

The ompass

The Official Publication of the Cameron Station Community Association

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KEEP SUNNY IN WINTER AT CAMERON STATION



Sash Impastato Receives Mark Pillow Award

By Pat Sugrue

It has been 15 years since the Mark Pillow Community Spirit Award was instituted. It was created in memory of Mark Pillow, a great friend and neighbor and a generous community volunteer who died in 2005. He made Cameron Station a better and brighter place to live. Each year this award is presented to a resident who carries on Mark's legacy by making a positive impact on the welfare and spirit of our community.

The 2021 award-winner is Arthur "Sash" Impastato. Sash has been an active member of the Cameron Station community for more than 20 years. An original owner, Sash was one of the first members of the Cameron Station Civic Association and has been an officer/director since 2001. He has served two terms as president and is currently in the third year of his second. He works tirelessly to ensure that activities happening "outside the wall" will have a positive impact on our community.

Sash has been involved in issues as varied as the proposed connector through Brenman Park, operations at Virginia Paving Company and upgrades and clean-up days at our local parks. Sash also represents Cameron Station on

the Ad Hoc Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group.

He has served as founder, chair and civic association delegate of the West End Coalition (an advocate group for Alexandria's West End) and since 2004 has served as civic association delegate and a board member of the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations, an advocate for smart growth and Chesapeake Bay initiatives.



Sash Impastato

Congratulations, Sash, and thanks for all you have done and continue to do!

Inside This Issue

Curl Up with Hot Chocolate and a Lover? Book? Good New Film?



Inside This Issue

Winter Adventure at Huntley Meadows



Inside This Issue

Warm Your Spirits with Public Art



The Compass Needs a New Editor: Is That YOU? See page 2.

Volunteer of the Year – Dan Ogg

By Pat Sugrue

The Volunteer of the Year Award was instituted in 2016 to recognize residents who have had a significant, positive impact on our community by volunteering their time and talents. The 2021 recipient is Dan Ogg.

Dan has served on the Cameron Club Facilities Committee for over four years and is the current vice-chair. During his tenure on the Committee, he has given countless hours to a variety of projects, including the following: thoroughly researching improvements to the Club such as the new basketball flooring; ensuring the equipment is well-maintained and kept up-to-date; and working on the locker room renovation, which is the Committee's current project.

When the pandemic hit, Dan led the effort in creating the initial operational guidelines for the Fitness Center and pool, and in collaborating with the Cameron Station Community Association's lawyer to ensure adherence to all Virginia state laws.

Since the reopening of the Fitness Center and pool in July 2020, thousands of our residents, of all ages, have used and enjoyed the facilities. None of this would have been possible without Dan's tireless efforts in setting up clear and comprehensive guidelines for the community.

Dan is a talented and caring neighbor with years of volunteerism, one who is always thinking of how best to serve our community. Thank you, Dan, and congratulations on this well-deserved honor



New Editor for *The Compass* Needed

Editor-in-Chief, Christine Fisher, will be stepping down from her position after this publication of the January/February 2022 issue. The Communications Committee is looking for someone new to lead the team, in a position that is primarily one of project management/ coordination. There is an accomplished, responsible, volunteer staff who also performs those functions, as well as *Compass* alums who serve as informal advisors. We need someone to bring it all together and make it work! If that is you, please contact communications@cameronstation.org. *The Compass* has been a vital part of the Cameron Station Community for 20 years. Working on the newsletter is not only fun and fulfilling, but it is a great way to get to know the community. And to make new friends! Join us!

About . . . *The Compass*

The Compass is the newsletter for the Cameron Station Community Association and is run entirely by volunteers.

The Compass welcomes your articles and photo submissions, as well as your suggestions for future issues.

Please send us an email at TheCompass@cameronstation.org.

Previous issues of *The Compass* are available online at www.cameronstation.org.

Go under the "News" tab on the home page and click on "Community Communications" on the left-hand side.

Final issue under the direction of Editor-in-Chief Christine Fisher

Editorial Staff: Carla Besosa, Eliza Dolin, Mayu Molina Lehmann, Lenore Marema, Pat Sugrue, Gwen Toops and Rene Zimmer

This Issue's Photographers: Chris Alex, Marian Cavanaugh, Ray Celeste, Gen Harrison-Dos, Christine Fisher, Lisa Mason Frank, Oscar Goldfarb, Linda Greenberg, Liz Hujsak, Donna Kenley, Mindy Lyle, Sherri Malik, Lenore Marema, Ken Moffett family, Carlyle Fairfax Smith, Linda Taousakis, Andy Yang

Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

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(communications@cameronstation.org)

Tricia Hemel - Chairperson

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(fac@cameronstation.org)

Takis Taousakis - Chairperson

Cameron Station "Annual" Turkey Trot

By Linda Greenberg

The Cameron Station Turkey Trot was held at 9am on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2021. There were about 30 runners, mostly young, with an assortment of bikes, strollers and enthusiastic people. Ryan Thurber was the winner of the race. Perhaps that is of little surprise as Ryan runs track at Messiah College near Harrisburg, PA. He came to the Turkey Trot with his mother and sister, as he was visiting home for Thanksgiving. His family has lived in Cameron Station for about a year and a half. This Turkey Trot was organized by Nicole Handy, who aspires to make this an annual event.



Turkey Trot - And They're Off!



Ryan Thurber,
Turkey Trot Winner

Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

Activities and Events Planning Committee

By Andy Yang

The Activities and Events Planning Committee (A&E) finished the year by planning a Fall Daylight Savings gathering and a more traditional holiday party. To mark the end of daylight savings on November 7, 2021, the Committee held an event in the Victoria Hebert Great Room, with seasonal beverages and appetizers. The Great Room provided ample space for residents to socialize and maintain social distancing.



This year's holiday party was held on December 12, 2021, and included indoor and outdoor festivities. At the Cameron Station Boulevard Circle Gazebo, residents were able to meet Santa and enjoy some festive cookies and hot chocolate. We saw the return of the horse carriage ride around the circle. Crafts and games took place in the gym, and additional beverages were available for adults in the Great Room.



Starting in January 2022, A&E is partnering with the Communications Committee for a Pet-of-the-Month contest. The winner will be awarded a prize bundle containing various gift cards and pet services. As always, stay tuned here and in the Email Blasts for details regarding future events.

Architectural Review Committee

By Stephen Pearson

For this issue's update, I would like to discuss some best practices for your exterior modification application. Accounting for roughly 60% of our monthly total, the

three largest categories of applications received by the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) are roof replacements, window replacements and landscaping changes. The following simple recommendations will help ensure your application is complete and has the best chance of approval by the ARC on the first try.

For roof applications, always include a scope of work from your contractor that clearly conveys the shingle type and color of your replacement shingles. Make sure your replacement shingle color was selected from Cameron Station's pre-approved list. If it looks like your installers will have to step onto your neighbor's roof to install yours, get the neighbor's permission either via email or signature and include that in your package.

For window and glass door applications, always include a scope of work describing the style and exterior color of all your replacement windows, including depictions of mullions and whether you plan to use half or full screens. Pictures of the existing windows you are replacing are always very helpful to the committee. If you are replacing a patio or deck door, include the exterior color, a depiction of the mullions and a description of the door's hardware design and color.

Finally, for landscaping applications, always include a scope of work from your contractor (or yourself if this is a DIY project) describing hardscape materials, plant species and their locations and, most importantly, an overhead drawing of the proposed design in relation to your property lines. Because landscaping often abuts your neighbor's property, the Design & Maintenance Standards (DMS) requires homeowners to submit a plat map showing property lines with their applications.

The ARC strongly encourages homeowners to appear before the Committee to discuss their applications and answer questions. We are still meeting via Zoom so attending is easier

than ever. **Always begin planning for your exterior modifications by consulting the DMS.** Make sure your DMS copy says, "Effective September 16, 2021." All previous versions are now invalid. The forms you will need to submit (the Exterior Modification Application or a Private Tree Replacement Application) along with the latest version of the DMS are located here: cameronstation.org/our-neighborhood/board-committees/architectural-review-committee/covenants. If you have any questions about the process or which changes require an application, contact management at covenants@cameronstation.org.

