murray as the general contractor for major renovations to the Cameron Club this year. The renovations will add more meeting spaces to the second floor of the clubhouse and expand the fitness center. (See page 10 for more information.)

A summary condensing the minutes of the January 24 and February 28 meetings follows below. The board is scheduled to meet again on March 27 and April 24.

Snow Removal Policy

Under the current policy a homeowner must clear snow from "driveways" serving the home. One resident proposed the policy require snow clearing only from "at least one driveway." The board voted 4-3 to reject the proposal.

Common Area Updates

Management plans to ask the board to update the Common Area Usage policy, which is now ten years old. The Common Area Committee has also proposed some specific changes. In addition, the board asked management to send Bright Start a letter regarding its plans for Splash Day this year, following up on resident complaints and concerns raised in 2011.

The board also voted to approve irrigation improvements with a cost not to exceed \$58,900, and it will be monitoring drainage problems on Bessley Place. Stocking up for the year, the board voted to approve the purchase of an additional four stop sign poles (\$6,600), six replacement light poles (\$14,847) and two trash receptacles (\$1,709). (For more common area updates, see page 9.)

Holiday Decoration

The board voted to provide \$250-\$300 annually for Hanukah celebration and menorah-lighting. At the March meeting, the board is scheduled to discuss a homeowner's request for a nativity scene in Cameron Station.

Cameron Club Facilities Updates

In addition to planning for the renovation, the board addressed several discrete issues relating to the clubhouse. The board rejected a proposal from the City of Alexandria to close the Cameron Club on the date of the presidential election (Nov. 6), when the clubhouse will be serving as a polling place.

The board also approved the purchase of a new rooftop gas/electric HVAC unit for the fitness center, at a cost of \$15,251, and a new large pool cover, at a cost of \$6,372.

Report from the City of Alexandria

Deputy Police Chief Blaine Corle reported to the committee on traffic and crime incidents in the area and took a resident's comments on policing community crosswalks.

Fire Chief Adam Thiel and Greg Tate, a city project manager, presented plans for Fire Station 210, which will be built on the site of the city's impoundment lot next to the Covanta plant on Eisenhower Avenue. They reported that there is a significant need for a fire station in the area.

Finances: Investments and Accounts

On January 31, 2012, the association had operating and investment funds totaling \$2,533,318. The First Association Bank operating account had a balance of \$530,160, and the First Association Bank Google Ads account had a balance of \$952. The Smith Barney Money Market account had a balance of \$209,559, and there was \$1,778,000 invested in laddered CDs and investment funds. Additionally, the petty cash account had \$1,000.

The Accounts Receivable Residential Assessments account as of January 31, 2012, was \$39,775, reflecting a delinquency rate of approximately 1.9%, which is below the industry standard of 5%. Accrued Reserves total \$1,568,250 and are fully supported by cash and investments. Owners' Equity, which has a balance of \$403,290, is also supported by cash. These figures indicate the homeowners association is in a healthy financial position.

The Capital Reserves account totals \$114,087, and there is the same dollar amount of approved Capital Improvements projects to be funded from this account.

Finances: Income Statement

The Income Statement Report reflects a year-to-date income of \$185,501, which is \$386 below the budgeted amount of \$185,887. Year-to-date expenses of \$158,542 are also below the budgeted amount of \$174,631. In particular, snow removal was \$13,809 below the budgeted amount due to the mild winter.

Overall there was a positive variance between year-to-date income and expenses in the amount of \$26,959 through January 31, 2012.

April 2012 Meeting Calendar

April 2	Activities & Events Committee
April 3	Architectural Review Committee
April 4	Common Area Committee
April 12	Cameron Club & Facilities Committee
April 19	Financial Advisory Committee
April 24	Board of Directors

Board of Directors will meet again on May 22 and June 19.

Meetings are held at 7pm at the Cameron Club.

Creating Value Through Volunteerism

By Nick Giannotti, President of the Cameron Station Board of Directors

One of my primary goals as the president of the homeowners association this year is to continue to build value in Cameron Station. In this month's letter, I would like to talk about volunteerism as one of the best ways for a community to create value.

Volunteers are an integral part of Cameron Station and some of the best ambassadors of our community. Over the years our terrific residents have shaped Cameron Station into the magnificent community that it is today.

