

# The ompass

The Official Publication of the Cameron Station Community Association

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## **Eggstravaganza 2022 Was a Huge Success!**

Neighbors of all ages came to the Donovan/Kilburn Pocket Park April 16 to celebrate spring, including hundreds of children. See the article on page 5 for details of this fun community event.



## **Everybody in the Pool!!**

The pool is now open, seven days a week, through Labor Day, September 5, 2022. Weather-permitting, it will remain open on weekends through Sunday, September 25, 2022. For more details, see the Facilities Committee article on page 5.

# The ship resinking is underway!

(Adapted from March 17, 2022  
ALXknow by Vernon Miles)

Ben Brenman Pond will be the new home to two 18th-century ships that were recovered four years ago by archeologists from under the Old Town Alexandria Waterfront.

In March, 2018, three ships were discovered under the Robinson Landing construction site. The most intact ship was sent to Texas A&M for study and will have an exhibit this spring at the Torpedo Factory. The other two ships are in 12x24-foot water tanks in the DASH bus barn, until they find their new home in the Brenman Park Pond.

“Based on [an] assessment, the recommendation was that [the ships] be stored at the bottom of Ben Brenman Pond; at the south end of the pond,” said Eleanor Breen, city archaeologist. “Jack [Browand, division chief of Parks and Cultural Activities] summarized it perfectly the other day: ‘We’re resinking the ships in a pond five miles west of where they were found.’” Breen said the pond was chosen because it was the least risky to the timbers and would be the easiest to access.



“We’re finalizing the project schedule, including a date for pre-construction meeting on-site,” Breen said. “It will begin in April and last four to six months. We will offer a family-friendly event during the ‘ponding’ process and in the future will be installing site interpretation.”



## 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.

Final issue under the direction of Amber Kelly-Herard.

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

**This Issue’s Photographers:** Ian Grove, Sherri Malik, Martha Romans, Pat Sugrue, Linda Taousakis

# Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

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## Trash and Recycling Collection Schedule

Trash collection is every Monday and Thursday. Recycling collection is every Thursday. The only holidays trash/recycling is not collected are:

Memorial Day	Thanksgiving Day
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Labor Day	New Year's Day

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Remember: Glass must be taken to recycling bins.

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# Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

## Activities and Events Planning Committee

By Andy Yang

The Activities and Events Planning Committee organized a series of events for the months of March through April. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, a themed trivia night was held in the Great Room on Friday, March 18. About 30 people attended the event, which included beer, wine, and light refreshments. Prizes were awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in the form of Port City gift cards.



April was a busy month, with events held almost every weekend. The Spring Yard Sale was held on Saturday, April 9. Whether doing some spring cleaning or shopping for treasures, there was something for everyone.

The Spring EGGstravaganza took place April 16. This event saw the return of the traditional egg hunt held at the Donovan Drive/Kilburn Street pocket park. Hundreds of children, separated by age groups, participated in the egg hunt. In addition, residents were treated to coffee, hot chocolate, and donuts. There was a visit from Cameron Station's "Spring Bunny," along with a bunny petting station.



A food truck serving fresh Mexican food was made available to the community on Friday, April 22. The Activities Committee has organized additional "Food Truck Friday" events for the future.

Last but not least, a shred truck provided free on-site shredding in the Cameron Club parking lot on Saturday, April 23. Thanks to Irina Babb for sponsoring this event.

The Activities Committee is sure to have further events planned in the coming months. Be sure to follow Cameron Station on social media and/or subscribe to the weekly Email Blasts to be in the know for what's next.

## Architectural Review Committee

By Stephen Pearson

With spring upon us, residents typically begin to plan improvements to their yard. Don't forget that all substantial yard improvements must conform to the guidelines established in the Design and Maintenance Standards and must be approved by the ARC **before** you begin construction. When submitting your application, always include a scope of work from your contractor (or yourself if this is a DIY project) describing hardscape materials, plant species, and their locations, and most importantly an overhead drawing of the proposed design in relation to your property lines. 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 settlement documents when you purchase your property.