Common Area Committee

By Kathy McCollom

The Common Area Committee (CAC) welcomes our new Committee members, Patrick Kairouz, Sarah Markell and Martha Romans. Lots of new energy and new ideas will flow from these additions, all of them very welcome. Don Williams is now Committee vice chairperson.



Terrible Tree and Limb Loss Jan 3

The fountain in the Donovan Drive pocket park is now installed, although final testing and start-up won't occur until spring. This year should see the completion of planting in that area, replacing the roses that had rosette virus and original trees that have performed poorly. Cherry trees will replace these remaining original trees, to match the trees at the fountain end of the park, which were replaced a few years ago. They have flourished and grown well in the space.

Please tell children not to climb onto trees and bushes in common areas. Many have broken branches, some large ones. They take a long time to grow to attractive sizes yet only a few minutes to be severely damaged. Likewise, what looks like plain mulch in flower beds this time of year actually may shelter dormant perennials and emerging bulbs that are easily crushed. Either step completely over those areas or go around them.

This year we are hoping to address the problematic former grass strips between the street and sidewalk along Cameron Station Boulevard. Most died long ago and have become ugly bare ground due to deep shade and lack of irrigation. Spaces that get heavy foot or pet traffic have been mulched over, especially at corners. As this is a City of Alexandria street, plantings in that area must meet city requirements. They will permit a grass-like sedge that can grow in very difficult conditions and give a fresh, consistent look along the street.

See a loose brick in a sidewalk or a street light that's out? Report it to management, and they can schedule the work. These kinds of repairs are made all year 'round.

Communications Committee

By Tricia Hemel

What a year 2021 has been for the Cameron Station Community Association (CSCA) Communications Committee and its subcommittees! The Welcome Subcommittee welcomed 204 new residents to Cameron Station, and volunteer photographers took beautiful photos of the community and events; many of these photos are now hanging in the hallways of the Cameron Club.

In 2021, we also worked on our social media presence. You can now find official CSCA information on Facebook: @CameronStationCA; Twitter: @CameronStation; and Instagram: @CameronStationCommunity. Please like and follow!

Finally, many thanks to the Newsletter Subcommittee. In 2021, this team of volunteers created five fantastic issues of *The Compass*, providing our community a newsletter that highlights our community activities, area events and wonderful neighbors.

It really was a fun-filled year for the Communications Committee, and 2022 will be no different. Along with the many ongoing projects already mentioned, this year our website will be updated to be more user-friendly, and we plan to create consistent branding for our community.

As always, the Communications Committee and subcommittees welcome volunteers. If you have enjoyed reading *The Compass* and would like to volunteer your talents, the newsletter is seeking an Editor. Also, if you would like to help with any of the other projects mentioned above, or if you have ideas on what the Communications Committee could tackle in 2022, please contact us at communications@cameronstation.org.

Cameron Club Facilities Committee

By Ray Celeste

Happy New Year! With the beginning of a new year, many people wish to refresh and renew their lives. We hope you will take the time to evaluate your fitness and nutrition. As we have learned in this pandemic, fitness and nutrition matter: they can prevent or mitigate underlying health conditions. Please consider making a personal assessment of these two areas to see where you might be able to adjust; you also may want to consider assessing your children's fitness and nutrition needs.

As you know, we have a convenient fitness center in the Cameron Club that has just about all the cardio equipment, free weights and Cybex fitness equipment one might need. Most importantly, our hours are very flexible and accommodate most personal schedules. We are open Monday-Friday, 4:45am-11pm, and on Saturdays and Sundays, 7am-8pm.

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We also offer 10 complimentary classes, as follows:

Stretch and Core – Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am, Multi-Purpose Court

A focused abdominal and core training session using a variety of tools such as stability balls, bosu balls, medicine balls and weights, integrated with restorative stretch and flexibility exercises.

Vinyasa Flow Yoga – Mondays, 6:30-7:45pm, Victoria Hebert Great Room

Vinyasa yoga, in which movement is synchronized to the breath, is a term that covers a broad range of yoga classes. This style is sometimes also called flow yoga because of the smooth way that the poses run together and become like a dance. The breath acts as an anchor to the movement as you flow from one pose to the next in time with an inhale or an exhale.

Yoga – Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30am, Victoria Hebert Great Room

Boot Camp – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm, Multi-Purpose Court

Gentle Yoga – Thursdays, 9-10am, Victoria Hebert Great Room

Gentle yoga classes are typically described as appropriate for those who want a softer, nurturing, slow-paced, well-

supported and relaxing practice. The approach includes carefully orchestrated movements, controlled pressure and well-measured stretches, including range of motion exercises. Postures may be approached in gradual steps, with plenty of time to focus on breathing and repetition, so that the practice is simple to do and easy to remember. A gentle yoga style encourages a highly individualized approach to practice with ongoing encouragement to make moment-to-moment adjustments.

Total Body Weights – Fridays, 10:30-11:30am, Multi-Purpose Court

Weight training is the best way to increase your metabolism and burn calories while toning and firming. Whether you are a beginner or experienced, this is a class tailored to women, teaching the latest strength-training techniques and workouts.

Zumba – Saturdays, 9-9:50am, Multi-Purpose Court

Zumba Tone – Saturdays, 10:10-11:00am, Multi-Purpose Court

It's fun and effective, using interval training that combines fast and slow rhythms for an effective aerobic workout while at the same time targeting legs, abs, glutes and arms. The workout is basically "watch and follow," the moves are repeated often enough for participants to catch on, and they're not complicated. The routines are repeated week after week, with additions every now and then to spice things up even more! Zumba combines high energy and motivating music with unique moves and combinations that allow the Zumba participants to dance away their worries. It is based on the principle that a workout should be fun and easy to do in order for Zumba participants to stick to the program and achieve long-term health benefits. Zumba is not only great for the body; it is also great for the mind. It's a "feel happy" workout.

The Cameron Club Facilities Committee takes great pride in working on your behalf. Committee members all use the facilities and are constantly looking at ways to improve

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Gobble Gobble 2021 – Lots of Community Support!

By Donna Kenley

Cameron Station families raised \$10,500 to provide much-needed meals and holiday spirit for Tucker Elementary families; \$10,000 went to Thanksgiving gift certificates, and \$500 went to Holiday Gift Certificates, from Giant, Aldi and Harris Teeter.



Thanks to your generous support for the **12th Annual Operation Gobble Gobble**, we reached our goal of providing 100 Tucker Elementary families with \$100 in grocery gift certificates to purchase Thanksgiving meals.

On November 20, 2021, Donna Kenley, representing Cameron Station, and Michael Johnson, representing the Tucker PTA, presented Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School Principal Rene Paschal with grocery gift certificates totaling \$10,000. These were distributed to Tucker families (identified by the Tucker social worker) who needed a little help during the Thanksgiving season. An additional \$500 supported meals for the Adopt-a-Family program during the December holiday season. (See article on *Adopt-a-Family* on page 14.)

The 2021 Cameron Station Operation Gobble Gobble was very successful, because it was a true community effort. I offer my sincere appreciation for a job well done to more than 100 Cameron Station residents; several local

businesses: Irina Babb Homes LLC, Podolsky Group and Lancaster Landscapes, Inc.; philanthropic organizations: West End Rotary Club and Grace Homeless Project, Washington, DC; and Alexandria Community School Organization (Tucker PTA) members who rallied to this holiday cause. Grace Homeless Project donated 200 personal sanitary kits and over 100 winter clothing items (scarfs, hats, gloves, socks and sweaters) to the families. Finally, I wish to recognize two special Cameron Station neighbors: the “Secret Sponsor” who matched donations with \$2,000 in gift certificates and a “High Donor Family” that gifted \$1,000 in certificates. These gestures exemplify the community spirit for which Cameron Station is known.



I am honored to work with all of you on this project, and I appreciate the hope that you provided to families who needed a little help during the pandemic. Again, you exemplify what it means to be a part of the kind and caring community that is Cameron Station.