Volunteering also provides an opportunity for personal and professional growth. When you serve as a volunteer, you'll meet new neighbors and friends, and you'll build strong leadership and team-building skills that can carry over to your professional life. Many of our volunteers have gone on to contribute to the civic life of the West End and the City of Alexandria as a whole.

In Cameron Station there are so many ways to get involved, and for some you can contribute just by showing up. We have some great events coming up including happy hours, kids' nights, the spring yard sale, the pool party and Casino Night. Some ways you can contribute:

- help to plan community events
- help to set up or clean up events
- lend your green thumb to our newly established gardening club
- add your name to the snow removal volunteer list
- become a member of a committee or board
- join the Cameron Station Civic Association
- write an article or take photos for *The Compass* newsletter
- just tell those who do volunteer, "Thank you."

In the past few months we have welcomed several new committee members and other volunteers to our relatively small but mighty core group. To them and to all of you who already volunteer your time and energies, I would like to thank you very much.

The value of our community is inextricably tied to the dedication of our volunteers. (Not to mention, without them, HOA dues would climb as we would have to staff many of these positions with paid employees.) I hope that those who are able to help will offer where they can. If you'd like more specifics about how you can help, please stop by the clubhouse and talk with our community manager, Airielle Hansford, or call her at 703-567-4881.



Betty, Gil & Willie

Gil Stockton

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202-333-6100 (ofc)

The Pair, Parker & Stockton Team

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Feb. 12 Town Hall Update

By Pat Sugrue

Sixteen residents braved unusually cold wintry winds to attend the February 12 town hall meeting in the Cameron Club, hosted by Board of Directors President Nick Giannotti and Treasurer Bob Duncan.

Among the issues discussed was retail expansion in Cameron Station and on South Pickett Street (see page 1). It was reported that Bright Start is considering expanding into the former condominium sales office next to Café Pizzaiolo, and a taxi dispatcher will be moving into the space formerly occupied by Stems.

A number of other community issues were also discussed, including the budget, the renovation of the Cameron Club, common area maintenance and gym policies. The Cameron Club and Facilities Committee is working with the architect to develop plans that not only address current needs but also prepare for the next 10 years. One of the items being considered is a covering for the gym floor to protect it when the community hosts events there. (For more information on the renovations, see page 10.)

Homeowners also raised concerns about management, facilities, common areas and fitness center policies:

- One homeowner reported damage to a sewer line beneath his driveway (due to faulty installation) that may cost \$10,000 to repair. Questions were raised about whether homeowners are responsible for damage on/ under private property and also under private streets. Participants agreed that homeowners should notify community management in order to get the word out about similar problems and questions. (For more information on who owns what, see the January/February issue of The Compass.)
- A resident asked about covering the pool for year-round use. Ray Celeste, chair of the Cameron Club and Facilities Committee, explained that it had been considered when

the pool was first built, but the cost was extremely high, and there was not enough demand to justify the expense.

- A resident expressed concern that some common areas are overwatered. New irrigation for certain common areas is planned for this year. (See page 9.)
- A resident reported that her daily commute has increased by 20 minutes, which she believes is attributable to traffic generated by the BRAC building.
- There was a discussion about the fitness center closing during snowstorms. Ray explained that the safety of the staff is the deciding factor. The fitness center does not follow the federal government closing policy, but the community shuttle does.
- A question was asked about restrictions on personal trainers in the fitness center. There is no policy on the number of trainers permitted in the fitness center at one time. Residents cannot be personal trainers, however, as community bylaws prohibit residents from using common areas for places of business.

The meeting ended with Nick encouraging residents to volunteer for community committees and events and reminding residents to patronize our Main Street retailers.



Residents enjoy a break at the February Adult Happy Hour in the Cameron Club.

