

The ompass

The Official Publication of the Cameron Station Community Association

Volume 24 Issue 3 • September-October 2023

First Day of School at Samuel Tucker: Where Learning Never Takes a Break!

By Gen Harrison-Doss

At Cameron Station, we are so fortunate to have a wonderful year-round elementary school on our doorstep: Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School. Samuel Tucker is the only elementary school in the Alexandria City Public Schools that goes year 'round, and they operate on what's called a "modified calendar."

Rather than having a long, three-month summer break, Tucker's students have a six-week summer break with school ending in mid-June and starting back again in late July. Throughout the year, the more than 700 students at Tucker are able to join two intersessions in fall and spring. Each intercession is two weeks long and is designed to provide remediation and enrichment opportunities for students. Many day camps are available for those students who do not go to intercession, which is optional.

This year the first day of school for kindergarteners, called "Step Up to Kindergarten," was on July 25. The kiddos attended school for a half-day, to help build their confidence and get them familiar with their surroundings as they started school. The first through fifth grade students had their first day on July 26.

The Tigers at Tucker, their school mascot, are fortunate to have the "Tucker Affirmation," which they all learned the first week of school. The purpose of the affirmation is to help students believe in their own ability to achieve success academically. As the mother of a Tucker student, I love asking my son to recite this in the mornings, to help build his confidence as he heads out of the door.



Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Tucker Tigers on starting school this July!

**I Am Brave, Important
Capable, Smart,
Confident, and Unstoppable.
A Tiger Who Has Heart!**



Tucker was named in memory of Samuel Wilbert Tucker, a distinguished lawyer and civil rights activist who was born and raised in Alexandria. He played a pivotal role in the landmark civil rights case, *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*. In 1951, Tucker, alongside other courageous parents, filed a lawsuit demanding equal educational opportunities for African-American students. Their efforts ultimately led to the integration of public schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia.

Tucker's dedication to dismantling segregation and promoting equal access to education paved the way for future generations, leaving an indelible mark on our community's ongoing pursuit of justice and equality. With a namesake like that, it is no wonder the school's motto is "Tucker Elementary...A proud tradition, a great future."

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

Wednesday,
October 25, 2023

7pm

Victoria Hebert Great Room
and on Zoom

ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, November 6, 2023

7pm

Victoria Hebert Great Room
and on Zoom

Best of luck for the 2023-2024 school year, Tucker Tigers!

Address:

435 Ferdinand Day Drive, Alexandria, VA 22304

Phone Number:

703- 933-6300

Website:

<https://swt.acps.k12.va.us>

Email:

samueltucker@acps.k12.va.us

Principal:

Adaarema Kelly

ALIVE! and Volunteer Alexandria Celebrate Successful City-Wide Food Drive

By Mary Eileen Dixon

During the month of July, Volunteer Alexandria partnered up with ALIVE!* to host the first-ever city-wide food drive. With 38 different collection locations throughout the city, the drive was able to collect more than 33,511 pounds of food. All of the items collected were donated to ALIVE!'s food program to directly benefit members of the Alexandria community in need of food assistance. This food will support thousands of families in our local community and ensure that ALIVE! has the resources to continue being a safety net for neighbors in need.

Though the food drive was a success, the need for food assistance doesn't end. ALIVE! provides basic groceries to roughly 12,000-15,000 people each month, and seeks contributions throughout the year to help fight poverty and hunger throughout the City of Alexandria.

ALIVE! collects food donations at the ALIVE! Food Warehouse (801 South Payne St) on:
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 9am-4 pm
Thursdays: 9am-7pm
Saturdays: 9am-12noon



**About ALIVE!*

ALIVE! is the largest private safety net in the City of Alexandria dedicated to fighting poverty and hunger. ALIVE! was founded in 1969 as Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically by 14 faith communities in response to rising levels of poverty in the City of Alexandria. ALIVE! continues to serve the community through a network of 50 interfaith member congregations, extensive community organizations and government agencies, hundreds of individual volunteers and local businesses. ALIVE! serves thousands of households every month, providing food, transitional shelter, financial help, eviction prevention, furniture and housewares. To learn more, visit alive-inc.org.

14th Annual Operation Gobble Gobble – Community-Wide Thanksgiving Project

By Donna Kenley

Gobble Families, Cameron Station neighbors, businesses and philanthropic organizations:

Fall is here, and the Holiday Spirit is upon us. It is time to think about our Cameron Station community-wide Thanksgiving Project, Gobble Gobble 2023, whose goal is to provide 100 Samuel W. Tucker Elementary families with \$100 in grocery



gift certificates for Thanksgiving meals. **Last year, \$11,500 was raised for our Tucker families!**

Please look out for the Gobble Turkey in the October weekly Email blasts to get details about the start of our big event. I appreciate the hope that you provide to families who could use a little help...and hope...during the Holiday Season.

Thank you in advance.