Note from residents: Donna, we thank you for your work!

(Facilities Committee, continued from page 6)

them. They are Dan Ogg (Vice Chair), Tim Regan (Secretary), Hans Estes and Susana Carrillo. Our Board of Directors Liaison is Brendan Hanlon.

Psy Scott is our outstanding fitness director, who along with his team works to ensure that our residents’ fitness needs are met. If you need advice on a good personal fitness program, a good personal trainer to hire or another fitness/nutrition question, please see Psy. His work number is 703-567-8555 and his email address is cameronclubfitness@gmail.com.

We have an outstanding team ready to support you and your family, so please come over and take advantage of the Fitness Center and the classes we offer!

Financial Advisory Committee

By Takis Taousakis

The Cameron Station Community Association (CSCA) Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) advises the Board of Directors on issues affecting the financial position of the CSCA.

One important responsibility of the FAC is to oversee the Master Association’s repair and replacement reserve process. We completed an update to our reserve study

in 2021. (Each of the six condominium associations are required to independently follow a similar approach to their property’s long-term maintenance needs.)

As we have reported before, a reserve study is a capital budget planning tool required to be done once every three to five years. The study is used to determine the physical status of the association-owned property and components, estimate the replacement timing and come up with the cost over time for maintaining all community assets. Small projects (<\$1,000) and items funded through the operating budget are not included in the reserve study. Reserve study planned projects are based on detailed studies and presented to the Board of Directors for final approval.

The Master Association repair and replacement reserve balance as of November 30, 2021, was \$2,527,672. In 2022 we will add \$388,290 to our reserves, and if we execute the 2022 projects outlined in the reserve study and approved by the Board of Directors, we will spend \$1,236,340 on maintaining our community. The large 2022 projects might include repaving one-third of the roads owned by Cameron Station, addressing issues with our irrigation system, maintaining sidewalk pavers on Cameron Station streets (City of Alexandria sidewalks are maintained by the City) and several other needed projects.

Community Management

Cameron Station Community Association

Community Association Management Professionals (CAMP)
703-821-2267 – On-Site Office 703-567-4881
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Mark Bondurant, Facilities Manager
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Psy Scott, Fitness Director, Cameron Club Fitness Center
cameronclubfitness@gmail.com 703-567-8555

Condominium Management

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

Angela Luker, Community Manager
angela.luker@fsresidential.com 703-751-5002
After-Hours Emergency: 703-385-1133
Corporate Phone: 703-385-1133

Carlton Place Condominium Abaris Realty

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After-Hours Emergency: 301-468-8919

Condos at Cameron Station Boulevard Oakland Hall Condominium

Community Management Corporation (CMC)
703-631-7200 - After-Hours Emergency: 301-446-2635
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Woodland Hall Condominium

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Understanding Your Rights as a Homeowner in Cameron Station

By Greg Hillson

Homeowners in Cameron Station are frequently reminded of their duties and obligations as members of the Homeowners Association (HOA), such as their duty to pay quarterly assessments on time, to comply with the Design & Maintenance Standards, to obey the parking policy, to follow certain rules at the pool and Cameron Club and so on. But some homeowners may be less familiar with their complementary *rights* as members of the HOA.

Although homeowners can find information concerning their rights on the Cameron Station website (www.cameronstation.org), the following are worth highlighting:

- The right to access certain books and records of the HOA, including: records of the HOA's financial transactions; the HOA's membership list and addresses; the minutes of HOA Board of Directors and committee meetings; and the HOA's operating budget, most recent annual audit and tax forms.
- The right to receive notice of any meeting of the Board or committees. Note that committees post their meeting dates and proposed agendas on the Cameron Station Community Association website, as well as their minutes following the meetings.
- The right to record, by audio or visual means, Board and committee meetings.
- The right to comment on matters relating to the HOA during the Homeowners Forum portion of meetings of the Board and its committees, which occurs at the beginning of each meeting.
- The right to receive notice of any proceeding conducted by the Board or a committee directly affecting the owner concerning a possible violation of a rule or regulation of the HOA, as well as the right to be heard and represented by legal counsel at such proceedings.
- The right to submit complaints to the HOA alleging any violation of the Virginia Nonstock Corporation Act, the Property Owners Association Act, the Common Interest Community Act or the HOA's Declaration, Design and Maintenance Standards or various policy resolutions.

Note that many of the above rights are subject to conditions and limitations; these are detailed in the HOA's various policies and resolutions available on the HOA's website: <https://www.cameronstation.org/our-neighborhood/hoa-services-fees/documents-policies>.

Of course, none of this is intended to be legal advice. If an owner has specific questions about rights as a member of the Cameron Station HOA, the owner should consult an attorney or Virginia's Common Interest Community Ombudsman, who can be contacted at 804-367-2941 or CICOmbudsman@dpor.virginia.gov.

Cameron Station Civic Association: Covid-19, Duke Street Reconfiguration and E-Scooters

By Sasha Impastato

The Cameron Station Civic Association held a virtual meeting on November 3, 2021. Four speakers provided updates on Covid-19 and on the City of Alexandria's Duke Street in Motion and E-Scooter programs. Below is a summary of key points from the presentations.

Natalie Talis, Population Health Manager for Alexandria Health Department, gave an update on Covid as of **November 3, 2021**.

- There is a substantial level of transmission in Alexandria due to the Delta variant (83.43 cases per 100,000 persons).
- There is a high vaccination rate in Alexandria – 69 percent of those eligible age 12 and older are fully vaccinated.
- Thirty percent of those 65 and older have already received a booster or third shot, and one can mix and match vaccines when getting a booster.
- Pfizer vaccinations for those 5 to 11 years old have been approved.
- Anyone can get a vaccination in Alexandria since it's not limited to residents. The same is generally true in other localities.

NOTE: There have been important updates on Covid since the November 3, 2021, Civic Association meeting when the Covid-related numbers above were given. For example, on January 16 the case rate in Alexandria was 1,957 per 100,000. These case and vaccination data change constantly, so for current information, please visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus>.

Jenny Koch, Associate Principal, Urban Planner with RHI, and **Chris Ziemann**, Transportation Planning Division Chief in the City of Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, presented an overview of the City's Duke Street in Motion project that kicked off this year. The project is designed to provide bus rapid transit on Duke Street from the King Street Metro station to the transit hub to be built at Landmark Mall.

Jenny noted that the highest bus ridership in Alexandria is along Duke Street and that studies show that cities need to invest in transit to ease congestion. She explained that having more frequent service, upgrading bus stops, providing transit signal priority, having separate bus lanes and/or having partial to full time bus lanes are among possible ways to provide bus rapid transit. Chris said that there are no plans for imposing a "road diet" on Duke Street. The City hopes to develop alternatives and a final concept plan in 2022, conduct an environmental analysis and begin the design phases in 2023 and start construction of corridor improvements in 2024.

For more information, go to <https://www.alexandriava.gov/DukeInMotion>.

Victoria Caudullo, Program Manager of Bikeshare and Dockless Mobility for the City of Alexandria's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, provided updates on the Dockless Mobility Program (i.e., e-scooters). The City's goals are as follows:

- Improve monitoring of improper parking;
- Increase number of places for users to park out of the way of pedestrians;
- Require companies to geofence slower speeds in certain areas (a geofence is a virtual boundary, e.g., by GPS or RFID, that triggers a response by software);
- Compile dockless mobility complaints through the City's 311 system or email by types of issues and relay information to companies;
- Require companies to deploy devices within a reasonable distance of Metro stations and high-frequency bus stops at locations determined by staff.

City Council approved the Dockless Mobility Program on November 13, 2021. For more information go to <https://alexandria.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5208537&GUID=DA9895D9-B087-4AEE-9158-007660BA0AD6>.

If you are interested in being a part of the Civic Association, please submit a check to the Cameron Station Civic Association for \$10.00 annual membership dues per person and mail to: Cameron Station Civic Association, 200 Cameron Station Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22304 or contact us at cameronstacivic@gmail.com.



