

# The ompass

The Official Publication of the Cameron Station Community Association

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## Think Spring and Being a Pride of Ownership Winner

By Linda Greenberg

The spring equinox is March 20, 2021! From then on, the days get longer, the buds swell on trees and bushes, and you can begin to plan in earnest the spring and summer greenery and colorful flowers that will decorate your front garden area.

What fun! My imagination seems unchecked, but then I remember that the heat was not kind to certain new flowers I tried last year. So, while it's fun to be creative, it's also wise to carefully read a new plant's instructions to make sure you will be happy with its appearance the entire summer.

The weeks ahead will also provide ample time to trim unruly bushes, weed and plan which plants to replace or replant in your front garden in preparation for entering the annual **Pride of Ownership contest, which is judged in mid-May. (Note: the deadline for submission is Friday, May 7.)** You might visit a few nurseries and see what new plants or traditional favorites will be available this spring. Or, if a neighbor's garden was a delight to see and looked inviting the entire summer, ask about those plants.

Maintaining and beautifying each home helps beautify all of Cameron Station and enhances the community's overall visual appeal, as well as its residential value. You can nominate your own home, that of your neighbor or both.



Judging considers the overall attractiveness of the residence, condition of grass or mulch and plants and creativity of the plantings. Award categories are single family home, corner townhome, townhome and condominium.

Send nominations by Friday, **May 7**, to [commonarea@cameronstation.org](mailto:commonarea@cameronstation.org). Judging will take place soon after, and winners receive a generous prize. If you are interested in contributing to the prizes for the winners, please send an email to the above address.

Thanks to all for your participation and enthusiasm.



Russian Double Peonies



Knock Out Roses

# Cheers and Thanks to Our Cameron Station Retailers

It's been a difficult year, but our retailers are still here for us! Let's show our appreciation and gratitude by continuing to support them, as we work our way back to more normal times.



Pawsh Dog Wash



Cameron Station Dental Care



Cameron Station Dry Cleaners



Bright Start Learning Center, LLC



IndoChen

## 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](mailto:TheCompass@cameronstation.org).

Previous issues of *The Compass* are available online at [www.cameronstation.org](http://www.cameronstation.org).

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

**Editor-in-Chief:** Marian Cavanagh

**Editorial Staff:** Carla Besosa, Eliza Dolin, Lily Engle, Scott E.Z. Franklin, Mayu Molina Lehmann, Lenore Marema, Pat Sugrue and Rene Zimmer

**This Issue's Photographers:** Ray Celeste, Brooke Davis, Elizabeth Dranitzke, Linda Greenberg, Ian Grove, Mayu Molina Lehmann, Sherri Malik, Lenore Marema, Bradley Olson, Psy Scott, Tom Styc and Rene Zimmer

# Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

([boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org))

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([events@cameronstation.org](mailto:events@cameronstation.org))

Andrew Yang - Chairperson

### ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

([arc@cameronstation.org](mailto:arc@cameronstation.org))

Stephen Pearson - Chairperson

### CAMERON CLUB FACILITIES COMMITTEE

([facilities@cameronstation.org](mailto:facilities@cameronstation.org))

Ray Celeste, Jr. - Chairperson

### COMMON AREA COMMITTEE

([commonarea@cameronstation.org](mailto:commonarea@cameronstation.org))

Robert Burns - Chairperson

### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

([communications@cameronstation.org](mailto:communications@cameronstation.org))

Tricia Hemel - Chairperson

### FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

([fac@cameronstation.org](mailto:fac@cameronstation.org))

Takis Taousakis - Chairperson

## From the Board of Directors

By Sarah Meyer Walsh, Board President

With the turn of the year and continued distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine, it's beginning to feel like there's a light at the end of the tunnel! While we have persevered through these unique times in different ways, I've been encouraged and inspired by so many stories of neighbors helping neighbors in this fantastic community we all call home.

It was a busy winter for the Cameron Station Community Association Board of Directors as we negotiated a new contract with both ProFit, our fitness facility management company, and American Pools after the Cameron Club Facilities Committee completed its Request for Proposal process and ultimately presented the recommendation that Cameron Station continue to contract with both of our current vendors.

Along with CAMP (Community Association Management Professionals), the Board has worked to move several motions made at previous meetings and convert them into resolutions, which serve as the governing documents for our Association. When a motion is passed by the Board, it becomes policy, but if these motions are not formalized as resolutions, it can be challenging for the management company and our residents to locate these documents. The most recent Board resolutions included the Liaison, Meeting Access and Communications Policy resolutions. Residents can locate these documents by logging into the CAMP Ciranet system portal at <http://www.ciranet.com/ResidentPortal/user/login?returnUrl=%2Fhome>.

Spring is on the horizon, and with the warmer weather, I'm looking forward to starting a monthly "Sangria with Sarah" at the various pocket parks in Cameron Station. I supply Sarah Walsh

the libations for these gatherings...you just need to bring your own chair for social distancing. Stay tuned for the April date and location. I hope you stop by in future to say hello and share any comments, concerns or questions you have about our community. I am honored to serve as the President of the Board this year and incredibly proud to work with our volunteers as we continue to make Cameron Station a wonderful place to live! I hope to see you out and about soon.



Contact Sarah at [president@cameronstation.org](mailto:president@cameronstation.org).

## 2021 RESIDENT BADGES

Every resident should have received in the mail 2021 stickers for ID badges, facilities passes and visitor parking passes. If you need additional stickers or passes, please contact [admin@cameronstation.org](mailto:admin@cameronstation.org).

# Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

## Activities & Events Planning Committee

By Andy Yang

The Cameron Station Community Association Activities and Events Planning Committee didn't hold any events in January or February, but resumed events in March, starting with a St. Patrick's Day themed Trivia Night on Wednesday, March 17, via Zoom. Prizes in the form of restaurant gift cards were awarded to the top three participants.

The Egg Hunt, or Spring Eggstravaganza, will be brought back in April. Stay tuned for details.

Finally, the Spring Yard Sale will be held in combination with free shredding services on Saturday, April 17. This will be a good opportunity to do some spring cleaning.

That's all for now! Expect more events in the future as things slowly return to "normal."

## Architectural Review Committee

By Stephen Pearson

If you are making any changes to your home that can be seen from the outside of the house, you will likely need to submit those proposed changes to the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) for approval **before** beginning construction.

A few examples of these improvements include landscaping changes, painting part of your home, repair/reconstruction to your fence or deck, replacing your roof, replacing your windows, installing a storm door or installing security cameras.

*Always begin your planning by consulting the Design and Maintenance Standards (DMS).* If the improvements you're considering come close to your property line, the DMS requires that applications to the ARC include a site survey/plat describing the boundaries of your property. A plat is usually included with your deed at settlement



when you purchase your property. The forms necessary to submit an Exterior Modification Application or a Private Tree Replacement Application, along with the latest version of the DMS, are located here: [camerestation.org/our-neighborhood/hoa-services-fees/covenants](http://camerestation.org/our-neighborhood/hoa-services-fees/covenants). If you have any questions about the process or which changes require an application, contact the Committee at [Arc@camerestation.org](mailto:Arc@camerestation.org).