Photo by Sally McConnell



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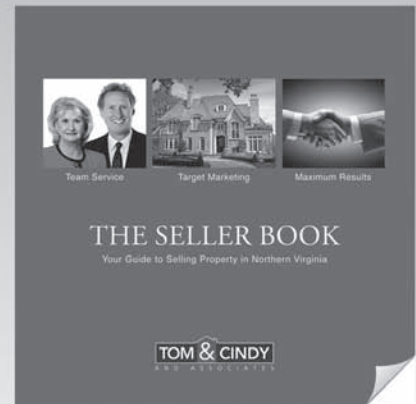
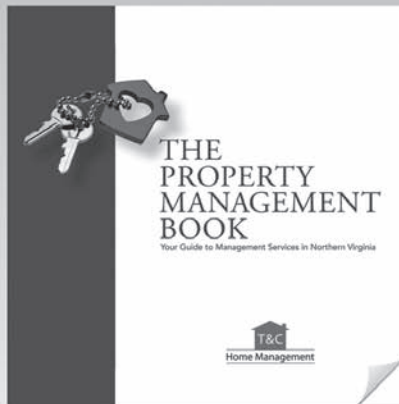
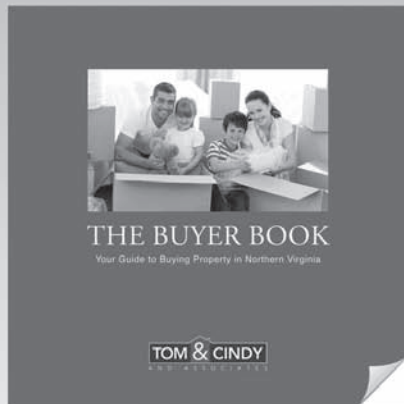
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Committee Updates

Common Area Committee Plans for Spring

By Anne O'Connor

The 2012 capital budget will fund the CAC's continuing effort to upgrade and re-establish the original landscaping in the pocket parks of Cameron Station.

The pergolas on Bessley Place and Donovan Street will be completely reconstructed in the coming months. Also, nine new common areas will be irrigated this year, including in Minda Court, where additional upgrades will be made as well.

The Volunteer Gardener Program is lucky to have found several Master Gardeners in our community who are willing to assist residents who need help improving their gardens. If you are interested in having some fun, learning about gardening and helping a neighbor, contact us at gardeners@cameronstation.org and join our group. Also, if you are in need of help with outside work, contact us at the same email address.

A word of caution: as warmer days approach, everyone

looks forward to opening their windows, being outdoors and enjoying their "yard" — in many cases, that means the common areas. Please treat these areas gently while you are having fun. The cost of any damage to turf, trees or shrubs is borne by all homeowners.

Anne O'Connor is a member of the Common Area Committee.



Photos by Sally McConnell

Pride of Ownership Awards: Nominate Your Neighbors by May 21

By Susan Willis

Spring is on the horizon, and the Common Area Committee is beginning to think of the Pride of Ownership Awards. Homeowners readily agree that a beautiful community benefits all of us, and last year's winners were outstanding.

The committee is looking forward to recognizing more beautifully maintained and landscaped homes in our community this year. The criteria we use to judge the nominees include the following: turf condition, shrubbery and trees that are pruned and shaped and aesthetically designed and weed-free gardens. The weather has been cooperating, and Home Depot is very handy; it's never too soon to start planning your lawn and garden clean-up and improvements!

The committee would like to remind residents that the addition of hardscape, decorative flower pots and other landscape decor are fine, provided they comply with Cameron Station Design & Maintenance Standards and condominium covenants requiring pre-approval.

Nominations are due by Monday, May 21 (email commonarea@cameronstation.org). Judging will take place and winners will be notified in the following week. Remember, don't be shy — nominate yourself!

The committee will announce the Pride of Ownership Award winners at the annual pool party on Saturday, June 16. If

you would like to sponsor or help fund one of the prizes for these deserving homeowners, please email the committee at the address above.

Susan Willis is a member of the Common Area Committee.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time
Saturday April 14 Rain Date: April 28	SPRING YARD SALE 	8:30am to 1:30pm
Friday May 18	Adult Happy Hour & Poker 	5pm-7pm Victoria Hebert Great Room, Cameron Club
Sunday May 5	Farmers Market 	9am-1pm Ben Brenman Park
Saturday June 16	Pool Party 	11am-3pm Cameron Club and Kilburn Street

Facilities Committee Plans for Major Renovations

By Martin Menez and Ray Celeste

The Board of Directors is pushing forward with plans for the renovation of the Cameron Club in 2012 (see page 5). As approved in October of 2011 and described at the annual meeting last November, the renovation will increase the size of the fitness center, add resident meeting space, add to required storage capacity, rearrange office areas and update the furniture and finishings.