Welcome to Our New Community Manager

By Ray Celeste

As many of our residents know, we are a professionally managed community, and our management company is Community Association Management Professionals (CAMP). We now have a new community manager, Ms. Christina Deane.

Christina joined us in November 2021, and I have the pleasure of introducing her to our community. She has been married for more than 23 years and has two grown daughters. Six months ago, Christina joyfully welcomed her first grandson and looks forward to future additions to her family.

She has lived in Stafford since 2006 and very much enjoys living in northern Virginia. She started her property management career in the rental apartment industry during the years her husband served in the Navy. They spent a great deal of time moving around, and as she experienced how different apartment communities were managed, she thought about ways in which they could be better run.

It was a natural transition for Christina to work for Homeowners Associations (HOAs). This field presented more challenges, but Christina liked the structure and legal considerations entailed in working for an HOA. This is also where Christina fine-tuned a great eye for detail. (Both of her daughters have followed in her footsteps, one of them as a covenants administrator.)

Christina finds her career meaningful and challenging. No two days are the same. She loves the learning that is inherent in this profession, such as understanding the state law changes that govern HOAs in our Commonwealth. Christina has her Certified Manager of Community Associations (CMCA) designation and will be receiving her Association Management Specialist (AMS) designation next year. Her long-term goal is to attain her Professional Community Association Manager (PCAM), which is the highest designation in the HOA industry. Christina also holds a certification relating to fair housing standards laws. To remain current on the association industry, she attends continuing education courses.

Christina says she learned a great deal from her last position as a portfolio manager for a community of more than 2,800 homes in northern Virginia. As Cameron Station Community Manager, she sees her role as providing support and guidance to our Board of Directors, volunteer committee members and residents.

She is very excited about joining such a vibrant community, as she loves the community involvement! In Christina's own words: "When you work in a community where the owners love and value where they live, it shows! Cameron Station seems to have a real 'sense of community'. This is the first community I have worked in where I have witnessed this." What a testament to our community!



Christina Deane

Christina wants to communicate clearly to our residents that if they need more time to act on a notice of violation they have received, they should give her and her staff timely notice. If a resident is unsure of a policy, they should contact her and her staff expeditiously. **Management does not have the authority to grant exceptions to policies.** Management's role is to enforce the rules, according to the governing documents. Christina reports to the Cameron Station Community Association Board of Directors, whose members are elected and are all volunteers. The Board of Directors seeks advice and guidance from Cameron Station's seven advisory committees.

Christina's staff includes the following: Toni Mancinelli, Assistant Community Manager; Brandon Throckmorton, Covenants Administrator; Juana Michel, Administrative Assistant; and Mark Bondurant, Facilities Manager.

Please keep in mind that there are six condominium associations in Cameron Station, each with its own Board of Directors and property management company.

Christina follows a golden rule to "treat and speak to people the way you would want to be treated, no matter what the situation." When you see Christina in the office or around our neighborhood, please welcome her!

(Note: Former Community Manager Jennifer Gilmore has a new position closer to her home. We are grateful for Jenn's service to our community.)

Podolsky Group And CAC Sponsor Halloween Decorating Contest

By Mindy Lyle

Cameron Station is a Halloween destination for the West End with numerous pocket park displays, themed streets and individual "over the top" decorated homes.

The Common Area Committee and the Podolsky Group teamed up to sponsor a Halloween Decorating Contest. Visa gift cards were awarded to the winners: \$300 for

First Place, \$200 for Second Place and \$100 for Third Place. Homes were judged on Thursday, October 28. A *frightfully* wonderful time was had by all!



Halloween Contest 1st Place
345 Helmuth



Halloween Contest 2nd Place
135 Tull Place



Halloween Contest 3rd Place
349 Cameron Station Blvd.

Cameron Station Illuminated by Christmas Decoration Contest

By Mindy Lyle



Christmas 2021 1st prize winner
5012 Gardner Dr.



Christmas 2021 2nd prize winner
5209 Brawner Pl.



Christmas 2021 3rd prize winner
143 CSB.

Cameron Station was amazingly bedecked for the winter holiday season. While residents love to celebrate with decorations whenever they have an excuse, this instinct was spurred on by the decorating contest arranged through the Common Area Committee and sponsored by the Podolsky Group. The judging was held on Wednesday, December 22, and the three winners were awarded \$100, \$200 and \$300 gift cards respectively for third, second and first place. Bessley Place won a pizza party for their award as Best Street. The photos capture some of the joy this spread.



Best Street Bessley Pl.



Best Street Bessley Pl 2.

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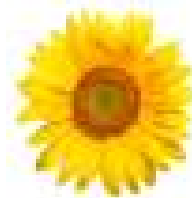
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Advertising & Article Policies & Procedures

Advertising:

The *Compass* newsletter is published bimonthly (except July/August) and distributed to approximately 1,800 residences, provided to our community businesses for customer access and displayed on the Cameron Station website. Advertising space is filled on a first-come, first-served basis, and the ads published in each issue are solely at the discretion of the newsletter staff or Communications Committee. **Only one ad per advertiser per issue is permitted. Ads must be submitted NO EARLIER than the 15th of the month preceding issue date and no later than the 30th, or the 28th in February (see box).** Payment must accompany all ads. Artwork must be camera-ready in JPEG or TIFF format: 65 line screen or 300 dpi. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ARE PREFERRED. Ads appear in black/white in printed copies; but are displayed in color on the website and in the electronic version. Estimated (not guaranteed) time of delivery is first or second week of the second month of issue date (e.g., first two weeks of February for January/February issue).

Articles:

Any submissions for publication must include the writer's name, address and phone number and must be received by the **30th of the month preceding issue date** (see box). Articles are to be factual and of public interest and emailed to thecompass@cameronstation.org. The newsletter staff, Communications Committee or Board of Directors reserves the right to edit submissions, determine in their discretion that the newsletter is "full" or deem any content inappropriate. Photographs submitted will be returned to sender if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submission Deadlines

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

Advertising Rates:

1/4 page (3.5" x 4.5") - \$150
1/8 page (3.5" x 2") - \$125

Classified Ads

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

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

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

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

Thank You, Neighbors, for Supporting Adopt-a-Family!

By Mindy Lyle

Cameron Station rocks, and “thank you” doesn’t even begin to acknowledge the outpouring of support from the Cameron Station community for the 2021 Adopt-a-Family program.

With the continuing support of Greenhill Companies through Greenhill’s Pickett Place Community Foundation, we were able to provide a memorable Christmas for a record number of families from Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School. The number of families needing support doubled from previous years and included families recently relocated from Afghanistan. Although the need was greater than ever, we were able to rise to the challenge.

We purchased, wrapped and delivered all kinds of items requested by the families, from basics such as socks, underwear, plates and silverware, to bicycles for older siblings to use to commute to school and work, a microwave to make meal prep easier and even that dream of a computer for the entire family to use.

Over \$50,000 in gifts and monetary contributions was raised in three and a half weeks. A record one-day total of \$5,000 in monetary contributions was raised with a matching challenge from an extremely generous Cameron Station neighbor! Our list of business partners continues to grow, with participation by Dr. Jacqueline Arnold and The Kidz Docs, Virginia Paving, Kinneman Insurance, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning, Alexandria West Rotary Club and realtor Irena Babb.

We are so grateful for everyone who participated in this important program, some of whom worked for a month. We also want to give a special shout-out to a team of elves



Adopt-a-Family Gifts BEFORE

who stepped up and shopped, wrapped and assembled gifts for 11 families, all in three days before the deadline! One intrepid team of elf gift wrappers is shown in the photo: from left, Pat McCombie, Meredith Aquila, Carla Besosa and Manorma Malik.

It truly takes a village to make this program happen, and fortunately Adopt-a-Family has grown significantly since I took over in 2010. There have even been multiple requests to expand this program to 12 months a year to help selected families, as their needs extend beyond the holidays. Unfortunately, the program is now too large for one person to maintain. A co-organizer is needed if this program is to continue. If you’re interested, please send an email to adopttuckerfamily@comcast.net.