The ARC greatly encourages homeowners to appear before the Committee to discuss their applications and answer questions. We are still meeting via Zoom, so attending is easier than ever. **Always begin planning for your exterior modifications by consulting the DMS.** Make sure your DMS copy says, "Effective September 16, 2021." All previous versions are now invalid. The forms you will need to submit (the Exterior Modification Application or a Private Tree Replacement Application) along with the latest version of the DMS are located here: [cameronstation.org/our-neighborhood/board-committees/architectural-review-committee/covenants](http://cameronstation.org/our-neighborhood/board-committees/architectural-review-committee/covenants). If you have any questions about the process, which changes require an application, or wish to submit your completed application, contact: [covenants@cameronstation.org](mailto:covenants@cameronstation.org).

## Common Area Committee

By Kathy McCollom

The Common Area Committee is pleased to welcome new members Martha Romans and Sarah Markel. They officially joined the committee in January. The committee now has a full complement of members.

Spring community projects include cleanups or replacement of any remaining winter plant damage. Some plants that were stressed last summer, even if they appeared to survive into the winter, are not coming back, and need to be replaced. The annuals at the Duke Street entrance, gazebo circle, and around the Cameron Club were planted mid-May.

Committee members are judges for the annual Pride of Ownership contest. They were out and around in mid-May, after nominations were submitted. In addition to looking at specifically nominated homes, they often see other outstanding gardens. Prizes for winners are gift cards to local businesses, which are very generous. This year, Realtor Irina Babb is donating the value of the awards.

The Committee and Management need ongoing help from residents to identify situations that require continuous repair, such as uneven sidewalk bricks or street lights that are out. Management gathers these requests and schedules repairs regularly. The Committee will resume its annual walk-throughs in May and usually does them monthly through September.

## Communications Committee

By Tricia Hemel

The first quarter of 2022 has been busy for the Communications Committee and subcommittees! The Welcome Subcommittee welcomed 55 new residents to Cameron Station, and volunteer photographers took beautiful photos of the community and events that have been used in the Cameron Club, in the Eblast, and on social media. Our newest initiative of updating the Cameron Station website is in the works; we hope to have this project completed by the summer. We continue to work on our social media presence where you can now find official CSCA information. Please like and follow CSCA on Facebook: @CameronStationCA; Twitter: @CameronStation; and Instagram: @CameronStationCommunity. Finally, many

thanks to the Newsletter Subcommittee for creating this wonderful issue of *The Compass*, our community newsletter that highlights our community activities, area events, and wonderful neighbors.

If you would like to help with any of the projects mentioned above, or if you have ideas on how to better the communication in our community, please contact us at [communications@cameronstation.org](mailto:communications@cameronstation.org)

## Cameron Club Facilities Committee

By Ray Celeste

### Pool Is Open!

Summer has arrived, and with that our pool is open for another grand season! We had our initial opening (AKA our soft opening) May 21-22, and we are open for the season Saturday, May 28, through Labor Day, September 5, weather-permitting. We will remain open on weekends through Sunday, September 25. Please note: The lifeguards remain throughout the day, so when we do have bad weather and it passes, the pool will reopen. If it is just raining, the pool is open. The only time it will close periodically is for thunder and/or lightning.

Pool hours are:

Monday-Friday, 6-8am (lap swimming/pool walking only); all six lanes will be available.

Monday-Sunday, 10:30am-8:30pm

We will be offering swim lessons this year, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9:30-11:30am. If you are interested, please contact [adm@cameronstation.org](mailto:adm@cameronstation.org) for further information. Please note these are the only authorized swim instructions available to our residents.

*(Continued on page 6)*



(Continued from page 5)

We will always have one lane available for lap swim/pool walking during regular pool hours. During the week (M-F), an additional lap lane will be made available 7:30-8:30pm.

There will be an Aqua Aerobics class during the pool season every Saturday, beginning May 28 and ending September 24. Walk-ins are welcome.

Friendly reminders: Consumption of alcoholic beverages is not allowed in the pool area.

Children under the age of 12 are not permitted in the pool area unless accompanied by a Facilities Pass holder 18 years of age or older.