About . . . *The Compass*

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

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

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

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

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

Editor-in-Chief: Gen Harrison-Doss.

Editorial Staff: Shannon Augustus, Carla Besosa, Mayu Molina Lehmann, Lenore Marema, Pat Sugrue and Gwen Toops

This Issue's Photographers: Ray Celeste, Gen Harrison-Doss, Pat Sugrue, Linda Taousakis and Sharon West

Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

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(boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org)

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events@cameronstation.org

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arc@cameronstation.org

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commonarea@cameronstation.org

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communications@cameronstation.org

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fac@cameronstation.org

Takis Taousakis - Chairperson

Activities & Events Committee

By Andy Yang

As summer has come to a close, here is a recap of events hosted by the Activities & Events Committee. Beginning with the smaller events, an Ice Cream Social was held in May, which featured two ice cream trucks serving complimentary ice cream novelties and a balloon artist as entertainment. In June, a shred truck provided free paper shredding service, ideal for clearing out tax forms or just spring cleaning in general. Thanks to Irina Babb for sponsoring these events. Also in June, the committee organized a wine tour, comprising trips to Barrel Oak and Aspen Dale wineries.

The annual Patriotic Parade was held on July 4. Starting near the far end of the Linear Park trail, dozens of Cameron Station residents made their way toward the main Cameron Station Circle gazebo. At the gazebo, residents were treated to Rocklands BBQ, "Bomb Pop" popsicles and refreshing lemonade. A variety of giveaways were also available, courtesy of the Podolsky Group.

Most recently, the committee launched its annual Pool Party. It featured Mission BBQ, refreshing beverages and ice cream novelties. For entertainment, a DJ put on some festive tunes, and a balloon artist and glitter tattoos were also available. It was a great day enjoyed by all. Thanks to the volunteers who helped make this event possible.

(Continued on page 4)



Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

(CAC continued from page 3)

The Activities & Events Committee is currently in the process of planning events for the fall and winter. Be on the lookout for the annual Halloween event and Holiday Party.

Architectural Review Committee

By Stephen Pearson

Just a quick reminder for homeowners regarding external projects. If your contractor says that they've worked in Cameron Station so often that they understand the permitting process, you should be wary. The ARC has heard many stories from homeowners who were told by their contractor that the work they are planning doesn't require an application. The ARC hears these stories during our monthly hearings while evaluating those homeowners' retroactive applications. Some contractors may also request that you place a sign advertising their business during construction or after the project is completed. These signs are not allowed by our Design & Maintenance Standards (DMS) and will result in a violation. If you are planning changes to the outside of your home, you should consult the DMS to see if those changes require an application. If you are unsure, please ask the on-site Covenants Administrator Brandon Throckmorton if your project requires an application (bthrockmorton@gocampmgmt.com).

The ARC strongly encourages homeowners to appear before the committee to discuss their applications and answer questions. No application is a "slam dunk." If you have a pending application, you should definitely attend the meeting. We are still meeting via Zoom so attending is easier than ever. If you did not receive a Zoom link to the meeting, check your spam folder or email Brandon to have the link resent. Always begin planning for your exterior modifications by consulting the DMS. Make sure your DMS edition says, "Effective September 16, 2021." All previous versions are now invalid. The forms you will need to submit (the Exterior Modification Application, Private Tree Replacement Application and approved color and shingle lists) along with the latest version of the DMS are located here: <https://cameronstation.org/our-neighborhood/board-committees/architectural-review-committee/covenants>.

Common Area Committee

By Don Williams

The Common Area Committee (CAC) is working on a major multi-year contract re-bid for the community landscaping, irrigation and snow removal contract that expires at the end of this year. Members have updated proposal requirements and worked closely with Management to

obtain bids and interview finalists. The committee provided its recommendation to the Cameron Station Board of Directors at the Board's August meeting.

The second phase of the community repaving project was successfully completed this July and August, bringing fresh, smooth pavement and pavement markings to streets owned by the Cameron Station Community Association. We anticipate completing the repaving project next summer, alongside the city's repaving of the streets it owns within Cameron Station.

This summer, the CAC once again completed monthly walks through the community to assess problem areas. Working with Management and Lancaster Landscaping, CAC addressed items raised by residents and identified through walk-throughs, including replacing declining trees, re-turfing common areas where the grass had thinned, repainting fire hydrants, pressure washing pergolas and addressing drainage and erosion problems.

The CAC has provided input to the updated reserve study to ensure that future common area needs are addressed. The committee is also undertaking a comprehensive budget analysis in order to address near-term needs in the common area budget.

Financial Advisory Committee

By Takis Taousakis

One of the responsibilities of the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) is to ensure the financial preparedness for Cameron Station that will allow the community to continue thriving for many years into the future. A significant, but sometimes overlooked, line item in the annual budget is the allocation for "Replacement Reserve" contributions.