Editor’s Note: Many thanks to Mindy Lyle who has coordinated Adopt-a-Family for the past 11 years, providing assistance to hundreds of deserving Tucker families. If you are able to help this worthwhile program continue, please see the contact email above.



Adopt-a-Family Intrepid Wrappers with Gifts AFTER

Neighbor Dr. Lori Day, PhD, Receives \$2.9 Million Grant

By Gen Harrison-Dos

Dr. Lori Day, a five-year Cameron Station resident, is a professor of psychology. She was recently awarded a five-year, \$2.9 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a federal agency. This grant will support Project Center for Advancing Trauma Informed Care for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children. This unique trauma center will provide much-needed mental health and support services to deaf and hard-of-hearing children, a very underserved population.

Dr. Day grew up in Pittsburgh, where during a high school psychology class she decided to pursue that interest professionally. She attended Allegheny College for her undergraduate studies, majoring in neuroscience and psychology. During this time, she began learning American Sign Language (ASL). As she was learning ASL, she met a deaf woman who needed mental health support, and Dr. Day was dismayed to learn that there were no nearby mental health providers fluent in ASL. This chance meeting ended up being pivotal for Dr. Day's career.

It was at this time that Dr. Day learned about Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, the only liberal arts university for deaf students in the world. Gallaudet had an accredited doctoral program to train psychologists to work with deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. In order to qualify for the program, Dr. Day completed her degree, together with a fellowship at Kennedy Krieger Institute at Johns Hopkins Medical School, where she specialized in pediatric neuropsychology.

While Dr. Day did not initially intend to return to Gallaudet and work in academia, she saw an open position, applied and got the job. She teaches, conducts research, supervises clinical work and mentors graduate students. The courses she teaches include statistics, ethics, foundational clinical skills and instruction in providing therapy. Additionally, her program of research includes adapting evidence-based interventions to make them accessible for deaf individuals.

Throughout her tenure at Gallaudet, Dr. Day continued to see a lack of services for mental health support for the deaf and hard-of-hearing. The children of this population are typically at a much higher risk for trauma exposure than the general child population due to the unique trauma experienced from everyday communication barriers. Over the course of seven years, Dr. Day worked on her vision for the Project Center and refined her grant proposal until it was ultimately approved and granted in July 2021. The center opened in October 2021 and is led by a team of leading researchers and clinicians, many of whom are also deaf and hard-of-hearing. In addition to providing mental health care and support for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, the center will also be a force-multiplier, training and increasing the number of mental health professionals educated in culturally and linguistically accessible, evidence-based, trauma-focused interventions for this community.

Dr. Day lives in Cameron Station with her husband, son and cat. She loves the close proximity to Washington, DC's cultural attractions, the neighborhood's access to parks



Dr. Lori Day

and bike trails and the area's diverse and good schools. As a busy working mother, she appreciates Cameron Station's fantastic community and neighbors, who have helped her family survive and thrive during the pandemic.

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Alexandria Presents: Art in Your Public Spaces

By Christine Fisher

Maybe you have noticed, or perhaps you have not: We at Cameron Station are in the midst of an abundance of public art, readily accessible and without an admission fee. The City of Alexandria's vision for its public art policy is, "Public art will: enrich the experience of Alexandria's past, celebrate the spirit of Alexandria's present and shape the identity of Alexandria's future." Through its implementation plan presented in 2014, the City coordinates the various proposed public art projects among all stakeholders: private developers, artists and the community.

Once you become aware, you will see public art all around the City. Some of this is City-sponsored; some is done by private developers. Cameron Station residents may see some public art very nearby, in a walkable route from Cameron Station. Of course, all may be reached by car as well. We are just offering a small sample.

The first piece of art is at nearby Lake Cook, a 1.2 mile walk from Ben Brenman Park. Head over the park bridge and turn right towards Eisenhower Ave. Once there, take a left to reach Lake Cook just past the Great Waves Water Park. The lake on four acres is part of a public initiative, the Eco-City Action Plan



Lake Cook



Sound Stream, David Hess Sculptor (Photographer Unk)
Photo source: <https://www.hess.industries/publicart#/sound-stream>



Angels of the Americas, Sculptor Be Gardiner

2030, to clean waterways in the City. Recent improvements to the lake have increased its capacity to reduce storm-water pollution, enhanced the exercise path around the lake and added benches and a covered structure that juts into the lake for fishing for the rainbow trout stocked by the City. Along the pathway, you find Sound Stream, created by David Hess, a Baltimore-based sculptor. This is an interactive artwork with two horns connected by pipe underground, so people can speak into one side of this sculpture and hear it on the other side of the peninsula. Hess was inspired by how the dramatic fluctuations in water levels lead to changes in the landscape in this area. For more information, visit www.hess.industries/publicart#/sound-stream/.

If you walk about a quarter-mile farther east, you will come to 3610 Eisenhower Avenue and the Angels of the Americas installation (1991) – three marble statues outside the office building. The building developer, Bob Buchanan, believed in adding public art as an engaging feature, with the encouragement of his wife Sharon, an arts consultant. According to *The Washington Post* (March 13, 2016), when North Carolina sculptor Be Gardiner was approached by the Buchanans to create a work of art, he



With 100 raw wood pilings, each topped by a cobalt blue mirrored surface, this dramatic temporary installation ended Nov. 30, 2021. Keep checking the Old Town Waterfront! Groundswell, Mark Reigelman

remembered having seen a large piece of pink marble in a Tennessee quarry. (Note: This is the same marble that clads the exterior of the National Gallery of Art buildings.) That large pink piece became the tallest of these three sculptures. Each draped figure is set with a face sculpted from white Carrara marble. What do these enigmatic figures, with expressionless faces, mean? Your guess. It may help to know that Gardiner is also a Zen Buddhist.

Starting on February 17, 2022, you will find another dramatic work within a short drive – *Confluent Threads*, at the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library (Seminary Road and Library Lane). This public art project is designed by Project One Studio, founded in 2009 by architects Adam Buente and Kyle Perry. They integrate views of design and artwork into the physical environment with the focus on craft and complexity.



Confluent Threads, Burke Library

Confluent Threads celebrates Alexandria’s rich diversity and sense of community. As individual “threads” are woven together, this piece reflects the interconnectedness of families and generations. Our “fabric” is richer and stronger as individuals collaborate and create in sync with each other. (See artists’ conception photo above, courtesy of Project One, <https://p1-studio.com/news/>. The art will be on the Seminary Road side of the library.)

Public art can enrich your everyday life. Wherever you see a permanent or temporary art installation in Alexandria, you can be certain it is planned in collaboration with the community and executed by artists and private developers with the specific intention of existing for the public. We are lucky to live in a City that values the growth of our public spirit and culture by seeking to create and share art.

For more information about Alexandria City public art projects, contact Diane Ruggiero at diane.ruggiero@alexandriava.gov.

In Memoriam: Ken Moffett

For over 20 years, Ken Moffett was a fixture on Tancreti Lane. An original owner in Cameron Station, Ken and his wife Mary moved in on September 8, 2000. Ken loved the neighborhood and often referred to it as “a college dorm for adults.” Ken died at his home on November 19; he was 90 years old.

Ken Moffett was born on September 11, 1931, in Lykens, Pennsylvania. His father was a coal miner and president of District 50, part of the United Mine Workers. The union was part of the Moffett family legacy. A great-great-grandfather of Mr. Moffett’s was part of the Molly Maguires, a secret society of Irish American coal miners that battled mine owners in the 19th century. Following in his family footsteps, Ken rose to become our country’s top labor mediator.

In 1981, Ken became Acting Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) and was appointed director in 1982. In this position he mediated major disputes of the 1980s, including those involving dockworkers, air traffic controllers, newspaper pressmen and Major League Baseball players. After his success with the baseball player’s strike, he briefly became president of the Major League Baseball Players Association.