The board has hired Rust | Orling architects to lead the work, with project management retained separately in-house. The renovation will be funded mostly from the existing Repair and Replacement Reserves specifically set aside for this sort of upgrade.

The next step is to move into the detailed design process, with work scheduled to begin in late spring or early summer. The fitness center is likely to close for some period of time while work is ongoing. The committee will take steps to ensure residents are aware of future closings.

You can find more information about the renovations at www.cameronstation.org. Click on "Cameron Club



Photo by Kevin Horner

Renovation" on the left side of the page under "Community Services."

Should the Fitness Center Open Earlier? In response to requests from residents, the committee conducted a survey about whether the gym should open earlier during the week. Of the 177 people who responded, 65 said they would use the gym before 5am on a weekday, and the majority of those thought the gym should open at 4:30am.

Martin Menez and Ray Celeste are vice-chair and chairperson, respectively, of the Cameron Club and Facilities Committee.

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Fitness Corner

By Kevin Horner

Group Exercise Classes: Our second group exercise session of 2012 is underway. Residents can always drop in on a class for a \$10 drop in fee. These classes are great for everyone who has resolved to be healthy and fit in 2012!

We Are on Facebook!: If you belong to Facebook, search for "Cameron Station Fitness Center." We provide information on classes and other pertinent information as well as some fitness tips and suggestions.

Wipe It Down: Even though we have reminded fitness center users over and over, some people are still not wiping down the cardio machines and the area around them when they have finished their workouts. We provide sanitizing wipes and anti-bacterial spray to make wiping down the machines easy.

For information on any of the programs or to get on our e-mail list, please contact the fitness center at 703-567-8555 or fitness@cameronstation.org.

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:

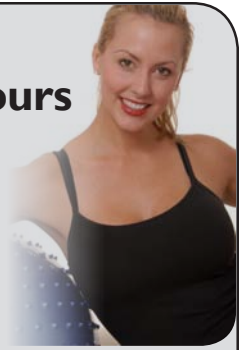
Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day

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



SPRING ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:00/7:00AM			6:30-7:30PM *Tone 2 Tighten (Kara)		6:30-7:30PM *Tone 2 Tighten (Kara)		
8:00/9:00AM		8:30-10:00AM Workout Parents		8:30-10:00AM Workout Parents		8:30-10:00AM Workout Parents	
9:00/9:30AM			9:00-10:00AM Yoga/Sculpt (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	
7:00PM		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.

IN MEMORIAM: *Wayne Babb, A Decorated Veteran and Businessman*



Photo courtesy of Irina Babb

Lieutenant Colonel Wayne A. Babb, USMC (ret.), died recently at his home in Cameron Station after a courageous fight with terminal illness.

Wayne was a resident of Cameron Station for many years and an active and valued member of the community. He hosted several Martini Monday parties and helped sponsor a number of events including the Ten-Year Anniversary celebration and the West End Art and Wine Festival. Wayne will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, with full military honors. The service is scheduled for June 13 at 11am.

A four-sport letterman in high school, Wayne later attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he earned a Bachelors degree in Political Science. He also attended the University of Virginia, where he earned a Masters and Doctorate in the Behavioral Sciences, graduating with highest honors.

Wayne served for over 20 years as a Marine officer, retiring in the mid-1980s as a Lieutenant Colonel with over 20 personal and unit decorations earned in both combat and peacetime. Among his many personal decorations were the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was a highly decorated combat veteran of Vietnam.

For the past 25 years, Wayne was a real estate broker in Virginia and abroad. He was directly responsible for over \$1 billion in national and international real estate volume. He earned virtually every designation and award given to high-performing real estate professionals. He taught real estate and counseled real estate professionals throughout the United States and abroad.

During his distinguished career, Wayne was a philanthropist who directed substantial amounts of his own assets to bring students from Russia and Eastern Europe to study business and economics in the United States. Many of them returned to their native countries, where they have gone on to play prominent roles in developing free enterprise systems. Wayne was highly respected as a business development advisor to the leadership of the same countries.

Wayne is survived by his daughters Kimberly and Patricia, stepson Misha and two grandchildren, Thomas and Meghan. He is also survived by his brother Gary, sister Brenda, and numerous cousins, nephews and nieces.

Wayne asked that tributes or memorials be made to The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, Quantico, Virginia.