### Complimentary Fitness Center Classes

Please note that the Fitness Center will be open until 8:30pm on Saturdays and Sundays until the end of the pool season. Weekday hours (Monday-Friday) remain 4:45am-11pm.

### **Stretch and Core (Complimentary) - Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am - Multi-Purpose Court**

A focused abdominal & core training session using a variety of tools, which may include stability balls, BOSU, medicine balls, and weights integrated with restorative stretch and flexibility.



### **Vinyasa Flow Yoga (Complimentary) – Mondays, 6:30-7:45pm - Victoria Hebert Great Room**

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

### **Yoga (Complimentary) – Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30a.m. - Victoria Hebert Great Room**

### **Boot Camp (Complimentary) - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm - Multi-Purpose Court**

### **Gentle Yoga (Complimentary) - Thursdays 9-10am - Victoria Hebert Great Room**

Gentle yoga classes are typically described as appropriate for those who want a softer, nurturing, slow-paced, well-supported, and relaxing practice. The approach includes carefully orchestrated movements, controlled pressure, and well-measured stretches, including range-of-motion exercises. Postures may be approached in gradual steps, with plenty of time to focus on breathing and repetition, so that the practice is simple to do and easy to remember. A gentle yoga style encourages a highly individualized approach to practice with on-going encouragement to make moment-to-moment adjustments.

### **Total Body Weights (Complimentary) – Fridays, 10:30-11:30am - Multi-Purpose Court**

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

### **Zumba (Complimentary) – Saturdays, 9-9:50am - Multi-Purpose Court**

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

### **Zumba Tone (Complimentary) – Saturdays, 10:10-11am - Multi-Purpose Court**

*"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."*

*Confucius*

# Meet Brandon Throckmorton, Cameron Station On-Site Covenants Administrator

By Ray Celeste

Ray Celeste (RC): How did you get involved in the property management industry?

Mr. Brandon Throckmorton: My mother is a portfolio manager for six communities throughout Virginia. She introduced me to this field of work.

**RC: What type of formal training did you receive?**

**Mr. Throckmorton:** For my job in covenants specifically, I was sent to a handful of communities to work with other covenants administrators to understand what's needed to do my job successfully.

As far as training outside of covenants, I've been certified by Adobe in Web Design and Communications and the entire CS6 Collection (Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Illustrator, etc.). I've also taken courses on self-defense and firearm safety.

**RC: Tell me about your property management career.**

**Mr. Throckmorton:** Being the covenants administrator here in Cameron Station is my first taste of the property management field. So far, I am really enjoying the job and the people here in the community.

**RC: Why do you like working at Cameron Station?**

**Mr. Throckmorton:** Cameron Station, being so close to DC, naturally has a lot of high-profile and professional residents. Working closely with these residents allows me



Brandon Throckmorton.

an opportunity to connect and get to know people I otherwise would not have access to. Being a young adult in this career, I have a lot to learn and a ton of headroom for personality development. Every day I am learning to communicate even better than before, and am working on myself professionally and personally.

**RC: Where have you worked before?**

**Mr. Throckmorton:** Previously, I was a manager at Starbucks in Gainesville, Virginia. I worked there for almost six years, learning how to develop young adults into functioning professionals. I was responsible for all inventory management; I built the shifts in terms of who was working and what they were working on that day. I also was responsible for the training of assistant managers and new shift leads. I learned a lot there and am glad to see that a lot of my customer service and communication skills transfer over to this job.

**RC: What professional advice from your perspective would you give to Cameron Station residents?**

**Mr. Throckmorton:** If you don't clearly understand a policy or process, call the office, and we will be more than happy to help. You can also email us. A lot of frustration comes from misunderstanding or unclear explanations. We hope to minimize these issues and frustrations.