Ken played basketball, football and baseball in high school, dreaming of making the major leagues as a



Ken Moffett

pitcher; his love of all sports continued throughout his life. He was a long-distance runner and completed marathons in Boston, Washington, New York and Honolulu.

Ken once said, “So much of my life is hostility, that in my own private life I’d go anywhere to get away from it.” We’re happy that he chose Cameron Station and Tancreti Lane.

Winter Wildlife at Huntley Meadows Park

By Ian Grove

If Lamar Valley in Yellowstone National Park is dubbed the “Serengeti of America” for its massive abundance of diverse wildlife, then Huntley Meadows Park, the largest park operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority, must be the “Okavango Delta of America.” Okay, that might be a slight exaggeration, but Huntley Meadows is truly an unlikely oasis of diverse wildlife in the metropolitan Washington, DC area.



The main parking lot and visitor center for the wildlife refuge is located on Lockheed Boulevard, off Route 1 in Fairfax County, just a 20-minute drive from Cameron Station. This entrance allows access to boardwalks and woodland paths offering unprecedented viewing of wetland wildlife. Dogs and other pets are not allowed on the boardwalks but can be walked on the woodland paths. A second entrance and parking lot can be found just off Telegraph Road near Kings Highway. This entrance offers woodland paths and views over the lakes, but visitors cannot access the boardwalks from there. Portable toilets are available 24/7 in the main parking lot. The visitor center has additional restroom facilities, available only during open hours. As of January 2022, the visitor center is open every day except Tuesday, 11am-4pm.

From the Lockheed Boulevard entrance parking lot, a visitor may walk past the visitor center and take a gravel woodland path, where various woodpeckers, red-shouldered hawks and other forest birds are on view. The boardwalk entrance is located a few hundred yards farther along; its trails loop around such that visitors can return via the woods from

the bottom pond. Paths are well signposted and suitable for wheelchair access and strollers.

The animals that can be viewed at Huntley Meadows change with the season, but the park has become known for up-close views of semiaquatic water rodents such as beaver and muskrat. A resident family of river otters wowed the crowds in 2021, catching and eating fish within touching distance of overjoyed nature lovers and photographers from across the region. The river otters even grabbed

newspaper headlines with their playful antics, accessibility and viewing dependability.

While Huntley Meadows is known as a wetland area with a wide variety of turtles, the refuge is also noted for a diversity of warblers, wading birds, egrets and herons and as a breeding ground for the very colorful wood duck. The park’s waters teem with fish, and various heron species can be seen silently stalking their prey in the margins. Unusual visitors for Virginia often make elusive appearances at this wetland oasis, such as the roseate spoonbill, Wilson’s snipe, clapper rail and sora rail.

Birds of prey hunt among the trees, while bald eagles and ospreys skillfully catch fish over the water. Large woodland animals such as foxes and white-tailed deer are often sighted, along with wild turkey. Seasonal regulars include snakes, salamanders and a wide variety

(Continued on page 22)



Book Clubs

Reading Between the Wines

- January: *The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War* by Ben MacIntyre
- February: *I Can't Complain: (All Too) Personal Essays* by Elinor Lipman
- March: *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

Monday Night Bookball

- January: *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig
- February: *Neither Here nor There ...* by Bill Bryson
- March: *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan

Third Tuesday of the Month Club

- January: *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East* by Sandy Tolan
- February: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate
- March: *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

Hot Chocolate – The Perfect Winter Beverage

By Gen Harrison-Dos

It is said that you can't buy happiness but you *can* buy chocolate. And one of chocolate's most delightful forms is hot chocolate. With the temperature low and the winter holidays on my mind, I set out to discover the best hot chocolate in our region's cafés and the most delectable DIY versions.

The Washington, DC, area is packed full of cafés and restaurants that offer a variety of hot chocolates. The first stop on my Hot Chocolate Tour was Dolcezza, located in northwest Washington and specializing in coffees, teas and gelato. The hot chocolate served at Dolcezza is from the brand Askinosie, described as a "single origin sipping chocolate." Dolcezza prepares it with whole milk only, so those who need or prefer non-dairy substitutes should skip this spot if they're craving hot chocolate. This beverage is served with no frills – no whipped cream or razzle dazzle – so it's all about the rich, deep chocolate flavor. The hot chocolate is velvety, strong and slightly bitter with a hint of spice, much like high-end dark chocolate. Askinosie single origin hot chocolate can also be purchased online for \$17.50 for a 170 gram container. Look under Baking and Beverages at <https://askinosie.com/collections/baking-chocolate>.

My next stop was in northeast Washington to visit Arcay Chocolates. Arcay is owned by Anabella Arcay, a Venezuelan Master Chocolatier. Her chocolate shop is a beautiful retail stall located in the La Cosecha Latin American marketplace. Anabella was working at Arcay when I visited and was very friendly. I was surprised to see that Arcay's hot chocolate comes from a machine and was curious how it would turn out. I



Arcay's Hot Chocolate Bombs

needn't have worried – the machine produced the smoothest, frothiest and most decadent hot chocolate I've ever had. The texture is thick and creamy, and like at Dolcezza, this hot cocoa is made with dairy. I saw the shop's "hot chocolate bombs" on Instagram, but due to the busyness of the holiday season, Anabella didn't have any on hand. I plan to return around Valentine's Day to experience one. If it's anything like its "normal" hot chocolate, it will be worth the journey. Arcay's hot chocolate bombs can also be purchased online for \$10 each at <https://www.arcaychocolates.com/>.

They'd make a delightful Valentine's Day present!

The next stop on my Hot Chocolate Tour took me back to Alexandria, to Kilwins in Old Town. While Kilwins is popular with families for its ice cream, fudge and cakes, the shop also serves hot chocolate. Kilwins hot chocolate is branded as "Shredded Drinking Chocolate" and is mixed in a machine. Made with semi-sweet dark chocolate, it has a charming, homemade taste and is topped with marshmallows.

The rich taste, combined with the marshmallows, immediately brought me back to my childhood. Like the other cafés I visited, Kilwins doesn't have a non-dairy hot chocolate option. You can purchase the hot chocolate mix online for \$21.99; look under Chocolates/More Favorites at <https://www.kilwins.com/shop/more-favorites>.

My final stop on the Hot Chocolate Tour brought me home to Cameron Station, where I prepared two inexpensive at-home hot cocoa mixes: one from Trader Joe's and one from Starbucks. Since I was off work for the holidays, I was keen to "booze up" my at-home versions and added a shot of Baileys to each. For toppings, I added Reddi-Whip "Sweet Foam," a frothy, less-sweet version of whipped cream. A dark chocolate and hazelnut rolled wafer and a dash of cinnamon



Hot Chocolate DIY at Home

completed my over-the-top DIY hot chocolate. Trader Joe's "Organic Hot Cocoa Mix" is made with dried milk in the mix so the directions suggested using water. Even with my many add-ons, this hot chocolate fell a bit flat for me. The flavor wasn't rich, and the texture was chalky, but with 10 packets in a box for less than \$3, it was good value for money. (I'll save the remaining nine packets for my son.) Starbucks' "Double Chocolate Hot Cocoa" contained no milk in the mix and so directed that milk (either dairy or non-dairy) be used. Within the cocoa mix were yummy bits of real dark chocolate, and this was the best at-home hot chocolate mix I'd ever had. The box contains eight packets and can be purchased from Starbucks and most grocers for around \$7. (Sorry kid, this one is just for Mom!)

Last but not least, don't forget that the Cameron Café has great hot chocolate, with varying flavor "adds" – even Bailey's!