State law requires homeowners' associations to retain an independent engineer to conduct a reserve study no less frequently than once every five years. Cameron Station is in the process of updating the financials of the 2021/2022 Reserve Study. The designated independent engineer is reviewing the projects completed in the last two to three years, as well as the annual inflation projections in order to update the cost part of the reserve study for major repairs or replacement within the next 40 years. These expected repair costs are organized into a year-by-year schedule for each element covering each of the next 40 years.

The final step of this effort is to develop a schedule of expected reserve contributions that demonstrate the ability to fully fund the scheduled projects each year for the next 40 years all while minimizing the year-to-year fluctuation in assessments and hopefully avoiding the need for any "special assessments."

Communications Committee

By Tricia Hemel

Summer has been a whirlwind for the Communications Committee and its dedicated subcommittees! We are delighted to announce that our community branding project is officially complete, and the revamped website is on track to launch by the end of this year. Get ready for a fresh online experience that truly reflects our vibrant community.

In addition, we've welcomed 106 new residents to Cameron Station this year! Our Welcome Subcommittee has been hard at work, ensuring that our newcomers feel right at home.

Have you seen the incredible photos of Cameron Station shared on our Instagram account and in our weekly Eblast? A big shoutout to all of you who have contributed your stunning snapshots! If you'd like to share your own, just visit the link in Friday's Eblast. And while you're at it, don't forget to follow us on social media. Find us on Facebook: @CameronStationCA and Instagram: @CameronStationCommunity. Show your love and support by hitting that like and follow button!

Don't forget our wonderful Newsletter Subcommittee. They've once again worked their magic to bring you a fresh edition of *The Compass*. And a big thanks to the Photography Subcommittee for capturing the people and events that make our community so special. *The Compass* is all about celebrating the positive stories, events and extraordinary neighbors that make our community shine. We hope you enjoy!

If you're feeling inspired and want to get involved in any of the exciting projects mentioned above, or if you have brilliant ideas for enhancing communication within our community, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at communications@cameronstation.org. Your support means the world to us as we strive to keep our community connected and well-informed.

Cameron Club Facilities Committee

By Ray Celeste

I want to thank all the lifeguards who guarded our pool this season. They worked diligently to ensure the safety of our residents. (They are pictured in this edition.) A special thanks to Ms. Jasmine Rabonjic, our pool manager, who worked tirelessly, 11 hours a day, overseeing the lifeguards and being the consummate professional.

Another highlight is that our scheduled classes continue to be well-attended and well-led. If you can make the time to try one of our classes, it might do you a world of good.

Lastly, I want to thank the Board of Directors, the CAMP Management Team and the Cameron Club Facilities Committee for making your fitness experience a worthwhile one. I would be remiss if I also did not note the incredible efforts of our fitness director, Psy Scott. His energy is boundless, and his expertise in the fitness field is noteworthy.

"Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live."
~Jim Rohn

Nominate Your Neighbor for the Mark Pillow Award

By Pat Sugrue

Those of us lucky enough to have known Mark Pillow, who passed away in 2005, remember him as a great friend and neighbor and a generous community volunteer, someone who embodied the spirit of Cameron Station and made it a better, brighter place to live.

In 2006, in memory of Mark and in honor of those who have followed in his footsteps, the Common Area Committee established "The Mark Pillow Community Spirit Award." The Board of Directors now manages the award and is asking for nominations. The award will be presented at the Annual Meeting on Monday, November 6, 2023.

Please think of your good neighbors and how they add to the quality of your life.

For example, there are those who help out the entire community – they volunteer on committees, lend a hand at community events, organize meetings and parties, serve on the Board, work on the Civic Association – Cameron Station could not function without these dedicated volunteers, many of whom toil year after year.

There are also those who help on a more personal level – they feed and walk your pets, water your plants, pick up your newspapers and mail, shovel your driveway, provide rides to doctors and airports. They offer the ordinary, essential,



day-to-day neighborliness that makes such a difference in our lives.

How can you thank these neighbors? Nominate them for the Pillow Award!

You may nominate as many neighbors as you wish, but **NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023 at 5pm**. Send their names and a description of their contributions to boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org. Then, please attend the Annual Meeting where the winner(s) will be announced. Their name(s) will be added to those of previous winners engraved on the award plaque in the Cameron Club.

Watchful Water Warriors: Thank You Lifeguards for a Summer of Safe Swimming!

By Gen Harrison-Doss

As the hottest summer in years blazed on and temperatures soared, our community's pool became a haven of laughter, relaxation and refreshing dips. Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of lifeguards, led by pool manager, Jasmine Rabonjic, ensured that every swimmer, young and young-at-heart, could enjoy the pool's crystal-clear waters with

peace of mind. Their professionalism, expertise and unwavering dedication were evident in every interaction with every resident. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to these remarkable individuals who ensured that our summer was truly one for the books—a summer of safe swimming that will be cherished for years to come!