## Common Area Committee

By Kathy McCollom



The Common Area Committee (CAC) continues to review proposals/contracts for several new projects.

The Committee recommended a contract to power wash the brick wall along Duke Street and the Cameron Club. The company will be sensitive to water drainage requirements in storm sewers and the more fragile condition of older bricks.

Spring turf repair will be done in pocket parks, with remediated areas taped off to protect new grass growth. Please stay out of the areas until the tape is removed.

Brick sidewalk repairs are ongoing. If residents see any sections that have become uneven trip hazards, please report them to the management office.

The John Ticer pocket park will be fully restored this year with new plants and a complete redesign. (The gazebo repair resulted in the removal of many plants so equipment could access the work area.)

CAC members will once again judge community Pride of Ownership awards this May. Summer walk-throughs to inspect common areas will be done from May through September. (See "Think Spring" article on page 1.)

Residents with outdoor fire pits are still dumping ashes in mulched common areas. If ashes are too hot for your own trash can, they can also start a fire in a mulched area. Put ashes in a metal container, wet them to be absolutely sure they are cool, and then they can go out with your regular trash.

## Communications Committee

By Tricia Hemel

2021 has been busy for the Communications Committee (ComCom) and Subcommittees. So far in 2021, the Welcome Subcommittee has welcomed 25 new residents to Cameron Station. The Photography Subcommittee was officially formed in January and has 10 volunteers taking beautiful photos of our neighborhood that have been featured in the weekly e-blast as well as *The Compass*. Members of ComCom have also continued to work with management to make the e-blast easier to read. And, of course, the Newsletter Subcommittee has worked hard to create the January-February issue of *The Compass*, as well as this one – which you are reading right now, most likely digitally.

ComCom has even more projects planned in 2021, including launching the official Cameron Station Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages. We are also working to update our website to make it easier to read and mobile-friendly. It will continue to be a very busy year for the Communications Committee and, as always, help from our neighbors is welcome.

If you are interested in any of the projects mentioned or if you have ideas on what the Communications Committee could tackle that would help Cameron Station, please contact us at [communications@cameronstation.org](mailto:communications@cameronstation.org). Thank you!

## Cameron Club Facilities Committee

By Ray Celeste

I want to thank our residents for their cooperation and patience in complying with all the pandemic protocols and utilizing our facilities reservation system. This period has been unprecedented, and we are operating in extraordinary times, so many, many thanks to all of you!

Our new basketball court has been installed. Thanks are in order for two of our outstanding installers, Daniel Ordonez and Adan Rodriguez. Their professionalism in making

it happen as quickly and properly as possible is much appreciated. Thanks also go Enrique Villalobos, a long-time Fitness Center staff member who has been with us for well over a decade. Thank you, Enrique!

Lastly, gratitude is also in order for our Assistant Community Manager, Janeva Sharps, who played a major administrative role in the solicitation and selection of the basketball court contractor. Thank you, Janeva!

Our facility and classes have a lot to offer our residents and are a major amenity for our community. Your health and welfare mean a great deal to us, which is why we devote so much of our time to making fitness a safe and pleasant experience for all of you. Please come out, time permitting, to use our Fitness Center, take a class or use our new basketball court.

We are here for YOU and your beloved families! Remember, "The only bad workout is the one you did not do!"

## Financial Advisory Committee

By Takis Taousakis

Members of Cameron Station Community Association have several methods available for making the required quarterly assessment payments in addition to using the coupon provided and sending a check.

- ACH Payment – registering to allow the Association to debit the account of your choice, on or around the second business day of each quarter, for the assessment payment due. Participating in this program reduces the probability of any late fees being assessed to an account. There is no charge for this service.

- E Check – self-directed through the portal provided by Community Association Management Professionals (CAMP), an owner may authorize an electronic check, on the date of their choice, for the payment of their assessment fees. If made in a timely manner, this payment method will ensure that no late fees are assessed to the account. There is no charge for this service.

- Credit Card Payment – self-directed through the portal provided by CAMP, an owner may authorize a payment using a credit card, on the date of their choice, for the payment of their respective assessment fees. If made in a timely manner, this payment method will ensure that no late fees are assessed to the account. There is a charge for this service imposed by the bank processing this transaction.

Enrolling and using one of these services allows peace of mind in knowing your payment is being made on time and eliminates any possibilities of postal service delays.



(l-r) Enrique Villalobos, Adan Rodriguez and Daniel Ordonez work on the new basketball court.

# Community Management

## **Cameron Station Community Association Community Association Management Professionals (CAMP)**

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

After-Hours Emergency: 703-821-2267

**Jennifer Gilmore, General Manager**

*jjgilmore@gocampmgmt.com*

**Janeva Sharps, Assistant Community Manager**

*jsharps@gocampmgmt.com*

**Bethlehem (Mimi) Kebede, Covenants Administrator**

*bkebede@gocampmgmt.com*

**Juana Michel, Administrative Assistant**

*jmichel@gocampmgmt.com*

**Mark Bondurant, Maintenance**

*mbondurant@gocampmgmt.com*

**Psy Scott, Fitness Director, Cameron Club Fitness Center**

*cameronclubfitness@gmail.com 703-567-8555*

# Condominium Management

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

**Angela Luker, Community Manager**

*angela.luker@fsresidential.com 703-751-5002*

After-Hours Emergency: 703-385-1133

Corporate Phone: 703-385-1133

## **Carlton Place Condominium**

**Abaris Realty**

**Dany Abebe, Property Manager**

*dabebe@abarisrealty.com 301-468-8919*

**Lawan Trent, Administrative Assistant**

*ltrent@abarisrealty.com 301-468-8919*

After-Hours Emergency: 301-468-8919

## **Condos at Cameron Station Boulevard Oakland Hall Condominium**

**Community Management Corporation (CMC)**

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

**Gita Lainez, Portfolio Manager**

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

**Brittany Byrd, Assistant Community Manager**

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

## **Main Street Condominium**

**GHA Community Management**

**John Lyons, Property Manager**

*jlyons@ghacm.com 703-752-8300 ext. 706*

**Lauren Gentry, Administrative Assistant**

*lgentry@ghacm.com 703-752-8300 ext. 716*

After-Hours Emergency: 888-660-7132

## **Woodland Hall Condominium**

**Richter Management**

**Steve Richter, Community Manager**

*steve@richtermanagement.com 703-503-1234*

After-Hours Emergency: 703-624-9591

# H<sub>2</sub>O To Go!

*By Psy Scott*

We'd like to welcome a new water fountain to the Cameron Fitness Center. If you haven't had the time to pay it a visit, please do so! Some of you might have passed right by without noticing. The fountain includes bottle service for those of you who love to bring your sports bottles. If you're not a frequent user of the gym but would like to fill up as you go on your daily walks or runs, stop by for a spell and top off for the journey. It's conveniently located on the side of the gym with the swing door. We hope you enjoy it, and we look forward to seeing you!