My Hot Chocolate Tour

- Dolcezza
1704 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20009
- Arcay Chocolates
1280 Fourth St. NE
Washington, DC 20002
- Kilwins
212 King St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
- Cameron Café
4911 Brenman Park Dr.
Alexandria, VA 22304



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Cameron Cafe Hot
Chocolate



Carla's Picks

By Carla Besosa

Alden Theatre (McLean)

- Feb. 18 Les Ballets Trocadero de Monte Carlo
- Mar. 4 Unruly Theatre Project Improv Show
- Mar. 12, 13, 16 *Dorothy Meets Alice or The Wizard of Wonderland*

Arena Stage (DC)

- Jan. 21-Mar. 6 *Change Agent*
- Mar. 4-Apr. 17 *Catch Me If You Can*

Atlas Performing Arts Center (DC)

- Jan. 19-Feb. 13 Dear Mapel
- Jan. 27-Feb. 20 World Builders
- Mar. 20 Capital City Symphony: Birds & Cathedrals

The Barns at Wolf trap (Vienna)

- Feb. 11-12 1964 the Tribute
- Feb. 22-23 Mavis Staples

Bethesda Blues & Jazz Club (Bethesda)

- Mar. 20 Norman Brown

Birchmere (Arlandria)

- Feb. 22-23 David Sanborn

Blues Alley (Georgetown)

- Feb. 10-12, 14 Michael Lington & Paul Taylor
- Feb. 24-27 Kim Waters

Capital One Arena (DC)

- Feb. 9 Billie Eilish - Happier Than Ever/ The World Tour
- Feb. 17-21 Disney on Ice - Let's Celebrate
- Feb. 23 John Mayer
- Mar. 2 Dua Lipa - Future Nostalgia Tour
- Mar. 19 Harlem Globetrotters

Capital One Hall (Tysons)

- Feb. 13 Holst's The Planets
- Feb. 20 The Marshall Tucker Band 50th Anniversary Tour w/Dave Mason

- Mar. 11-13 *Fiddler on the Roof*
- Mar. 20 A Celebration of John Williams
- Mar. 28 National Philharmonic - *America's Requiem: A Knee on the Neck*

Dulles Expo Center (Chantilly)

- Feb. 18-20 International Gem & Jewelry Show
- Mar. 5-6 DC Big Flea & Antiques Market
- Mar. 25-27 Capital Art & Craft Festival

1st Stage (Tysons)

- Feb. 17-Mar. 6 *The Phlebotomist*

Ford's Theater (DC)

- Jan. 21-Feb. 23 *The Mountaintop*
- Mar. 18-May 14 *Grace*

Gala Theater (Adams Morgan)

- Feb. 3-27 *La Casa de la Laguna (The House on the Lagoon)*
- Mar. 12-26 *La Llamada de Sylvia Mendez: Separate is Never Equal*

George Mason Center for the Arts (GMU/Fairfax)

- Feb. 5-6 Virginia Opera: *Three Decembers*
- Feb. 11 NPHC Annual Step Show
- Feb. 12 Kristin Chenoweth
- Feb. 20 Pilobolus
- Feb. 26 Mark Morris Dance Group
- Feb. 27 Ladysmith Black Mambazo
- Mar. 12 Fairfax Symphony Orchestra - Evening of Brahms & Tchaikovsky
- Mar. 19 Sw!ng Out
- Mar. 25-26 Mason Dance Co. Gala Concert

Gunston Arts Center Theater (Arlington)

- Mar. 3-26 *Ada the Engine*
- Mar. 19-22 *Broadway Hit Parade*

Jammin' Java (Vienna)

- Feb. 5 Grateful Dead Night with On The Bus
- Feb. 12 Born Cross Eyed (The Grateful Dead Tribute)
- Feb. 19 Great Northern (Grateful Dead Tribute)

Kennedy Center (DC)

- Feb. 1-6 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
- Feb. 9-13 Washington Ballet - *Swan Lake*
- Feb. 22-Mar. 13 *Jesus Christ Superstar*
- Mar. 12-26 Washington National Opera - *Così Fan Tutte*
- Mar. 15-27 Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show

Little Theater of Alexandria (Old Town)

- Feb. 26-Mar. 19 *Blue Stockings*

MGM (National Harbor)

- Mar. 10 Boyz II Men
- Mar. 26 Joe Bonamassa

Mount Vernon (Alexandria)

- Feb. 1, Mar. 15, Apr. 5 National Symphony Orchestra

Roundhouse Theater (Bethesda)

- Feb. 25-27 *TikTok (A Period Piece)*

Signature Theater (Shirlington)

- Feb. 1-Mar. 20 Daphne's Drive
- Mar. 1-Apr. 24 *She Loves Me*

Source Theater (DC)

- Mar. 5-Apr. 5 *In Quarantine*

Studio Theater (DC)

- Dec. 26-Mar. 6 Flight
- Jan. 16-Feb. 20 *White Noise*

Synetic Theater (Crystal City)

- Feb. 21-Mar. 13 *The Servant of Two Masters*

Theater J (DC)

- Jan. 26-Feb. 20 *Compulsion or The House Behind*
- Mar. 16-Apr. 10 *Nathan the Wise*

Warner Theater (DC)

- Feb. 23 The Marshall Tucker Band

Woolly Mammoth (DC)

- Feb. 14-Mar 6 *Seven Methods of Killing* Kylie Jenner
- Mar. 28-Apr. 10 *Hi, Are You Single?*

Throughout this issue we offer ideas about places to go to dine and things to do this winter. Before you visit or attend such places or events, we suggest that you check with the establishment or event organizers regarding any Covid-19 restrictions, precautions or requirements they may have in place, including events held here at Cameron Station. Relevant Covid-19 protocols should be available on websites, in social media posts, through direct contact or in event advertising. You may check the official Covid-19 websites for the City of Alexandria at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/health/info/default.aspx?id=117876> and for Washington, DC, at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance> for further information on their restrictions and precautions.

And Another Thing...

(in my stream-of-consciousness order)

- **Mothership Pizza* - open at 209 Swamp Fox Rd.
- **America's Best Wings* - coming soon to Landmark Plaza.
- **Chewish Deli* - to open at 1640 King St. (formerly Dunkin Donuts).
- **KitchenCray* - replaced Walkers Grille at 6909 Metro Park Dr. #150.

Did You Know...

- *2021 Kennedy Center Honorees: Barry Gordy, Lorne Michaels, Bette Midler, Justino Diaz & Joni Mitchell.

*Local Trivia Options

- Courthaus Social*, Arlington, Wed. 7pm
- Auld Shebeen*, Fairfax, Tue. 7:30pm
- Highline RxR*, Arlington, Mon. 7pm
- Ireland's Four Courts*, Arlington, Tue. 7pm

*Best restaurant for patio heaters: *Glory Days Grill* in Alexandria Commons (overhead hefty heaters)

*The 2021 list of top restaurants in Northern Virginia includes three Alexandria venues: *Ada's on the River*, *Taverna Cretekou* and *Makeda Ethiopian*.

What Am I Listening to?

Bach's Christmas Oratorio



Happy New Year?

Convenient Happy Hours

By Carla Besosa, Cameron Station Foodie

"Live every hour like it's happy hour."
(Unknown)

The restaurant industry has struggled over the past couple of years as the pandemic has created many challenges. Many of the surviving establishments have elected to eliminate Happy Hour deals, trying to recoup lost revenue. Others have tweaked Happy Hours by reducing the length of time and/or the number of discounted items. In spite of all the revamping, there are still Happy Hour options nearby.

I'll share with you a few options that may not have occurred to you. These are not the trendy, froufrou places with crowds of patrons vying for position, but rather doable deals that you might consider exploring. These venues are all close by, have convenient parking lots and are not overcrowded.

Bonefish Grill has a classy feel and an inviting bar. In addition to bar seating, high-tops and booths are available. Happy Hour is daily 4-6:30pm. It offers \$1 off all draft beers, \$5 house wines and select mixed drinks for \$6. Pair your sips with some of the tasty appetizers. My favorites are the *Beef & Ginger Potstickers*, signature *Bang Bang Shrimp* and the *Imperial Dip* made with shrimp, crab, mozzarella and parmesan.