Summer 2023's Lifeguards



- Ali Kucukozturk
 - Amari Graham
 - Davea Barrett
 - Garfield Rowe
 - Havilland Williams
 - Jahealiah Williams
 - Jasmine Rabonjic – Pool Manager
 - Jessie Freeman
 - Jonique Brown
 - Jovane Dowyne Whyte
 - Kris Dela Cruz
 - Leandra Johnson
 - Marijana Pavlovic
 - Max Zummo
 - Noah Champion
 - Olus Aktas
 - Rajh-Jean Allen
- Listed in alphabetical order*





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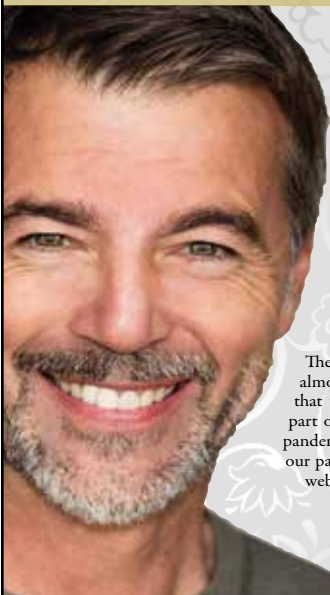
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Let's Get Together!

By Pat Sugrue

For more than 20 years, Cameron Station residents have had many opportunities to come together, some created by the Activities & Events Committee, some sponsored by our realtors and retailers and some hosted by neighbors themselves.

The November/December 2008 issue of *The Compass* included a list of activities and events for the first 10 years, from the early Cameron Station parties at Mango Mike's (now Aldi's on Duke) to the weekend-long 10th Anniversary celebration. We thought you might enjoy learning of some of the old events, plus some of the more recent ones, and maybe they will spark some ideas on how you and your neighbors can keep building community. If you would like to share your ideas, please send them to thecompass@cameronstation.org, and we will publish them in a future issue.

- Adopt-a-Family holiday gift program
- Block parties
- Book clubs
- Bowling parties
- Casino nights
- Children's movie nights
- Chili cook-offs
- Christmas caroling
- Cleaning the Brenman Park pond
- Clothing swaps
- Collecting for wounded US troops

- Easter Egg hunt
- Game nights
- Gourmet club
- Halloween parties
- Hayrides
- Holiday decoration competitions
- Happy Hours at Cameron Café and IndoChen
- Holiday dinners and parties
- Inauguration celebration
- International Fashion Show
- Martini Mondays



Reading Between the Wines Book Club Meeting.



Game Night at Cameron Café.



New Year's Celebration at London Curry House (now IndoChen).



Wine Wednesday at Cameron Café.

Movie Mavens
 National Night Out
 Oktoberfest
 Oscar Night party
 Pocket park parties
 Progressive dinners
 St. Patrick's Day parties
 Stroller Strides
 Super Bowl parties
 Toga parties
 Town Hall meetings
 Trivia nights
 Walking club
 Wine Wednesdays at Cameron Café
 Workout Parents
 Y2K party
 Yard sales



Ticer/Tull Pocket Park Party.

Various photos from get-togethers across Cameron Station throughout the years – may they inspire you to host one of your own!

Pumpkin Palooza: Deliciously Gourd-eous Fall Recipes

By Lenore Marema

It's Pumpkin Time

2 cups of shredded cheddar cheese (8 oz.)
 1/2 of an 8 oz. package cream cheese (soften)
 1/4 cup solid pack pumpkin
 1/4 cup pineapple preserves
 1/4 tsp ground allspice*
 1/4 tsp nutmeg*

Beat cheeses, pumpkin, preserves and spices in a bowl until smooth. Cover and refrigerate 2-3 hours until firm enough to shape.



Shape mixture into a round pumpkin, put it on a plate and score vertical lines with a table knife.

Use a pretzel for a stem. To make a jack o' lantern cut dark rye bread for eyes, red pepper for a nose and black olive slices for a moth.

Refrigerate until serving and serve with crackers



*This is an old recipe. You can substitute the spices with 1/2 tsp pumpkin spice.

Pumpkin Clementine Appetizers

Serve a healthy choice for parties or a party favors.

Get a bag of Mandarin oranges or clementines and peel them. Get rid of most of the skin still on the oranges/ clementines to let the orange shine. Slim Jims work for stems.