The information in this article was provided by Irina Babb, with additional contributions from The Compass staff.

Café Pizzaiolo Starts Year with Special Events

By Carla Besosa

Families and friends are gathering at Cameron Station's new eating establishment, Café Pizzaiolo. Since Pizzaiolo opened its doors we've seen Super Bowl specials, Valentine's Day cocktails, Chef's Wine & Beer Dinners, full café tables and happy hours brimming with neighbors.

Most recently, on March 8, the restaurant hosted a beer tasting featuring brews from Six Point Ales. (See photos at right.)



Photos by Judy Coleman

Running In and Around Cameron Station

By Elizabeth McAlee and Steve Abbott

Any runner or walker worth her salt will tell you that variety is the spice of life when it comes to that daily run or walk. Runners and walkers in Cameron Station have all the variety they need to spice up their fitness endeavors.

Cameron Station and the area surrounding it offer runners and walkers varying terrain, distances to meet any need, pleasant scenery and usually enough company in the form of fellow runners and walkers to keep you from feeling lonely, but definitely not crowded.

The maps with this article highlight some of the more popular routes while staying on Cameron Station property or venturing outside the community into the nearby parks and trails.

Using the Cameron Station streets and path along the Linear Park also provide excellent options for those who like to get their workouts either in the pre-dawn darkness or after sunset. The streets and path are well-lit. And, if you're out in the pre-dawn hours, you are likely to encounter an Alexandria police officer and his dog patrolling the Armistead Boothe Park area and linear path.

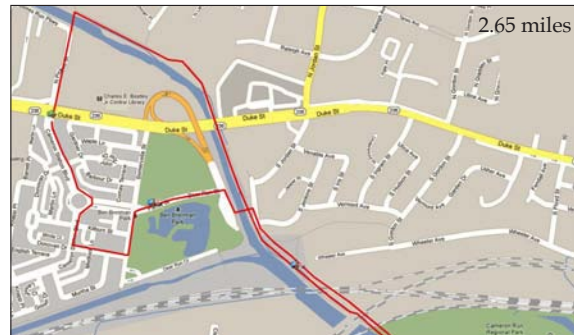
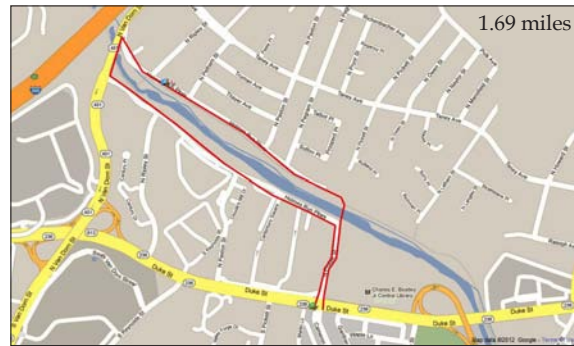
If you're looking for more variety and for those longer runs, you can cross Duke Street to follow the Holmes Run path shown in the map at the bottom right going up and continuing over to Eisenhower Avenue. From there you can go in either direction on Eisenhower Avenue or turn around by the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter and return to Cameron Station. Using this route before dawn or after sunset probably is not a good idea unless you're running or walking with a group.

So, there are no excuses. Whether you're training for the next Marine Corps Marathon or Army 10-Miler or just getting out there to stay in shape and keep the mind sharp, Cameron Station has the route to meet your needs.

About the only concerns runners or walkers have in Cameron Station are avoiding the droppings of our friendly goose population and not getting so distracted by the beauty of your surroundings that you wander off the path!



Photos by Judy Coleman



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.

Park Updates

By Judy Coleman

Earth Day Celebration April 21 at Ben Brenman Park

The City of Alexandria's Earth Day celebration will take place in Ben Brenman Park on Saturday, April 21, from 10am to 2pm. The theme will be Eco-City Alexandria, with demonstrations of green building techniques and a tree sale, among other activities and exhibits.



Photo by Judy Coleman

Community Garden Postponed

The proposal for a community garden at Ben Brenman Park has been tabled while the City of Alexandria's Park and Recreation Commission considers adopting a policy on the creation and funding of community gardens. According

to the commission's public minutes, the cost of irrigating a new garden here was a concern. Drafting the new policy has only recently begun, with no progress to report at this time.