Bonefish Grill

5920 Kingstowne Town Center
Alexandria, VA 22315
703-971-3202

<https://locations.bonefishgrill.com/virginia/alexandria/5920-kingstowne-town-center>

Foxfire Grill is a long-time favorite of mine. It has been a prime "go to" spot during the pandemic, offering patio seating with heaters. I also love supporting the sole proprietors! Happy Hour is Monday-Friday, 3-6pm. House wines and select beers are \$4, and mixed drinks start at \$4. All appetizers, regularly \$13-\$16, are only \$9. It has lots of yummy options, but I usually gravitate toward the *Steamed Spiced Shrimp* or the *Shrimp Quesadillas*. Many of you rave about the *Seared Ahi Tuna*, the *Smokin' Wings* and the *Steamed Mussels*. All are served by a delightful and dedicated staff.

Foxfire Grill

6550 Little River Tpke
Alexandria, VA 22312
703-914-9280

<http://foxfire-grill.com/>



Bar UNO is the bar located in the Kingstowne **Pizzeria UNO**. I just recently discovered this Happy Hour deal, which is offered Monday-Friday, 4-7pm, and all day Sunday. Beers are \$3, well drinks are \$4 and wine is \$5. In addition, all appetizers are half-price. Options include *Shrimp & Crab Dip*, *Pesto Cheesy Garlic Bread*, *Buffalo Chicken Quesadilla* and *Spinach-Artichoke Dip*. Sit at the semicircular bar with TVs within view.

Bar UNO

5935 Kingstowne Center
Alexandria, VA 22315
703-822-0957

[Uno Pizzeria & Grill: Bar Uno Kingstowne, VA \(unos.com\)](#)

There you have it: a variety of experiences in close proximity. Avoid the Old Town crowds and give these a try. You skip the logistical challenges, and you can easily make a meal out of Happy Hour grazing!

Movie Review: “Tick, Tick ... Boom!”

By Rene Zimmer

This somewhat autobiographical tale explores the life of Jonathon Larsen, a young and gifted Broadway playwright, as he attempts to enter the impossible world of Broadway musicals in the 1990s. It is aptly told by Lin-Manuel Miranda in his movie directorial debut.

Jonathon is played by the hugely gifted actor, Andrew Garfield. This movie plots Jonathan’s slow rise (and frustrations) as he attempts to write music and lyrics ... and get them noticed by producers and directors. His personal life is in shambles as he becomes obsessed with writing a musical entitled “Superbia.” Jonathon has given himself until the age of 30 to “make it” on the Broadway stage. That deadline is close: the movie follows the arc beginning when he is six weeks away from his 30th.

As the movie opens, Larsen has worked on this musical for eight years. He has a theater workshop for “Superbia,” but there are no takers. The name “Tick, Tick ... Boom!” comes from the countdown to what will either become a massive success or a dismal failure in Jonathon’s eyes. He is crazed to the point of borderline insanity as he works tirelessly to find just the right song and lyrics. He has wonderful friends who support him during the process; however, his girlfriend leaves him to pursue her own career, and his best friend leaves the theater world for a higher paying traditional white-collar job.

Judith Light and Joshua Henry are among the outstanding performers in this tale. There are also amazing perfor-

mances of some of Jonathon’s earliest songs. The movie is a wonderful bird’s eye view of the stresses in the life of a budding playwright. The timely appearance of the Stephen Sondheim character shows what a supportive mentor he was for so many young talents coming up through the ranks. Sondheim is played by Bradley Whitford. In real life, Jonathon’s last work was the musical “Rent,” which won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony award. Tragically, he died at age 36 of a brain aneurism shortly before his masterpiece debuted on Broadway.

This is a great show for Broadway fans and anyone who enjoys watching the path of a genius at work. Its effects linger long after the movie is over. Andrew Garfield’s performance is so magnificent that I found myself asking, “Is there anything that Andrew Garfield cannot do?” He is surely in line for an Oscar nomination for his performance. I highly recommend checking this movie out. As of this writing you can find it either in cinemas or on Netflix.

Other recommendations:

* “Only Murders in the Building” – One-season series on Hulu with Steve Martin, Martin Short and Selena Gomez. It is a humorous murder mystery that will have you laughing constantly.

* “Dopesick” – Series on Amazon Prime with Michael Keaton that follows the trajectory of the opioid epidemic and the attempts to find Pharma liable for its impacts in the U.S.

(Winter Wildlife continued from page 18)

of frogs, including the much-sought but hard to find green tree frog. Raccoons are drawn to the trees in fall, seeking out and eating the ripening persimmon fruit. Their balancing acts and tree-climbing antics entice the photographers as dusk settles.

The best times to visit the park are between spring and fall, in either the early morning or late evening, although wildlife can be spotted throughout the day. The cool dew-filled mornings and early light create great conditions for capturing photographs of frogs. As dusk falls, the beaver will venture out to chew on the fresh green leaves along the water’s edge, offering unmatched close-up views.

Weekends are extremely busy, and parking is at a premium. The ability to spot wildlife is inversely proportional to the number of visitors (i.e., the more visitors and noise, the less likely wildlife will be within view).

Huntley Meadows Park has a great official website for more visitor information: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows>. It also has an unofficial Facebook page filled with daily photographs that let you know what is being sighted throughout the seasons: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofhuntleymeadowspark>.

Washington Street Church Preschool



Serving children 2 ½ to 5 years of age in a play-based learning environment.

Contact us about current openings and the 2022-2023 school year!

109 South Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
703-549-7931

preschool@wsumc.com

www.wsumc.com/preschool

Out and About - What's New in 2022

By Lenore Marema

This year's trends in food and drink may be driven all year by the continuing Covid-19 pandemic and the upending of the national supply chain.

Food: Heritage cooking is the big trend. Chefs and home cooks want flavors and tastes out of their comfort zones and are cooking foods with root (heritage) culture and history. It can be from their background or recipes from someone else's grandma. Norwegian, Filipino, Russian and South African cooking are popular.

Consumers are increasingly buying food products that deliver extra benefits. Items with probiotics or that boost immunity and heart health are moving off the shelves. New sunflower products are emerging, such as sunflower butter and cream cheese. Kernza and other ancient grains are found in everything from cereal to beer. Hershey's will soon offer chocolate milk with eight grams of protein per glass, with no artificial flavors.

Plant-based products are spreading, like the pumpkin spice products that appear every fall. "Uncanny" plant-based salmon, plant-based buffalo dip and vegan bacon are in the stores. "Reductarianism" is a new term for persons who like the vegan or vegetarian diet but want to eat meat occasionally. These consumers demand high-quality, grass-fed beef and buffalo bacon from restaurants and stores.

Frozen food is still being purchased in greater quantities than fresh foods, which reflects concerns about shortages.

With many working at home, the afternoon tea is expected to start coming back in 2022. That may also bring back many of grandma's elaborate cakes.

Spirits: Covid has chased many events outdoors. Sales of Ready-to-Drink (RTD), single-serve, portable and spirit-based cocktails are soaring. As one example, Fresca now sells canned alcoholic "Fresca Mixed," based on cocktails that consumers already make with the soda. Low alcohol wine seltzers also remain extremely popular. Celebrity brands of wine, tequila and other spirits are on the way out. Currently, champagne and whiskey are showing signs of



Vegan Meat (Getty Images)

shortages due to shipping issues. A word to the wise – stock up on your favorite spirits!

To date, wine drinkers cannot be weaned off glass bottles, so wine makers are moving to cut their carbon footprint by using recycled glass to make lighter bottles with natural corks and without aluminum on the top.

Restaurants: Look for streamlined menus as supplies are limited. Restaurants will be increasingly sourcing products readily available locally. There is more automation, such as touchless payment and robots, to help manage Covid and employment issues. Some restaurants may be open fewer days.

While pick-up for takeout and delivery are here to stay, there are more laws, plus consumer demand, for restaurants to use reusable and recyclable packaging for their orders. Some restaurants are constructing take-out windows or drive-through lanes for customers hesitant to eat indoors. Ghost kitchens, under which chefs/owners rent part of an existing kitchen for preparation of their take-out offerings, are multiplying. National chains, such as Chipotle and Wendy's, are opening locations that are pick-up only, without any indoor seating.



A Whole New World



Unusual Peace in Ben Brenman Park

The compass

200 Cameron Station Blvd.
Alexandria, VA 22304

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