**RC: Do you have a motto you live by?**

**Mr. Throckmorton:** Forgive, never forget.

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## Recycling Tips

By Lenore Marema

According to Recycle Across America, we recycle about 32% of items that can be recycled, and the EPA's goal is 50% by 2030. Sometimes, putting the wrong items in recycling bins does more harm than our best intentions. Here are some tips to keep in mind when recycling:

-Glass in Alexandria now must be recycled separately as broken glass can cause damage to machinery used to process recycled items. The EPA requires that glass should be "spatula clean." Don't waste water on getting glass perfectly clean.

-Please recycle your plastic bags, including those used to bag fruit and vegetables, by bringing them back to the grocery stores. A wad of plastic bags in your recycling bin can jam processing equipment. Ditto on not putting recyclables in plastic bags.

-Choose restaurants and other businesses that provide food in recyclable paper or cardboard. Such paper can be accepted with a few stains but not with food stuck to it. Ditto for your pizza boxes.

-Remove plastic and cellophane from otherwise recyclable items.

-Throw away mixed materials, such as those that have metal and plastic.

-Recycle all your junk mail and paper in an empty Amazon carton or brown bag. The container makes it easier to process and/or keeps the paper from flying away.

-Throw away your paper coffee cups as they are plastic coated.

# Cameron Station Civic Association: Covid-19 numbers, Vulcan Redevelopment, and Historic Ship Timbers at Ben Brenman

By Anne Schieber

The Cameron Station Civic Association held a virtual membership meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. Updates were provided on Covid-19 numbers, the Vulcan redevelopment, and the historic ship timbers stabilization project. Below is a summary of key points from the presentations.

**Natalie Talis**, Population Health Manager for Alexandria Health Department (AHD), gave the latest update on Covid as of May 4, 2022.

- Covid protection protocols are transitioning from mask mandates, distance requirements, and regulations to testing, treatment preparedness, vaccines, and boosters.
- City is at a medium level of transmission.
- Vaccination rate in Alexandria is high, excluding booster shots (77.1% of residents ages 5 or older are fully vaccinated, and 84.9% are partially or fully vaccinated, at least one dose).
- Treatment Options Available:
- Test to Treatment - at CVS in Del Ray only.

- Talk to your provider.

- Oral or IV Medicines, including anti-viral pills, that when taken in the early onset slow down the virus's ability to replicate.

**NOTE: There may have been important updates on Covid since the May 4, 2022, Civic Association meeting. For current information, please visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus>.**

**Ken Wire** of Wire Gill LLP, counsel to the developers, provided an overview of the development project on the **Vulcan Materials site** off Van Dorn Street. The redevelopment effort will convert the former concrete mixing site to residential and commercial. The development site will include affordable housing (number to be determined), condominiums (204), townhouses (117), a hotel (256 rooms), an above-grade garage, retail, and a 6.5-acre park with pedestrian/bike paths. Building heights will vary from 5 to 15 stories. There are no plans to expand Van Dorn Street. Current plans are to go before Planning Commission and City Council in the Fall 2022. For more information, go to the April 27, 2022, presentation to the Advisory Group for the Implementation of the Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Small Area Plans at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/small-area-plans/eisenhower-west-landmark-van-dorn-implementation>.

**Eleanor Breen**, City Archaeologist at the Office of Historic Alexandria Archaeology, provided an update on the re-sinking of three historic wooden merchant ship hulls in Ben Brenman Park pond that were recovered from the City's waterfront near Robinson Landing. This creative storage solution will continue to preserve the wood and allow for future study and conservation. The ship remains will be secured at the bottom of the pond and regularly monitored and remain there for at least 20 years. Three interpretation signs will accompany the ships, explaining their significance and why the pond was chosen for storage. Work began May 2 and will take approximately 4-6 weeks. For more information, visit the Robinson Landing webpage at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/archaeology/archaeology-at-robinson-terminal-south>.

**Sash Impastato**, President Cameron Station Civic Association reported that illegally parked trucks on Pickett Street are being ticketed, general booting enforced, and that this issue finally seems to be resolving itself.