The Scoop on Poop

By Judy Coleman

Highly unofficial anecdotal evidence suggests the rate of dog ownership in Cameron Station continues to remain high. As a service to both dog owners and their sometimes-frustrated neighbors, *The Compass* presents answers to two frequently asked questions regarding "what goes in" our pets — and "what comes out."

1. My dog seems to think Canada goose poop is a delicacy, and the flock living on the lake provides an endless supply. Is it bad for my dog?

A Canada goose produces *two pounds* of digested grass *every day*. With 50 geese in a flock (conservative estimate), that means ... well, you can do the math. According to the website of the ASPCA, eating feces is "pretty common" among dogs and "in many cases proves to be harmless."

Nevertheless, there is some risk of disease transmission, so, just as you would whenever your dog's health is suffering, take your dog to the vet if you see any changes for the worse.

Frustrated dog owners take note: the ASPCA recommends using positive reinforcement (i.e., treats!) whenever your pet ignores the tasty green "all natural" alternatives on the ground.

2. It can't really be true that these common areas are off-limits to pets. Can it?

Yes, it's true, says the Common Area Committee. Please obey



Photo by Judy Coleman

all posted signs. Community Manager Airielle Hansford reminds us of these practical effects of poor poop practices:

1. *Rodents*. Uncollected dog waste spreads disease and attracts rodents who feed on pet waste. Pets and children can become ill from parasites found in pet feces; picking up pet waste can eliminate these illnesses.
2. *Home Values*. The appearance and quality of the common areas are known to affect home sales — not just whether and for how much they sell, but how quickly.
3. *Wasting Administrative Time*. The more residents complain about dog waste, the more time management staff must spend on enforcement rather than serving the association.

Euro Bistro & Grill

By Carla Besosa

I am thrilled to share my latest discovery with you: *Euro Bistro & Grill* is a fabulous find.

Located just outside the Beltway on Richmond Highway (Route 1), it's close and easily accessible (just cut over on Huntington Avenue). Housed in an older structure, this location has survived multiple incarnations before emerging as Euro Bistro in the spring of 2011.

Tony, the owner, has revamped the interior with a snazzy retro flair that's inviting yet cozy (and feels ergonomically correct as well). The plate glass windows across the front create an open feel, while the mirror-backed bar conveys a touch of tradition.

The menu is a delightful culinary excursion all over the map. As the name suggests, the selections are varied and provide the discerning diner with options that veer off in many fascinating directions.

My favorite appetizers are the *Burek* (Albanian spinach pie), the *Hummus* (particularly tasty and served with warm pita) and the *Dolma* (seasoned/marinated rice rolled in grape leaves).

In the entrée realm, my dining companions and I have all have had excellent experiences with *Pikataschnitzel* (breaded and lightly fried chicken breast in a jäger sauce), *Jägerchnitzel* (grilled pork in jäger sauce), *Chofta* (grilled homemade sausage), *Bifteki Vici* (grilled prime ribeye steak) and *Salmon de Mare* (with sliced mango in an orange-ginger spinach sauce).

In addition to the printed menu, Tony has created a selection of specials to tempt you. The *Homemade Goat Stew* and the *Homemade Albanian Meatloaf* ("made with love," to quote Tony) both received rave reviews.

My top pick among the desserts is the *Baklava*; the restaurant provides you with a generous portion, so be prepared to share. To enhance the dessert experience, you need to know that Tony also makes a mean cappuccino.

Euro Bistro offers a full bar and carries a lovely line from Spain as a house wine. For those seeking extra punctuation at the end of your meal, inquire about their *Euro Shot* and some of the other not-for-the-faint-of-heart finales!

Every time I have dined at *Euro Bistro & Grill*, the staff members have gone out of their way to ensure that our dinner was a memorable event. The service is impeccable, the menu is intriguing, the food is freshly prepared and made to order and the offerings are scrumptious. They are extremely accommodating in tailoring your dish to your liking. The atmosphere is fun (Frank Sinatra crooning in the background), and I have thoroughly enjoyed each and every experience.



Photo by Sally McConnell

I invite you to explore for yourselves. To date, this venue has not been crowded, so try it soon. *The Compass* has scooped the *Washington Post*. Eat your heart out, Tom Sietsema! (I've always wanted to say that!)