## **Classified Ad**

It's not too late to **REFINANCE YOUR MORTGAGE**. Interest rates are still exceptionally low and savings can be substantial. Some options are to lower your payment, change the term/length of the mortgage, consolidate debt, or change from an ARM to a fixed rate mortgage. Contact this experienced loan officer for a free consultation. Rita Povich, Fairway Asset Corporation, NMLS License #322033 *rpovich@facloan.com (703) 819-7372 (cell)*.

# Civic Association Meeting: Legislative, Covid-19 and Public School Updates

By Janis Timberlake

The last general membership meeting of the Cameron Station Civic Association was held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, February 3. There was a very good turnout, and we had three great speakers who joined us for updates on the Virginia legislative session, what is happening in Alexandria with respect to Covid-19 and The High School Project.

## Virginia Legislative Update

Charniele Herring, who represents the 46<sup>th</sup> District (Fairfax and Alexandria) in the Virginia House of Delegates and is the first Black female house majority member, gave a brief overview of the important issues she is working on related to the Commonwealth and the West End of Alexandria, including the following:

- A Covid-19 vaccine bill to support needed policy changes to increase access to Covid vaccines across the state.
- A bill to address the increase in maternal deaths among Black women.
- A bill to bring help for opioid addiction and support for addiction prevention.
- The development of a protective policy framework around recreational marijuana legalization (medical marijuana is legal in Virginia).
- The expunging of certain misdemeanors from individuals' records to support a clean record.
- Support of the STEM Education Advisory Board to help ensure a pipeline of qualified workers over the long term.

## Alexandria Health Department Covid Update

Natalie Talis, Population Health Manager for Alexandria Health Department, gave the latest update on Covid and, in particular, the city's vaccine rollout. Given the limited supply of vaccines available and based on guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control, the city is using a phased approach. To get the vaccine, according to Ms. Talis, residents should preregister and wait for a call or email that will schedule their appointment.

Ms. Talis explained that the Alexandria Department of Health has placed an important focus on reaching non-English speakers, communities of color and seniors without technology or transportation access through direct outreach or partnering with local organizations to ensure these populations are not left behind. For more information on the city's phased rollout of the vaccine, vaccine preregistration and many other important updates, go to <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus>.

## The High School Project Update

Dawud Abdur-Rahman, Project Director for Aerotek, gave a comprehensive presentation on the predesign

phase for what is known as "The High School Project" of the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). While this presentation was primarily focused on the Minnie Howard Campus, conceptually it is part of a broader vision of a connected network of high school campuses, of which Minnie Howard is an integral part.

Alexandria has the challenge of very limited real estate; therefore, when considering any new development projects on city public school property, the city asks sponsors of such projects to evaluate the feasibility of co-locating them with other services. While the co-location of schools with affordable housing was acknowledged as being highly contentious based on comments received from the public, there are several other potential co-location possibilities in addition to the affordable housing consideration. These could potentially include the following:

- Administrative functions for city and ACPS offices;
- Alexandria Health Department Teen Wellness Center;
- Department of Community and Human Services, Early Childhood Learning Center or shared-use spaces for the following:
  - Outreach Benefit Programs;
  - Workforce Development in Schools;
  - Youth Development;
  - Children and Youth Master Plan;
  - Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault;
  - Child and Family Behavior Health Services.
- Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities shared use of fields, gymnasium and pool facilities.

Key planning assumptions and considerations are that the school program is the number one priority so that there is no net loss of athletic fields/public open space, there is flexibility with zoning and height, there is underground parking and whatever is planned can accommodate current classroom deficits.

For more information, including proposed co-location plans, visit <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/hsproject>.

A lot is happening around Cameron Station here in the West End. Get involved now in order to know what changes are coming. **Please also join us at the next virtual general membership meeting on Wednesday, May 5.** All Cameron Station residents and business owners are welcome to attend our membership meetings.

If you are interested in being a part of the Civic Association, please email Sash Impastato at [aimpastato54@gmail.com](mailto:aimpastato54@gmail.com). Annual membership dues are only \$10 per household.

# CS Neighbor Takes Us on a Trip to Africa

By Mayu Molina Lehmann

Our neighbor Kathryn Payne-Olson has authored the book *"In a Mozambique Minute,"* a welcome escape in these times of isolation and restricted travel.

"When I tell people that I lived in Africa, they want to hear more," she recently told me over Zoom. "Many people have the dream of visiting, so I wanted to share my experiences." That was the starting point of Kathryn's second memoir, a light-hearted yet somewhat disturbing account of her three years on the continent.

Kathryn was a successful software executive in Seattle when she met her husband, a U.S. Army Foreign Area Officer waiting for a new posting. In less than a year, she left her upscale lifestyle to move halfway across the world to a country she had never heard of: Côte D'Ivoire.

Upon arrival in the capital city, Abidjan, she became a keen observer of her new surroundings, analyzing the movements and routines of the people in the streets. A couple of months in, she realized local residents had changed their routines and began moving in a more deliberate, organized fashion, "like a school of fish in water." She knew something was about to happen. One week later, a coup toppled the Ivorian government, forcing her and her husband to relocate to Mozambique, the third poorest country in the world at the time.



Kathryn Payne-Olson's second memoir is entitled "In a Mozambique Minute."

Once again, she packed her clothes and moved, this time to Maputo, without a clear understanding of what she would find. The book recounts the collision of two worlds in laugh-out-loud moments, such as when she had to resort to body language to communicate with her housekeeper or when she realized her home cook only knew how to make French fries.

There are endearing accounts of good intentions failing to come through in the African context. For example, she brought American candy to give to the local children, expecting them to be delighted. But as soon as they put it in their mouths, their faces turned to disgust, as they were unaccustomed to processed sugar. The same happened when she gifted them with balloons, only to see them run away in fright as she blew one up in front of them.

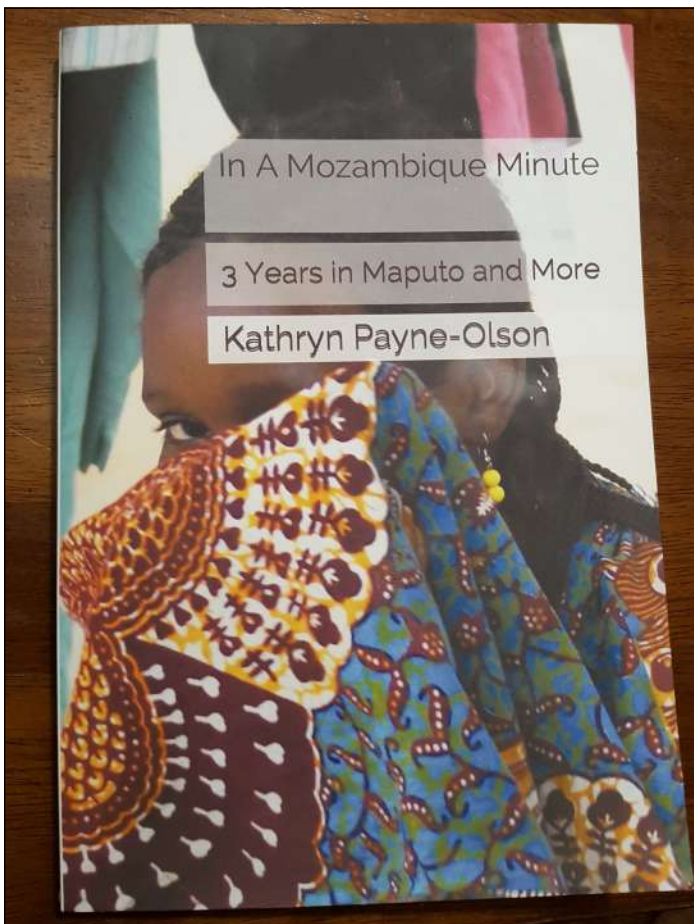
The book contains levity, yet it shares tales of good deeds that nearly ended in disaster, as well as gut-wrenching stories of trafficking, dispossession, disease and a near-fatal family accident.