**We would love to have you join the Civic Association. To join, send cash or a check (made payable to the Cameron Station Civic Association) for \$10 per person (ages 18 and older) with your name(s), address, phone number, and email address to: Cameron Station Civic Association, 200 Cameron Station Blvd, Alexandria, VA 22304. To contact the Civic Association, please email [cameronstacivic@gmail.com](mailto:cameronstacivic@gmail.com).**



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## Neighbors in the News

# Monarch Musical Earns Wings in Cameron Station

By Amber Kelly-Herard

Our quiet Cameron Station neighborhood can now claim being the birthplace of, and contributor to, a Mexican-American musical that recently premiered in Hollywood.

Neighbor Mayu Molina Lehmann and her brother, Alfonso Molina, wrote the musical, *Monarch*, about a father and his daughter, both Mexican immigrants, who find inspiration from the Monarch butterfly.

“There aren’t many musicals about Mexican-Americans in the U.S.,” said Mayu. “Black and brown people work hard, but there’s a lack of good, dignified representation. I wanted to create a Hispanic hero...and I wanted to represent Hispanics in a positive light and also highlight the social causes of undocumented immigrants and Dreamers,” she continued.

Mayu said she’s written all her life, but mostly novels and children’s books. “The pandemic allowed me to finish what I started 10 years ago,” she said. “I lost my job, and my home provided me the mental space to write – it was a good consequence of the pandemic.”

Luckily, Mayu didn’t need to look far for a collaborator, since her brother is a musician.

“It was beautiful and painful,” she joked. “It was lovely because we know each other and understand each other, we have a similar aesthetic, but it was bad because we know each other and fought because we’re family; but overall, it was good.”



Once they had the manuscript, the next obstacle was obtaining funding. In came Cameron Station residents. “Thank you for your support, Cameron Station neighbors,” she said. “I have so much gratitude to the neighbors who donated to this effort and made this possible.”

The three premier performances of *Monarch* received standing ovations. “It feels awesome...this has been one of the biggest joys and biggest accomplishments in my lifetime,” said Mayu. “It was a great reception, people were crying, it really touched a nerve. It felt like it was worth all those years when I was working thinking ‘what am I doing?’” she continued. “Now professional actors and singers are performing what I wrote!”

Mayu plans to host another performance in Los Angeles in October and then bring the musical to the local area and to other areas with Hispanic populations. Mayu also plans to host a reception to thank Cameron Station donors at a later date.

*Monarch* can be followed at <http://www.monarchthemusical.com> and on Instagram at @monarchthemusical.

*\*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.*



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## Days to Celebrate

By Carla Besosa

**June 3:** National Repeat Day (I said *National Repeat Day!*)

**June 8:** Name Your Poison Day (Sounds like a working theme for Happy Hour.)

**June 12:** National Peanut Butter Cookie Day (Try Peanut Butter Oreos, if you can find them.)

**June 15:** Nature Photography Day (If taken in Cameron Station, feel free to share with *The Compass*.)

**June 18:** International Sushi Day (Proximal Options: *Momo* on Queen St. in Old Town, *Yamazato* at 6303 Little River Tpk, *Samurai* at Foxchase.)

**July 1:** International Chicken Wing Day (*Sugar Palm's* wings in a sriracha honey glaze, Edsall Rd. & 395.)

**July 3:** Eat Beans Day (*Ruthie's All Day* has yummy Pulled Pork Pinto Beans, Glebe & S. 5th St., Arlington.)

**July 5:** Bikini Day (You go first!)

**July 6:** Fried Chicken Day (*Chi McChicken & Beer*, 6653 Little River Tpk.)

**July 11:** Blueberry Muffins Day (Have one at *Cameron Café* with a nice cappuccino.)

**July 13:** French Fries Day (*Haute Dog & Fries*, 610 Montgomery St., Old Town.)

**July 14:** Macaroni & Cheese Day (Several options: *Cheesetique*, *Smoking Kow*, & *Granddaddy's Skillet*.)



# Celebrating Juneteenth

By Gen Harrison-Doss

Juneteenth (a mix of the words “June” and “nineteenth”) is a U.S. holiday recognized annually on June 19. Also referred to as Freedom Day, Juneteenth is the oldest-known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S. The holiday provides all Americans the opportunity to honor the culture, achievements, and resilience of African Americans.