Euro Bistro & Grill

6027 Richmond Hwy
Alexandria, VA 22303

571-222-4271

www.eurobistrogrill.com

Hours of Operation

Mon-Wed: 4pm-2am

Thurs-Sun: 12pm-2am

Price Range

Appetizers: \$5.50-\$8.90

Sandwiches: \$7.99

Entrees: \$10.99-\$23.99

Desserts: \$3.80

Smoking

No

Bar

Full

Handicapped-Accessible

No (restrooms are downstairs)

Parking

Lot

Reservations

Welcomed

Carla's Picks

By Carla Besosa



Arena Stage (DC)

Mar. 15-Apr. 28 Mary T & Lizzy K - the relationship between Mary Todd Lincoln and her seamstress

Barns at Wolf Trap (Vienna)

Apr. 11 Dan Navarro & Tracy Grammer - singer/songwriters
Apr. 12 Robbie Schaefer & Ellis Paul - singer/songwriters

Birchmere (Del Ray)

Apr. 4 Joan Osborne "Bring it on Home" Tour - incredible voice
Apr. 23 Bela Fleck & The Fleck Tones - awesome musicians
Apr. 26 Nellie McKay - quirky singer/songwriter and pianist

Blues Alley (Georgetown)

Apr. 12-15 Hiromi - unique pianist who spans all genres
Apr. 19-22 Keiko Matsui - jazz keyboards

Del Ray Artisans Gallery (Del Ray)

Apr. 6 Childhood Memories Art Exhibit (opening reception)
May 4 TC Williams Student Art Show (opening reception)

Dulles Expo Center (Chantilly)

May 5-6 DC Big Flea Market
May 18-20 International Gem & Jewelry Show

Fontaine Caffee & Creperie (Old Town)

Sundays French movie night

Kennedy Center/KC Jazz Club (DC)

April 27 Cecile McLorin Salvant - Thelonious Monk Competition winner

Nick's (Alexandria)

Tuesdays Free line-dancing lessons

Port City Playhouse (Alexandria)

Apr. 20-May 5 Someone Who'll Watch Over Me - support community theater

Signature Theater (Shirlington)

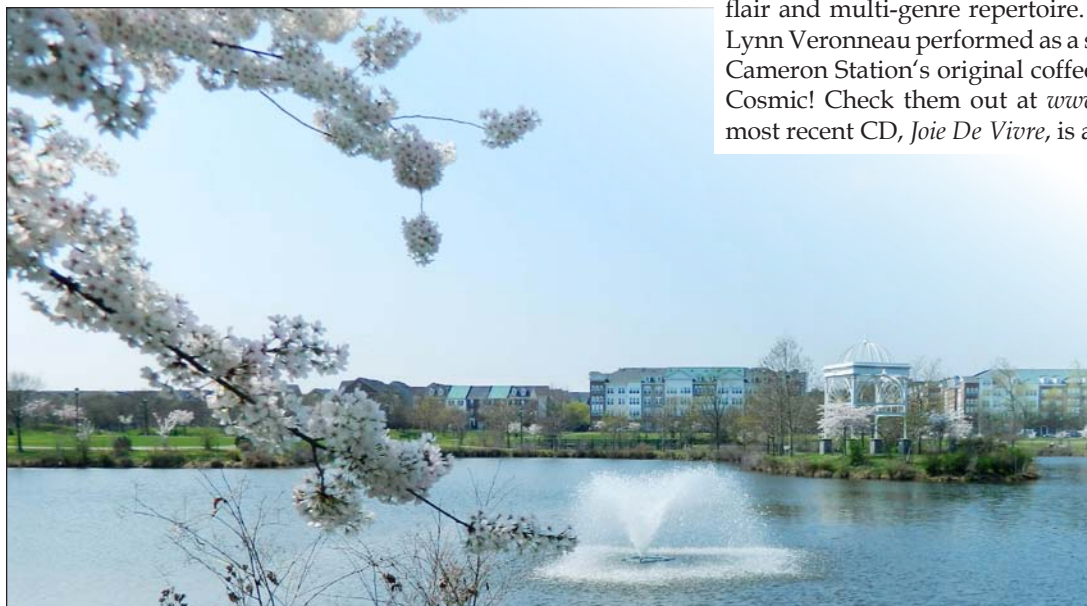
Apr. 10-Jun. 24 God of Carnage - 2009 Tony Award Winner

St. Elmo's Coffee Pub (Del Ray)

Apr. 6 Janna Audey - guitar & vocals, originals & covers

And Another Thing ...