Overall, Kathryn recalls these years fondly. The African children were "incredibly happy" despite not having material things. "They had nothing and lived in the dirt, yet they were happier than any of the people I knew back in the States," she explained, adding that she believes it was because they didn't feel any sense of loss and were community- and family-oriented.

"I was changed by the experience," Kathryn recounts. "I don't care about material things like I used to. I feel privileged we had this experience and I am appreciative of the U.S. military for allowing my family to live it."

And we are thankful to you, Kathryn, for taking us along to Africa, even if just for a Mozambique minute.

**Note:** The book is available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.





# Neighbor Joins Race for Alexandria City Council

By Pat Sugrue

2021 is an election year in our city. Alexandrians will be asked to go to the polls to elect six Alexandria City Council members and the mayor. For only the second time since our community was founded, the Council race will include a Cameron Station resident, Alyia Gaskins.

*(Editor's Note: This article is intended to be informational – The Compass does not endorse political candidates.)*

Alyia moved to the area in 2012, she and her husband Greg bought their Cameron Station Boulevard condominium in 2016, and they welcomed their son Ezekiel in 2020. Alyia has previously served the Alexandria community in multiple roles, including positions on the Virginia Fair Housing Board, Transportation Commission, Hunger Free Alexandria Steering Committee, Agenda Alexandria, Women of Color in Community Development Board of Directors, Good Shepherd Housing Leadership Council, and served as a Junior League Volunteer and National Community Church Volunteer.

Although their son is not quite a year old, his birth has made Alyia even more passionate about making sure all



Alyia Gaskins near her home in Cameron Station.

families are able to live and thrive in affordable, healthy communities and have access to good local schools, as she has found in Cameron Station.

Here are a few of the things that make Cameron Station special to Alyia:

- *My neighbors.* Having a baby during a pandemic meant that our family could not travel here to help. Our neighbors stepped in by delivering meals, going on grocery runs and dropping off extra toys and clothes. They have become like a second family to us.

- *Hot chocolate from the Cameron Café.* It may seem simple, but it's one of my favorite treats after a long day. Dayan and his staff are so friendly.

- *Our community is so walkable.* I love walking around our neighborhood. I enjoy watching people put up new decorations to celebrate different holidays or watching the seasons change as I wind through the park and along the trail.

To learn more about Alyia and her positions on issues affecting our community, visit her website at <https://www.alyiaforalexandria.com/>. For information on voting in the 2021 Primary and General Elections, including other candidates for city council, see the article "Voting in Alexandria's 2021 Elections" on page 10.



Alyia Gaskins with her husband Greg, their son Ezekiel and their dog, Riley.

## Neighbors in the News

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](mailto:thecompass@cameronstation.org).

# Voting in Alexandria's 2021 Elections

By Pat Sugrue

Neighbor Alyia Gaskins is one of a number of candidates vying for Alexandria City Council positions this year. (Note: the following information is current as of March 5, 2021). While Councilwomen Del Pepper and Elizabeth Bennett-Parker will not be running for re-election, current Council members Amy Jackson, Canek Aguirre and John Taylor Chapman do intend to run. The current slate in alphabetical order is:

Councilman Canek Aguirre  
Sarah Bagley  
Bill Campbell  
Councilman John Taylor Chapman  
Alyia Gaskins  
Councilwoman Amy Jackson  
James Lewis  
Richard Kirk McPike  
Bill Rossello

At present, Mayor Justin Wilson is running unopposed for re-election.

Virginia is an open primary state, so you don't have to be registered with a specific party to vote in the primary. **The Democratic Primary will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, and the General Election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 2, 2021. The Republican Party plans to hold a convention – instead of a primary – on Saturday, May 1, 2021.**

There are a number of ways to vote this year:

**In-Person.** Polls are open from 6am to 7pm. Your polling place is in your neighborhood. To find the exact location, check your voter card or call 703-746-4050. The Cameron Club is a polling location.

**By-Mail.** If you would like to receive a ballot by mail, you may apply online, [vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov), or download a paper application from the city's absentee voting page, [alexandria.gov/elections](http://alexandria.gov/elections). The absentee voting page includes additional information, including links to absentee-by-mail applications and information on returning by-mail ballots. The deadline to apply for a by-mail ballot is 5pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> day before an election.

**In-Person Absentee.** In-person absentee voting begins 45 days prior to a primary or general election in the Alexandria Voter Registration Office, 132 North Royal Street. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. The absentee voting page will include additional information on in-person absentee voting, including satellite voting locations and weekend and evening hours. The deadline to vote in-person absentee is 5pm on the Saturday before an election.

**Military and Overseas Voters** may learn more about their voter registration and absentee voting options at [www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/military-overseas/index.html](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/military-overseas/index.html).

Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/elections](http://www.alexandriava.gov/elections) for more information.

## ALIVE!

Cameron Station resident Victoria Hebert recently volunteered to become the Chairperson of Housewares for ALIVE!, which collects and distributes donations of household items to those in need in Alexandria. On February 6, ALIVE! conducted its first drive-through contactless collection of household items, and the response was overwhelming. The Fairlington Methodist Church was one of the places closest to Cameron Station to drop off donations. Thank you to all who participated.



## Painting Your World Beautiful



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# Cameron Station Masks: Functional and Fashionable

By Maya Noronha

Personal protective equipment is essential, but you can still share smiles in the community while social distancing! Children in the neighborhood have been sporting their favorite cartoon characters and putting masks on their dolls and stuffed animals. Inspired by the neighborhood spirit, here are masks (found at [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)) with some personality.

- Be Sporty: Root for your favorite athletic team without saying a single word.
- Read My Lips: With a transparent mask, you can still show off lipstick. Plus, you'll allow residents with hearing impairments to read your lips.
- Monogram: Personalize a mask with your initials.
- Show a Mona Lisa Smile: You can still grin with a mask of

Leonardo da Vinci's painting.

- Brush up on your Shakespeare: As the bard penned in *Love's Labour's Lost*, "We shall everyone be masked!"
- Show School Spirit: Everyone can see the loyalty to your alma mater right across your face.
- Family Fashion: Get matching masks for the whole household.
- Sing: Share the lyrics of your favorite song, like Bruce Springsteen's mask featuring the words "suspended in my masquerade."
- Give Thanks: Buy a mask with words of gratitude to the essential workers in our community.
- Make a Statement: A great quote on a mask from the *Princess Bride*: "It's just a mask are terribly comfortable. I think everyone will be wearing them in the future."