Carla's Picks

By Carla Besosa

ALEXANDRIA LIBRARIES

Oct. 14 Oddball Cinema:
Raw (2pm Duncan)
Oct. 21 Duncan Film Club: Breakfast Club
(2pm Duncan)
Oct. 29 Oddball Cinema: Return of the
Living Dead (2pm Duncan)
Nov. 16 Oddball Cinema: Fabulous World
of Jules Verne (5:30pm Beatley)
Nov. 18 Duncan Film Club: Blow Out
(2pm Duncan)

ARENA STAGE (DC)

Oct. 13-Nov. 12 *Potus*
Nov. 25-Dec. 30 *Swept Away*

ATLAS ARTS CENTER (DC)

Sept. 22-Oct. 15 *Scorched* - ExPats Theater
Oct. 26-Nov. 19 *Confederates* - Mosaic
Theater
Nov. 29-Dec. 17 *ISM II* - VOCA

BIRCHMERE (Arlandria)

Oct. 13-14 Jeffrey Osborne
Oct. 15 Ottmar Liebert
Oct. 24 The Zombies
Oct. 26-28 Mary Chapin Carpenter &
Shawn Colvin
Nov. 1 Tower of Power
Nov. 7 Damien Escobar
Nov. 8 Boney James
Nov. 10 Sheila E
Nov. 12 Jonathan Butler
Nov. 14 Keiko Matsui
Nov. 15 David Sanborn Jazz Quartet
Nov. 17-18 Paula Poundstone
Nov. 29 Three Dog Night
Nov. 30 A Peter White Christmas with
Mindi Adair & Vincent Ingala
Dec. 1 Postmodern Jukebox

BLUES ALLEY (Georgetown)

Nov. 2-5 Najee
Nov. 17-18 Joey Alexander
Nov. 24-26 Alex Bugnon

CAPITAL ONE ARENA (DC)

Oct. 14 Enrique Iglesias, Pitbull,
& Ricky Martin
Oct. 23 Depeche Mode
Dec. 3 Jonas Brothers

CAPITAL ONE HALL (Tysons)

Oct. 20-22 *Jesus Christ Superstar*

CREATIVE CAULDRON (Falls Church)

Oct. 5-20 *Monarch: A Mexican-American
Musical*

DULLES EXPO CENTER (Chantilly)

Oct. 28-29 Heritage India Festival
Nov. 4-5 D.C. Big Flea & Antiques Market
Nov. 10-12 Northern Virginia Christmas
Market

FESTIVALS

Oct. 14 City of Fairfax Fall Festival
Oct. 21-22 Fall Harvest Festival at
Mount Vernon
Oct. 29 Del Ray Halloween Parade

FIRST STAGE THEATER (Tysons)

Sept. 28-Oct. 15 *The Chosen*

GEORGE MASON CENTER FOR THE ARTS (Fairfax)

Oct. 20, 29 *9 to 5 The Musical*
(Harris Theater)
Oct. 20 Malpaso Dance Co.
Oct. 28 Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra with
Christian McBride
Nov. 3-4 Mason School of Dance - Fall:
New Dances
Nov. 11-12 Virginia Opera: *The Barber of
Seville* (Rossini)
Nov. 18 Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with
Renee Fleming Nov. 25 Chanticleer
Dec. 1-2 Mason School of Dance - Fall:
Dance Innovations

THE HAMILTON (DC)

Nov. 3 Nellie McKay
Nov. 6 Celebrating David Bowie (tribute)

JAMMIN JAVA (Vienna)

Oct. 13 Curtis Stigers
Oct. 20 Toby Lightman
Oct. 22 Best of the Lovin' Spoonfuls
Oct. 25 Lonesome Ace String Band
Nov. 5 Loudon Wainwright III
Dec. 1 Skip Castro Band

KENNEDY CENTER (DC)

Oct. 30 Simone Dinnerstein & Awadagin
Pratt

LAPORTA'S RESTAURANT (Alexandria)

Fridays: The Satin Doll Trio
Saturdays: Sharon Clark Trio

LITTLE THEATER OF ALEXANDRIA (Old Town)

Oct. 12 *The Laramie Project*
Oct. 21-Nov. 11 *Young Frankenstein*

LYCEUM (Old Town)

Oct. 30-31 *Poe in Alexandria*

MIRACLE THEATER (DC)

Nov. 8 Tina Arena

MOUNT VERNON (Alexandria)

Oct. 28 Trick-or-Treating at Mount Vernon
Nov. 24-25 Mount Vernon by Candlelight

NATIONAL THEATER (DC)

Oct. 10-15 *Mrs. Doubtfire*
Oct. 24-29 *The Wiz*

PROVIDENCE PLAYERS (Falls Church)

Oct. 13-28 *Deathtrap*

SIGNATURE THEATER (Shirlington)

Sept. 12-Oct. 22 *King of the Yees*
Oct. 24-Jan. 7 Ragtime
Nov. 7-19 *How Sweet it Is: The Men of Soul*

THE STATE THEATER (Falls Church)

Nov. 3 Mother's Little Helper (Rolling
Stones tribute)

ST. ELMO'S COFFEE PUB (Del Ray)

Oct. 29, Nov. 26 Janna Audrey

STRATHMORE MUSIC CENTER (Bethesda)

Oct. 13 Gipsy Kings
Oct. 19 Hiromi
Oct. 28 Piaf! The Show (tribute)
Nov. 11 Air Play
Nov. 17 Stephane Wrembel's Django New
Orleans

THEATER J (DC)

Oct. 11-Nov. 5 *The Chameleon*

WARNER THEATER (DC)