The band Veronneau recently performed at a Del Ray Artisans reception. They were excellent and bear a striking resemblance musically to Pink Martini with their international flair and multi-genre repertoire. Oddly enough, lead singer Lynn Veronneau performed as a solo artist at Cameron Perks, Cameron Station's original coffee shop, about ten years ago! Cosmic! Check them out at www.veronneaumusic.com. Their most recent CD, *Joie De Vivre*, is a pleaser!



Photos by Judy Coleman



Book Clubs

Monday Night Bookball

March: *The 19th Wife*, by David Ebershoff

April: *Doomsday Book*, by Connie Willis

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

Reading Between the Wines

March: *Papillon*, by Henri Charriere

April: *Mister Pip*, by Lloyd Jones



Photos by Judy Coleman

Spring Book Sale

April 19-22

Beatley Central Library

(Duke Street, 1 block east of Cameron Station Blvd.)

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Norfolk Southern Announces Oil Loading at Nearby Facility



Effective March 1, the Norfolk Southern Railroad facility, located just south of Cameron Station, began loading used oil from tanker trucks onto a rail car on the railroad's property. The Fire Marshal reports that used oil is considered a non-hazardous waste. Norfolk Southern Railroad has installed additional spill containment equipment at the location of the oil transfer.

Every two to three days, a truck will deliver about 3,650 gallons of used oil. It takes about eight truckloads to fill the rail car.

According to the Alexandria City Attorney, this action by Norfolk Southern is a business choice that falls within the same legal precedent used for ethanol transloading at the facility. Any attempt at local regulation is preempted by federal law. The Fire Marshal's office will continue to monitor the oil transfer process at the Norfolk Southern facility. If you need more information or are interested in meeting about this issue, please contact Assistant Fire Marshal Russell Furr at 703-746-4247.

This information was provided by the City of Alexandria Local Emergency Planning Commission.

☀ **Main Street Market** ☺

4901 Brenman Park Drive, Alexandria, VA 22304

Tel: (703) 823-6162

An Upscale Selection of Beer & Wine

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Dunkin Donuts Coffee

Cappuccino, Latte, Espresso & Hot Chocolate

Smoothie, Fruit Tea Blast & Blended Ice Coffee

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

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





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Irina Babb
Cameron Station Specialist




Advertising & Submissions Policies & Procedures

Advertising:

The Compass newsletter is published bimonthly. Advertising space is filled on a first-come, first-served basis, and the ads published in each issue are solely at the discretion of the newsletter staff or Communications Committee. **Only one ad per advertiser per issue is permitted. Ads must be submitted NO EARLIER than the 15th of the month preceding issue date and no later than the 30th (see box).** Payment must accompany all ads. Artwork must be camera-ready: 65 line screen or 300 dpi. **ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ARE PREFERRED.** Advertisers will receive a copy of the printed newsletter in which their ad appears. Estimated (*not guaranteed*) time of delivery to residents is April 15-30 for May/June.

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

April 15-30 for May/June

Article Submission Deadlines

April 30 for May/June

We welcome your ideas and photos, too!

Advertising Rates:

Display Ads (*Camera-ready*)

1/2 page.	\$220
(horizontal: 7" x 4 1/2";	
vertical: 3 1/2" x 9 1/4")	
1/4 page (3 1/2" x 4 1/2").	\$135
1/8 page (3 1/2" x 2").	\$110

Classified Ads (*Limit 35 words*)

Resident.	\$5
Non-resident.	\$25
Lost & Found, Carpool, etc.	Free

Checks should be addressed to Cameron Station Community Association and sent with camera-ready artwork to Community Manager, 200 Cameron Station Boulevard, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. Artwork may be emailed to assistantmanager@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.



About . . . *The Compass*

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."

Editor-in-Chief: Judy Coleman

Editorial Staff: Carla Besosa, Eliza Dolin, Elizabeth Engle, Scott Franklin, Catherine Huddleston, Barbara Martinez, Maya Noronha, Pat Sugrue

Photographers: Sally McConnell, Cynthia Longo

The compass

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