A literary face mask.



Face masks for dolls or stuffed animals.



A Bruce Springsteen face mask.

## Movie Magic

By Rene Zimmer

Since the beginning of the pandemic, many of us have turned to watching movies and TV programs as a source of entertainment and food for thought. We're constantly asking friends for suggestions for movies and series they've liked. There are a variety of channels outside of basic cable that offer a wealth of options, including Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime and Acorn TV, to name a few.

I'd like to recommend a marvelous movie, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, which came out a few months ago on Netflix and is an adaptation of the powerful August Wilson play of the same name. Through the efforts of Denzel Washington and others, it was transformed to the screen. It's his wish to put all of Wilson's plays on film in order to introduce them to a wider viewing audience.

The movie captures a day in the life of Ma Rainey (The Mother of the Blues) and her band in a steamy Chicago recording studio in 1927. It's clear from the beginning that she's in a struggle to preserve her identity and the direction of her performance. She has to navigate the desires of two White men – a manager and a producer – who steer the selection of her songs and performance because they think they know what audiences want. Viola Davis fills the screen as the magnificent Ma, a strong-willed, talented musician

with a gifted band beside her. The late Chadwick Boseman portrays Levee, the young, complicated trombone player who has ideas of his own and is trying to take his own share of the limelight through his musical improvisations. Levee is also a talented composer who has dreams of making it on his own. His struggles with his own demons and neglected talent are reflective of the plight of many Black Americans.

Wilson is a master of dialogue as he captures the conversations of the band members, Ma and others. There is so much richness in the language and emotion of the Black musicians struggling to survive and thrive in a White-owned world. The crescendo of the movie will leave you breathless and give you much to think about for a long time. Wynton Marsalis provides the moving soundtrack.

I highly recommend watching the 30-minute post-movie interview as Director George C. Wolfe, along with Washington and other cast members, discuss the making of the film, providing wonderful insight into its music, themes and symbolism.

And if you liked this one, you also may enjoy: *American Son* (Netflix); *If Beale Street Could Talk* (Hulu); and *One Night in Miami* (Amazon Prime Video).

# Taco Rock

By Carla Besosa - Cameron Station Foodie

The taco takeover continues with the opening of *Taco Rock* in Pinecrest Plaza, conveniently located just eight minutes west of Cameron Station. Their tag line is “Tacos with Attitude!” Judging by the variety on the menu, I would say there’s much attitude going on in many different areas. I’ve eaten there five times, ordering different items each time, and there are still many additional options to try.

*Taco Rock* offers patio seating with heaters, making it a prime pick during these Covid-19 times. Inside, you experience the “rock” part of *Taco Rock*. Rock-n-roll from multiple decades envelops you at a festive level. As I am likely older than many of you reading this, I prefer to sit outdoors where one can experience tunes and tacos at a reduced level of liveliness when they open the garage-style rollback windows (revealing an additional counter with stools). Either way, patrons order at the counter and food is delivered to your table. Pick-up and delivery options are also available.

They are the “Home of the Blue Corn Tortilla;” select from multiple categories of tacos: to choose from: Classic Tacos, Veggie Lovers Tacos and Specialty Tacos – 24 in all. I’ve



indulged in the *General Tso Cauliflower Taco* (cauliflower, sesame ginger slaw, spring onions, Thai chili and toasted sesame seeds), *Colonel Sanders Taco* (spicy fried chicken, coleslaw, kosher pickles and comeback sauce), *Key West Grouper Taco* (tequila-battered grouper, pickled slaw, pico de gallo and chipotle mayo), *California Club Taco* (roasted chicken, applewood bacon, lettuce, pico de gallo and Mexican crema), *Puffy Beef Taco* (seasoned ground beef, melted queso, jalapeños, jack cheese, sour cream and flaming Cheetos) and *Shake Down Shrimp Taco* (flash fried shrimp, shredded cabbage, pico de gallo, chipotle ranch dressing, cilantro and pickled Fresno chillies). Such eclectic combinations – and they are happy to customize.

There is also a Not Tacos category, which includes such delectables as *Shrimp Ceviche*, *Flamin’ Crusted Poppers* and the *Cuban*. A breakfast menu is available all day offering *Tacos*, *Huevos Rancheros* and *Burritos*. Whatever your selection, I would encourage you to add the *Elote* (Mexican street corn) and the *Puff Blue Chips* (fried ‘til puffy, they look like little pillows of blue masa – add guacamole/queso/salsa).



Beer on tap (and in tune) at Taco Rock.

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Foodie Carla Besosa at the Taco Rock counter.

Churros for dessert! There are several from which to choose, and I would recommend the *Apple Stuffed Churros* (suggested to me by the owner). They are pouring eight brews on draft; I'm going with *Negra Modelo*. Happy Hour is daily 3-7pm and includes discounts on the classic margarita, cocktail of the week, draft beer and wine by the glass. The bar also serves up six other margaritas, multiple specialty cocktails and frozen slushes. Not imbibing? Go for the *Jarritos* (favorite flavor: mandarin).

Check out this convenient, tasty, reasonably priced taqueria with fun food, easy parking, happy hour every day and a smiley, happy staff!



Some delicious Puff Blue Chips.

**Taco Rock**  
 Pinecrest Plaza  
 6550 Little River Turnpike  
 Alexandria, VA 22312  
 703-712-7659  
[www.thetacorock.com/taco-rock-alexandria/](http://www.thetacorock.com/taco-rock-alexandria/)

**Hours**  
 11am - 10pm daily

**Price**  
 Classic Tacos: \$3.25  
 Veggie & Specialty Tacos: \$4.24  
 Not Tacos: \$5 - \$11  
 Sides: \$3 - \$5  
 Desserts: \$6 - \$7

**Bar**  
 Full

**Catering Available**  
 Yes

**Smoking**  
 No

**Handicap Accessible**  
 Yes

**Parking**  
 Lot

**Reservations**  
 No

# FOOD BANK DONATIONS NEEDED!

For many months, as the pandemic continues, neighbor Rebecca Pipkins has been collecting donations for a local food bank, and she continues to do so as the need continues to grow. If you can help, please bring non-perishable food items to **5056 Grimm Drive**. Every Friday, Rebecca delivers all items collected during the week. Items needed most are: tomato products, canned tuna, canned beans, canned soup, low sugar cereal, peanut butter and baby food/formula. Thank you very much!



**189 items donated!**

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
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## Alexandria Police Chief Briefs Residents

By Lenore Marema

Alexandria Chief of Police Michael Brown hosted a town hall meeting via Zoom on Thursday, February 11, to let Cameron Station residents know that our neighborhood is a safe place to live. Crime actually decreased by 8% in 2020, with no burglaries or aggravated assaults. As in other areas of the city, larceny was up – 18% in Cameron Station – largely due to thefts from cars or stolen cars, many of which were unlocked.