Oct. 20 Randy Rainbow for President
Oct. 26-29 Washington Ballet: *Such Sweet
Thunder*
Oct. 31 Pink Martini
Nov. 19 A Drag Queen Christmas

WOOLLY MAMMOTH (DC)

Nov. 13-Dec. 23 *Public Obscenities*

AND ANOTHER THING... RANDOM MUSINGS IN RANDOM ORDER

WHAT AM I LISTENING TO

(OR...TO WHAT AM I LISTENING)

Kandace Springs (my new discovery)

Soul Eyes

The Women Who Raised Me

Dave Koz

A New Day

Eric Darius

Unleashed

Candy Duffer

We Never Stop

Beth Hart

A Tribute to Led Zeppelin

OPEN TABLE'S TOP ALEXANDRIA PICKS

Del Ray Cafe, Bistro Sancerre, and Vaso's Kitchen

Meiza Blendery open on Clermont (off Eisenhower).

Crumb! Cookies open in Kingstowne.

Rosemarino D'Italia reopened in Del Ray.

Hotel AKA open in Old Town.

Josephine French Brasserie & Bar open in Old Town.

Gustave Boulangerie open in Del Ray.

Cafe Cortado (Foxchase) is adding savory crepes.

Lena's Loft changed theme to HAVANA 151.

Piece Out in Del Ray temporarily closed for renovation.

2 Jefes on Huntington Ave., STILL my pick for Tex-Mex.

Adopt-a-Family – It's a Cameron Station Holiday Tradition!

By Mindy Lyle

For the past 23 years, the Cameron Station Community has helped those less fortunate have a Merry Christmas through the "Adopt-a-Family" program. Neighbors have "adopted" hundreds of families from Samuel Tucker Elementary School, who without our help might not have any Christmas celebration at all.

With the changing economy, many families face challenges trying to make ends meet. Last year the needs of our families were overwhelming. Things that most of us take for granted – shoes that fit, socks and underwear – are on the wish lists of many Tucker families. We have also welcomed families from Afghanistan and Ukraine, and their needs are greater than ever.

Here's how Adopt-a-Family works:

In order for families to participate in this program, their needs are screened by the Social Worker and Principal at Tucker School. Lists of needs, some as basic as dishes, are compiled by the school, along with clothing sizes, shoe sizes and

special wish lists of toys, games and books for the children. These families can then be "adopted" by Cameron Station residents, as well as local businesses and organizations.

There are many ways to participate. Throughout the years, some streets have banded together; families have adopted another family; book clubs and other social groups divide a couple of families among their members; and one condo community adopted four families. Monetary donations and store gift cards are also welcome. A 501(c)3 has been established by Lenny Greenberg and Greenhill Companies (the owner of multiple West End properties) to accept monetary donations for Adopt-a-Family. These can be mailed to Greenhill's Pickett Place Community Foundation, 4901 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 200, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, Attn: Judy Cohen. Please put "Adopt-a-Family" in the subject line.

If you are interested in helping to continue this wonderful Christmas tradition, please email adopttuckerfamily@comcast.net. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Days to Celebrate

By Carla Besosa

Oct. 15 National Cheese Curd Day (Cheesetique: Fried Cheddar Curds in Beer Batter with Garlic Aioli)

Oct. 27 American Beer Day (Check out the new Mieza Blendery on Clermont, off Eisenhower.)

Nov. 2 Men Make Dinner Day (What...one day???)

Nov. 3 Sandwich Day (Current favorite: Herbalicious Grilled Cheese at Hops-n-Shine.)

Nov. 6 National Saxophone Day (Explore the highly acclaimed Chris Potter)

Nov. 12 Happy Hour Day (Support the West End:

IndoChen, City Kitchen, Shooter McGee's, Los Tios, La Casa, Glory Days Grill, Crafty Crab, Foxfire Grill, Clyde's, Taco Rock, Taco Bamba, Linjee, Akeno, Taqueria Picoso & Reynolds)

Nov. 16 National Button Day (My favorites: "Big Hair Frightens Me", "I'm the Grammarian About Whom Your Mother Warned You", & "Calvin, Fix Those Girls a Sandwich!")

Nov. 24 Evolution Day (Give it a shot; let's all try to evolve!)

Neighbors in the News

Celebrating the Extraordinary Talents and Endeavors of our Amazing Neighbors!

Neighbor's Original Musical Playing at Creative Cauldron

By Pat Sugrue

In the May/June 2022 issue of *The Compass*, neighbor Mayu Molina Lehmann was featured as the co-author, with her brother Alfonso Molina, of the musical *Monarch*. After a very successful premiere in Los Angeles that year, the play is now scheduled for October at Creative Cauldron, located in Falls Church.