The chief also noted that the pandemic affected police work in Alexandria in 2020. Officers were called to patrol 20 demonstrations and respond to calls about persons not masking and businesses not enforcing social distancing. They also provided traffic control for Covid-19 testing areas and sites for vaccinations. With so many residents and students at home, traffic patterns changed, making it difficult for the police to determine the time and places to patrol.

Reimagining police work is on the police department's agenda. The chief invited comments on the proposed community review board and other initiatives.

Residents raised several traffic issues – failing to stop at the signs by the 400 Cameron Station Boulevard building, ignoring the prohibition of right turns onto Duke Street on a red light and speeding down Cameron Station Boulevard.

The Alexandria Police Department recently was re-accredited, a significant recognition it has held since 1986. We value and appreciate their work on everyone's behalf.

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# Community Governance

Residents may have questions about how the Cameron Station Community Association, Inc. (Association) operates. Based on the Association's governing documents and the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there are three general groups of individuals charged with different responsibilities for the Association, as explained below.

- **Board of Directors.** Each year the members of the Association (i.e., the owners of homes and businesses in Cameron Station) elect approximately one-half of the Board of Directors for two-year terms. Under the Association's bylaws, the Board generally has all the powers necessary for the administration of the affairs of the Association, with a few exceptions. The Board is also charged with certain duties, such as, but not limited to, preparing an annual budget, making assessments against the members and providing for the operation, care, upkeep, maintenance and servicing of the Association's common areas. The members of the Board (Directors) are obligated to the fiduciary duties of care, loyalty and obedience and are charged with acting in a manner that best protects the values of the properties within the Association. The seven Directors that compose the Board act as a body, and decisions are generally made on a majority basis at one of the Board's monthly meetings. The Directors are volunteers who commit significant personal time to familiarize themselves with issues involving residents, legal matters, insurance, contracts, communications, meetings and overall community concerns. Their vital charge is to make informed decisions and ensure the well-being and continuity of the community. The Board may be contacted at [boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org).

- **Committees.** The Board appoints additional volunteers to serve on a variety of Association committees who are tasked with providing recommendations to the Board regarding the subject matter of their specific committee. Committees provide input and various perspectives from the broader Association community to facilitate decision-making by the Board. Like the Directors, those serving on Association committees are volunteers who commit countless hours of personal time to serve and promote the best interests of the Association. The Association has six active committees – Activities & Events, Architectural Review, Cameron Club and Facilities, Communications, Common Area and Financial Advisory. Each committee meets monthly, and meetings are open to all residents and owners of the Association. Each committee's contact information is available at [www.cameronstation.org/our-neighborhood/board-committees](http://www.cameronstation.org/our-neighborhood/board-committees).

- **Management.** The Board and committees are assisted in their duties by a professional management company, which also handles the day-to-day operations of the Association. The current management company is Community Association Management Professionals (CAMP). CAMP provides professional input during Board and committee meetings, brings issues and ideas to the Board and committees for consideration and decision and maintains an accountable administrative structure for the day-to-day responsibilities of the Association, including

communications with the Association community. CAMP is also tasked with the responsibility of implementing the decisions of the Board. Members of the Association are always welcome and encouraged to contact CAMP directly with any questions – 703-567-4881 or [managers@cameronstation.org](mailto:managers@cameronstation.org).

Members of the Association are also a necessary element in keeping the community running smoothly and at its highest and best uses. Members are strongly encouraged to contribute to efficient operations and maintenance of the Association by:

- Paying assessments in a timely manner;
- Reading Association communications (emails, weekly e-blast, *The Compass*, website, etc.);
- Contacting management directly and promptly as requested or when a matter requiring Association attention arises; and
- Following the Association's rules and regulations (as agreed to during the settlement process in acquiring your property).

The Association's governing documents and policies are available for review on the Association's website ([www.cameronstation.org/our-neighborhood/hoa-services-fees/documents-policies](http://www.cameronstation.org/our-neighborhood/hoa-services-fees/documents-policies)) and the Resident Portal ([www.ciranet.com/ResidentPortal/user/login?returnUrl=%2Fhome](http://www.ciranet.com/ResidentPortal/user/login?returnUrl=%2Fhome)).

Together, all aspects of the Association – members, Directors, committees and CAMP – are important to ensure that Association amenities and common areas are well maintained, and the operation of the Association is smooth, in order to protect property values. The Board, the committees and CAMP encourage and look forward to working with all residents to maintain Cameron Station as a great place to live!

## Alexandria Libraries Reopen

On Monday, March 15, Alexandria library reopened its doors with limited hours during its return to phase three of its reopening plan. For more information about the Library's phase three of the reopening plan, please visit <http://alexlibraryva.org/reopen>.





# Tucker Students Return to Classrooms!

By Mayu Molina Lehmann

Who can forget the excitement of the first day of school? On March 1, this excitement was evident for Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School students returning after one year! The pandemic shuttered schools across the nation last March. At the time, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) did an outstanding job providing the technology and other resources required to transition to an all-virtual learning environment. Equally, teachers at Samuel Tucker Elementary adjusted almost overnight to providing virtual learning.

Now, a much-awaited return to classrooms is a reality! This came after the Virginia Department of Health's February release of a report related to the safe reopening of schools. At the same time, the Centers for Disease Control announced that "based on the data available, in-person learning in schools has not been associated with substantial community transmission." Also, Tucker was able to fully vaccinate its teachers.

Since then, ACPS and Tucker have been busy planning a return to an in-person hybrid model for students who chose to return. The rest will remain virtual until further notice. The transition began on March 1 for Special Education and English Learners students and on March 16 for all elementary students who choose the hybrid model.

This back-to-school is like no other. Initially, only a small number of students will be in attendance two days a week. Most teachers will return to the classroom, with a few



exempted for medical reasons. In these cases, teachers will continue teaching remotely, relying on classroom monitors to assist with in-person students. This means that teachers will be doing double duty, juggling the need to teach both on-site students and those who remain virtual.

For children returning to Tucker, some modifications include: parents completing a symptom checklist daily; socially spaced bus seating; all students upon arrival at school taking their temperature using touchless technology; all students must wear masks; desks will have plexiglass shields and be six feet apart; lunches will be eaten in the classroom.

It will take some time to adapt to this new hybrid model. We wish Principal Rene Paschal and his dedicated team success in this much-awaited return to school.



ACPS Superintendent Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr. welcomed students – literally – with open arms.

**Note:** As always, the situation remains fluid. For the latest information, please visit: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/>.

**Reminder:** The parking spots in front of the school on Ferdinand Day Drive are assigned to Tucker. Residents across the street must use their garages or the parking lot adjacent to the softball field. Thank you.

## PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR OUR KIDS!

Tucker Elementary has just reopened, and many of our neighborhood children will be walking to and from school. Please drive slowly and carefully, stopping at all stop signs and honoring our 25mph speed limit. Thank you very much.



# Finding Harmony Through Float Therapy

By Brooke Davis

Prior to a recent trip to Jamestown, Virginia, I had never heard of float therapy. After reading an advertisement for a salt spa, however, I was intrigued and booked a one-hour session. I remember eyeing the float pod and feeling anxious about spending an hour floating in the warm water. Then I slipped in, and the anxiety disappeared – I instantly felt comforted by the weightlessness of the experience, as if I were adrift at sea.