Monarch tells the story of a father and his daughter, both Mexican immigrants, who find inspiration from the Monarch butterfly. As Mayu explained, "There aren't many musicals about Mexican-Americans in the US. Black and brown people work hard, but there's a lack of good, dignified representation...I wanted to represent Hispanics in a positive light and also highlight the social causes of undocumented immigrants and Dreamers."

The musical runs October 5-29, 2023. For more information: <https://www.creativecauldron.org/monarch.html>



Cameron Station is filled with interesting people doing interesting things. If you would like to be recognized in a future issue of The Compass, or if you have a neighbor you think deserves recognition, please email information to thecompass@cameronstation.org.

See a Problem in the Neighborhood?

Street light out? Sprinkler not working? Moss on brick sidewalks? Potholes in street? If Management doesn't know about a problem, they can't fix it. And not every problem occurs during office hours. If you see something that needs repair, call the Management Office at 703-567-4881 and be sure to give a complete description and exact location.



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Love, Laughter and Lotus Pose: Meet Local Entrepreneurs and Yogis

By Kathryn Olson

As a long-time Cameron Station resident and yogi, I was thrilled to come across neighbors Chris and Jarely Willis. They are entrepreneurs looking to manifest health, wellness and happiness throughout our beloved Alexandria. I had a quick interview with Chris, and I love what he and his wife Jarely have to say about their plans.

KO: How long have you lived in Cameron Station? What do you love about Cameron Station?

CW: I've lived here since 2018 and came to know the neighborhood because my parents were original owners in the neighborhood back in 2001. We love how vibrant and friendly Cameron Station residents are. As first-time homeowners, we have been incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by friendly and helpful neighbors. I grew up in Alexandria, so I have a very strong bond with the city as a whole. I've coached soccer at the Alexandria City High School for the past seven years.

KO: How did you meet?

CW: I'm good friends with Jarely's cousin, who introduced us. He was a groomsman in our wedding, and I'm fortunate enough to be returning the favor at his wedding in the Spring of 2024.

KO: How long have you been married?

CW: We're newlyweds! We got married on June 10, 2023, at Smith Mountain Lake (SML), where my parents currently live. Jarely wanted a location that was sentimental. As a Hokie, I was happy she agreed to SML over Chapel Hill... kidding!

KO: Can you tell me about your pets?

CW: We both came into our relationship with our own dogs and as first-time dog parents. We had Zeus the Doberman and Brody the Golden-doodle. You can guess who had which dog, but Jarely easily won over Zeus, and he ultimately became the favorite. Unfortunately, Zeus passed away last month just a few weeks before his 6th birthday. It has been hard for us, but we've learned to be grateful for the time we had with him. He was a true ambassador for the breed, and showed everyone he met how special Dobermans truly are. We loved him very much.



Cameron Station residents, and yoga studio owners, Chris and Jarely Willis and their pups, Zeus and Brody.



KO: Why did you decide to open a YogaSix? Why YogaSix rather than so many other options? Is this part of what made you want to open your own inclusive studio?

CW: I got injured playing college soccer, which saddled me with constant neck and back pain, along with frequent migraine headaches. All of the health care professionals that I worked with over the years recommended yoga as a way to relieve my symptoms and help me live a more comfortable life. Often more intense or resistance-oriented workouts were only aggravating my discomfort. My bride Jarely started running recreationally during her undergrad at Chapel Hill and sees the benefits from yoga for faster recovery, injury prevention and overall performance improvement. We both liked how inclusive Y6 is with their approach to people not familiar or comfortable with yoga. It feels more like a regular part of a healthy lifestyle and fitness routine, contributing to both your mental and physical health.

KO: How do you envision the trajectory of YogaSix?

CW: Since I've grown up in Alexandria, it's very important to us to be contributing and active members of the community. With three studios in Alexandria, we hope to employ as many as 75 Alexandrians at any given time, so we're really grateful to be in a position to do this. We also feel passionate about the benefits of being healthy and taking care of your body. We hope to influence as many Alexandrians as we can to seek all the benefits yoga offers.

KO: What are your grand opening plans for October?

CW: The grand opening will be in October, with Founding Members getting early access around the middle of the month. We're planning to have a ribbon cutting with the Alexandria Chamber and offer free classes the entire first week to help us meet our neighbors.

For more information, visit www.yogasix.com/location/south-alexandria.

Neighbors in the News: The Peacemakers Eddie Dickerson & Jackie Wright

By Carla Besosa

Peacemakers: Those who are friendly, loyal, steady and appreciate unity.

That well defines our lovely and talented neighbors Eddie Dickerson and Jackie Wright, known musically as “The Peacemakers.”

Our paths first crossed in Cameron Café, where they performed on a *Wine Wednesday*. The coffee shop was full of neighbors gathering to enjoy their unique brand of music. With Jackie on guitar and vocals and Eddie on guitar, violin and vocals, The Peacemakers share their renditions of world music and modern folk tunes, both covers and originals. They create a harmony only obtainable by musicians with a true connection. Their connection is not just with one another, but with the entire audience. The talent and warmth generated by Eddie and Jackie is inspiring. Their musical stylings, including signature tempo changes, blue notes and crunchy chords, are captivating, and the Cameron Station fan base continues to expand.