As a veteran, I struggle to relax, and on the drive home from Jamestown, I searched out a local salt spa and connected with the non-profit National Float It Forward Association (NFIFA). NFIFA works to connect members of the military, veterans, first responders and their families with free floatation therapy across the U.S. I also researched exactly what float therapy is and how it had helped me reach such a blissful state of relaxation.

Simply put, floating calms our overly stimulated systems and restores the body's chemical and metabolic balance. In an enclosed space, 1,000 pounds of medical-grade Epsom salts are dissolved in 10 inches of water that is heated to the temperature of your skin.

High-stress jobs like serving as first responder or in the armed forces can wear on the body over time. Boiling down the science, stress activates the sympathetic nervous system and shifts energy resources toward fighting off threats, or fleeing from an enemy, according to Stress Effects on the Body (<https://www.apa.org/topics/stress/body>).



Float Cabins are entered by stepping through a door, and are large enough for most people to stand in.

Floating helped to restore and harmonize my body on both a mental and physical level. For me, it was very effective in shutting down the effects of chronic stress, and I emerged from float sessions feeling blissful, calm and serene.

For more information on NFIFA, visit its website at [www.nfifa.org](http://www.nfifa.org).



A float pod creates the sensation of weightlessness.

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# Out and About

By Lenore Marema

For those who remember, an Oreo cookie or Hershey Kiss referred to a single, standard item. Today's market has variations for all tastes.

## New Flavors for Old Favorites

**Oreo** cookies started 2021 with two new filling flavors: chocolate hazelnut and java chip. The Brookie-O, half cookie-half brownie, is slated for spring. It's a triple-layered cookie with brownie- and cookie dough-flavored fillings, along with the original white stuff. Also, there is now a gluten-free Oreo.

Currently there is a limited edition available of Lady Gaga Oreos, with a pink-tinted golden cookie and a green filling. Coming soon is a limited edition strawberry donut cookie with donut-flavored filling and strawberry frosting with sprinkles.

This spring, **Reese's** Peanut Butter Cups will have a new layer of marshmallow cream on the peanut butter. This follows their Peanut Butter Cups with pretzel bits. An organic peanut butter cup, in both dark and milk chocolate, arrived in February. Reese's is also launching a Peanut Butter Cup with a peanut butter-flavored candy shell with no chocolate.

**Kit Kat** will release a raspberry crème-flavored bar in the spring.

**M&M's** new spring flavor is White Chocolate Key Lime Pie Easter Candy, which is green, mint green and white.

**Snickers** has debuted Peanut Brownie Squares. A chewy brownie replaces the traditional nougat; the peanuts, caramel and chocolate coating remain the same.

Your **Girl Scout cookies** include the new Toast-Yah! Cookie – a maple-flavored, toast-shaped cookie dipped in white icing. They're not available in all areas. Here's an innovation – Grub Hub is delivering Girl Scout cookies and is offering one free box with orders of \$15 or more. (They had been waiving the delivery charge.)

**Krispy Kreme** unveiled a mini-dessert doughnut box with four flavors: lemon bar, strawberry cheesecake, chocolate chip cookie and birthday cake.

In late January, **Pepsi** released a new flavor, mixed with their cola, that's all about cocoa, with a hint of marshmallow: Pepsi "Cocoa" Cola.

**Ben & Jerry's** and a Vermont distillery got together to create a brown butter bourbon-based ice cream filled with chunks of blonde brownies and covered with white chocolate ganache and fudge pieces. The bourbon is cooked into caramel swirls throughout the ice cream. And now our dogs will get new frozen desserts. Pontch's contains peanut butter and pretzel swirls, and Rosie's Batch contains real pumpkin and mini-cookies in a sunflower butter.



**Quaker Oats** will replace the **Aunt Jemima** brand with the **Pearl Milling Company** brand for its pancakes and syrup. The company was founded in 1888 in Saint Joseph, Missouri, and was the originator of the branding.

## 2021 Food Trends

In the last issue of *The Compass*, we reported that **coffee** was the new favorite flavor in 2021. Kit Kat released a Mocha Cappuccino bar. The wafer is dipped in mocha cream with coffee bits with milk chocolate on the bottom. Oreo's new Java Chip cookie is coffee-flavored cream with a hint of chocolate chips. Coke has announced a new coffee-infused Coke and Coke Zero.

*FSR* (Full Service Restaurant) *Magazine* reports that 13% of restaurants now feature a coffee cocktail based on the cold brews. The new cocktails generally are high caliber coffee with a twist – high quality liquor of some kind. These may soon be distributed in cans.

NewsChannel8 had a special on food trends in 2021. Of note, kale is out and **kelp/seaweed** is the new hot, healthy veggie. On a brighter note, they predicted "**boards**" will be popular as the pandemic recedes. Rather than just charcuterie, options will vary – from breakfast to Mexican to holiday candy boards – to linger over with family and friends once we're able to safely gather again. They may also make delivery easy.

**Hard seltzers** are still hot. Pepsi just got in the market with Neon Zebras – four non-alcoholic seltzer flavors with instructions about what alcohol to add and how much.

## Bringing Back the Oldies but Goodies

- The **Kit Kat** Lemon Crisp will appear again this spring. A new Kit Kat Whiskey Barrel-Aged Chocolate bar made its debut in Japan. The candy is popular there – well over 300 Kit Kat flavors have been introduced over the past 80 years. The latest involves chocolate nibs aged for 180 days in Scotch barrels.
- **Aldi's** will bring back its pickle-flavored popcorn.
- **Hershey's** will bring back the Whozeewhatzit bar that debuted in 1978. The newest version features rice crispy bits covered with peanut butter cream and smothered in chocolate.
- **Good Humor** is bringing back the Viennetta ice cream cake after 30 years. Some may remember its wavy vanilla ice cream between crispy chocolate.
- **Dunkeroos** from the 90s are coming back with yogurt for dunking rather than the sugary icing of yesteryear.

# Update: Reflections on the Pandemic

By Lenore Marema

## New Restaurants and Businesses in Alexandria

### West End

- Jollibee – Philippine fried chicken to open in the Plaza at Landmark.
- Shababi – roasted Palestinian chicken now available at Roro’s Modern Lebanese restaurant. Take-out only.
- Krunch and Noodles
- Sushi Jin Next Door

### North Old Town

- Loyal Companion pet store
- Hinata Sushi Bar and Grill
- Sisters Thai and Magnolia Dessert Bar

### Old Town

- ESP Tea & Coffee replaces Killer ESP under a new owner in Old Town
- Athleta, a women’s athletic clothes store, will open soon
- Ada’s on the River has opened
- Thai Signature
- Elizabeth’s Counter
- Old Hat Bar – coming soon
- Toastique



### National Chain Stores Affecting Alexandria

- Godiva Chocolates is closing all its stores and coffee shops in North America. Most stores are in shopping malls.