Eddie (from Bealeton, Virginia) and Jackie (from Vienna, Virginia) met online. The musical link was serendipitous. They made Cameron Station their home in July 2021. Their “day jobs” keep them busy, each working with a local Methodist Church. Jackie is a Social Justice Program Manager and Eddie is an Assistant Worship Leader. On their own time, they play festivals, coffee shops and house concerts. You can view their schedule on their website: www.thepeacemakersmusic.com. They’re also on Spotify, Instagram and Facebook.

The Peacemakers fully enjoy playing at Cameron Cafe. They view the coffee shop as the community hub and the heartbeat of Cameron Station. They told me it feels like their home away from home. The Peacemakers’ message to Cameron Station neighbors is about building community and coming together. Their message to the world: “Be just, be kind, be humble and come together!”

Eddie and Jackie are a welcome addition to Cameron Station – wonderful human beings making beautiful music for us all!



Cameron Station residents, Eddie Dickerson and Jackie Wright, known musically as “The Peacemakers, and their enthusiastic interviewer and fellow CS resident, Carla Besosa.

Join the Club!

Or start one! In our last issue we encouraged you to share your special interests or talents with like-minded neighbors by providing your information to *The Compass* so we could help you connect.

We heard back from a few neighbors, and their information is below. But we're sure other interests are out there, too... Bicycling? Canasta? Going to the movies? Knitting? Sewing? Bird watching?...the list is endless!



Just send your name and contact information to thecompass@cameronstation.org, and we will include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

Bridge:

Liz Trotter

5136 Brawner Place
lwtr03@gmail.com

774-563-9480

Mah-Jongg:

Liz Trotter

5136 Brawner Place
lwtr03@gmail.com

774-563-9480

Scrabble:

Carlisle Bean

400 Cameron Sta. Blvd.
#119

csbean29@me.com

703-851-3130

Jigsaw Puzzles:

Carlisle Bean

400 Cameron Sta. Blvd.
#119

Csbean29@me.com

703-851-3130

Morning Power Walking:

Jean Conley

4920 John Ticer Drive
jeanconley@yahoo.com

714-388-5033



Cameron Station Book Clubs

Reading Between the Wines

September – *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin

October – *A Children's Bible* by Lidia Millet

Taco Tuesday Takeover!

By Shannon Augustus

Alexandria has a plethora of taco restaurants, but I'm sharing a couple of my favorites that are near Cameron Station:

Taqueria Picoso - Shops at Mark Center, 1472 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311. Located a short drive from Cameron Station, Taqueria Picoso has a variety of street-inspired taco options, including al pastor, suadero and lengua. They also make their tortilla and salsa from scratch!

Taco Bamba - (multiple locations). The closest to Cameron Station is 6259 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria, VA 22312. I love coming here when I'm in the mood for "fun" tacos! Taco Bamba has a variety of tacos, including traditional-style tacos as well as chef-inspired tacos like "the jeneral," which is a taco filled with seared ahi tuna, sesame salsa macha, pickled ginger slaw, guacamole, esquites sauce and Fuego Taki furikake.

Taco Rock - (multiple locations). The closest to Cameron Station is 6550 Little River Turnpike, Space 50, Alexandria, VA



Tacos from Taqueria Picoso – a fiesta for your taste buds!

22312. If you're in the mood for "tacos with attitude," Taco Rock is your place. Also, it is a good spot to check out if you're grocery shopping at nearby Lidl. Taco Rock has a variety of gourmet tacos with a fun rock star theme. Also, if you're a fan of blue corn tortillas, this is the right spot for you.

Autumn's All-Stars: Young athletes chase victory and enjoy the thrill of the game amidst the various parks and recreational facilities around Cameron Station.



Do You Have an Hour a Week to Help a Child Learn to Read?



The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium (ATC) seeks volunteers to tutor Alexandria City Public Schools K-2 struggling readers. ATC provides training, weekly materials and ongoing support. Volunteers commit to working with a student in 30-minute sessions, **once or twice a week during the school day** (8am-2:25pm), October-May.

Tutoring occurs in-person in the schools. It is important to honor the year-long commitment because you really do become a Book Buddy, and your student will look forward to seeing you each week. This program is available to all, without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity or expression, political affiliation, marital or parent status, genetic information or military service. Tutors age 55+ have the opportunity to serve concurrently as AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers.

For more information contact Lisa Jacobs at ljacobs@alexandriatutors.org or go to <https://alexandriatutors.org/tutors/sign-up-to-become-a-tutor/>. Tutor a child – change two lives.

Note: A number of Cameron Station neighbors are already ATC tutors in several schools. If you would like to hear about a first-hand experience, please contact neighbor Diana Jarrett at dfjarrett@aol.com.

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.

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