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## Book Clubs

### Reading Between the Wines

- March: *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman  
April: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens  
May: *Stand Up Straight and Sing* by Jessye Norman

### Third Thursday Book Club

- March: *My Brilliant Friend*, by Elena Ferrante  
April: *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel  
May: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson

### Monday Night Book Ball Book Club

- March: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins  
April: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson  
May: *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman



## Carla's Picks

By Carla Besosa

For entertainment (other than virtual, which we addressed in our previous issue), we still have slim pickings here on Planet Covid. However, here are a few options to explore, be they live or streamed. Check for cancellations and postponements before you book the babysitter.

### Alden Theater (McLean)

Apr. 9 Virtual Family Bingo Night  
Apr. 26 Virtual Family Fun Trivia Night

### The Barns at Wolf Trap (Vienna)

Live stream:  
Apr. 9 Anne-Marie McDermott (piano)

### The Birchmere (Arlandria)

Indoors and distanced:  
Mar. 25 Kashmir (Led Zeppelin tribute)  
Mar. 27-28 Raul Malo  
Apr. 8 Satisfaction (Rolling Stones tribute)  
Apr. 16-17 Average White Band  
Apr. 21 Wynonna Judd  
Apr. 23 Killer Queen Experience (Queen tribute)  
Apr. 24 The Breakers (Tom Petty tribute)  
Apr. 25 Deanna Bogart

### Blues Alley Presents...

Monday Night Jazz Series streaming from the National Press Club:  
Mar. 22 Feedel

Check the Blues Alley website for their Encore Series featuring a variety of \$5 streamable concerts.

### Creative Cauldron (Falls Church)

Passport to the World Series (live stream):  
Mar. 20 Locked in My Soul - Kara-Tameika Watkins  
Mar. 26 Cissa Paz  
Mar. 27 Veronneau

### Del Ray Artisans Gallery (Del Ray)

No receptions; gallery open for browsing of exhibits:  
Mar. 5-27 Give Me Shelter  
Apr. 2-May 1 Unfinished/Finished

### George Mason University Center for the Arts (Fairfax)

Indoor performances delayed until May. For digital events, see their website for information on access passes and virtual tickets.  
Mar. 21 Broadway Princess Party (concert)

Mar. 26-27 Mason School of Dance - Gala & Fête  
Apr. 9 Are You There? (theater)  
Apr. 9-10 Mason School of Dance - Spring New Dances  
Apr. 11 Jeffrey Siegel - Celebrating Beethoven  
Apr. 25 Collision of Rhythm  
Apr. 30 International Jazz Day

### George Mason University Visual Voices Speaker Series (online)

This professional lecture series, sponsored by the School of Art, invites nationally recognized visiting artists and designers to speak about their work and the world of art and design.  
Apr. 8 Bruce Willen

### Jammin Java (Vienna)

Indoors and distanced:  
Mar. 26 Bobby Thompson & Eli Cook  
Mar. 28 The Music of Simon & Garfunkel - Swearingen & Kelli

### Kennedy Center presents...

NSO at Home (online), Sundays at 7pm

### Signature Theater (Shirlington)

Streaming online:  
Mar. 26 Simply Sondheim  
Apr. 19 Light (play reading)

### The State Theater (Falls Church)

Outdoors and FREE:  
Mar. 20 Bruce in the USA (Springsteen tribute)  
Mar. 26 The Jerry Tripsters (Jerry Garcia tribute)  
Mar. 27 U2TOPIA (U2 tribute)

## And Another Thing...

(newsy notions and other fun facts!)

### Did You Know ...

#### Lasagna Love

Thank you to neighbor Jackie Palumbo for making us aware of this nonprofit organization that matches up volunteer lasagna makers with families in the area who need a hot meal! What a great way to help others! Check it out at <https://www.lasagnalove.org>.

#### Kennedy Center Honors

The 2021 Kennedy Center Honors recipients have been announced (ceremony in May):  
Dick Van Dyke, Joan Baez, Midori Gotō, Debbie Allen and Garth Brooks

**Granddaddy's Skillet Soul Food Restaurant** has opened at 6544 Little River Turnpike (Pinecrest Plaza)

#### What Am I Listening To?

Gracie & Rachel, *Hello Weakness, You Make Me Strong*  
Pointer Sisters, *Yes We Can Can* (1973 release)  
LADAMA, *Oye Mujer*  
Lawson Rollins, *Full Circle*  
Ólafur Arnalds, *Living Room Songs*  
Evgeny Kissin, *Mozart Piano Concert No. 12*

# Days to Celebrate

By Carla Besosa

**Mar. 21:** World Poetry Day (I'm a T.S. Elliott fan, myself.)

**Mar. 24:** National Cheesesteak Day (Try the new Jersey Mike's in West End Village.)

**Mar. 29:** National Mom & Pop Business Owners Day (I pick Aldo's and Foxfire Grill.)

**Mar. 31:** National Crayon Day (What was your favorite? Mine was periwinkle.)

**Apr. 1:** National Burrito Day (High marks: Dos Amigos on Braddock Road and Taco Rock in Pinecrest Plaza.)

**Apr. 5:** Read a Road Map Day (...and fold it back up - game on!)

**Apr. 7:** National Beer Day (New favorite: Lionshead Pilsner at The Garden in Del Ray.)

**Apr. 13:** National Scrabble Day (*The Compass* dedicates this day to Pat Sugrue.)

**Apr. 14:** National Dolphin Day (Remember the show *Flipper*? Loved that show!)

**Apr. 25:** World Penguin Day (Put on your tuxedo and watch the documentary *March of the Penguins*.)

**Apr. 26:** National Pretzel Day (I'm up for the Crab Pretzel at Glory Days Grill.)

**Apr. 30:** International Jazz Day (New discovery: 2021 Grammy nominee Thana Alexa.)



## 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).** Please email articles to [thecompass@cameronstation.org](mailto:thecompass@cameronstation.org). The newsletter staff, Communications Committee or Board of Directors reserves the right to edit submissions. They will also determine the newsletter to be "full" at their discretion. Articles are to be factual and of public interest. Editorial content may be deemed inappropriate at the discretion of the newsletter staff, Communications Committee or Board of Directors. Photographs submitted will be returned to sender if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

### Submission Deadlines

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

### Advertising Rates:

Display Ads (*Camera-ready*)

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](mailto: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.

# Winter in Cameron Station

There wasn't a lot of snow this year, but we made the most of it!



## Farmers Market Will Return in April!

*By The Million and Williams Family Owners*

We are delighted to announce that the West End Farmers Market is opening a month early this year – on Sunday, April 11. We can't wait to welcome back all our clients, and we look forward to a wonderful, safe year.

To keep us all safe, protocols will be the same as last year; masks must be worn, and social distancing must be observed. There will be one entrance only. We want to do our part during this pandemic to help lower infection rates so we can once again be hugging our family and friends!

The market will be open every Sunday through November 2021, 8:30am-1pm, located in the southern parking lot of Ben Brenman Park. Information on our amazing vendors will be available in the coming weeks.

See you soon, and thank you again for your support.



# The compass

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Alexandria, VA 22304

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