## The History of Juneteenth

In late summer of 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The proclamation professed “that all persons held as slaves” within the states that seceded from the Union “are, and henceforward shall be free.” Although the Emancipation Proclamation did not fully end slavery in America, it captured the hearts and minds of millions of Americans and fundamentally transformed the direction of the Civil War. It bolstered the Union cause with moral force and strengthened the Union politically. It also strengthened the North militarily by including the acceptance of Black men into the Union Army and Navy, within the executive order’s text. As Union troops advanced and took control of Confederate-held territory, they expanded freedom to slaves through military enlistment. By the end of the war, almost 200,000 Black soldiers and sailors fought for the Union – the liberated became the liberators.

However, enforcement of the Proclamation depended upon the advance of Union troops. Because Texas was the most remote state of the former Confederacy, more than two years passed before the news of freedom reached the African Americans who lived there. It was not until Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, June 19, 1865, that the state’s residents finally learned slavery was abolished. The former slaves immediately began to celebrate with prayer, feasting, song, and dance. The following year the first official Juneteenth celebrations took place in Texas. Like the day the slaves in Galveston learned of their freedom, the holiday was celebrated with the singing of spirituals, feasting, and prayer. Within a few years, African Americans in other states began to celebrate the day as well, making it an annual tradition.

## Juneteenth Today

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Juneteenth was largely a holiday only celebrated in the African American community and within Texas, where it became a state holiday in 1980. Civil rights activist Al Edwards, who served in the Texas state legislature for more than 30 years, campaigned tirelessly for the day to be recognized nationally as well. In the summer of 2020, because of the nationwide protests over police brutality and the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and other Black Americans, Juneteenth rose to national prominence. As a part of their racial justice initiatives in 2020, many private employers established the day as an annual paid holiday. These companies include Amazon, Twitter, Square, Nike, the National Football League, Allstate, JCPenney, Target, and others.

On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed a bill establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday. “Juneteenth National Independence Day,” as it is formally called, is now the 11<sup>th</sup> legal public holiday in the U.S., and is the first one created since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was signed into law in 1983. During his remarks at the White House after signing the bill, President Biden stated “Great nations don’t ignore their most painful moments....We come to terms with the mistakes we made. And remembering those moments, we begin to heal and grow stronger.”

## How to Celebrate Juneteenth

Today, Juneteenth is observed in 47 of the 50 states, and the District of Columbia. Only Hawaii, North Dakota, and South Dakota do not mark the day. For some, Juneteenth is a time to read, remember, and reflect on the structural barriers and systemic racism that have impacted Black people in the U.S. for more than 400 years. For others, it’s a time to celebrate.

Historically, Alexandrians have long celebrated emancipation, but not necessarily on Juneteenth. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it had been celebrated April 7, commemorating the day Virginia’s slaves were made free, and also on the anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation (September 24). The Alexandria Black History Museum has celebrated Juneteenth for almost 30 years.

Current celebratory traditions of Freedom Day often include public readings of the Emancipation Proclamation and singing traditional songs. Other Juneteenth celebrations include Miss Juneteenth pageants, street fairs, concerts, cookouts, historical reenactments, and family reunions. There is even a Juneteenth flag, created by Ben Haith, founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation. Haith created the flag in 1997 with the help of collaborators and illustrators, and it is packed with symbolism. The white star and surrounding star-burst alludes to Texas, the curve behind the star is representative of a new horizon, and the colors were taken from the red, white, and blue flag of both the United States and state of Texas.



## Local Juneteenth Celebrations

With the pandemic finally easing, there are many local opportunities to celebrate Juneteenth outside of the home. Since Juneteenth falls on a Sunday this year, there are events throughout the national capital region on both Saturday, June 18 and Sunday, June 19. While there are far too many to enumerate, several local and virtual options are highlighted here.

### Within Washington DC

There are several planned concerts and music festivals: “Juneteenth Freedom Day Music Festival”; The Juneteenth Foundation’s “Freedom Festival”; the “Something in the Water” festival; and others. If something more mellow is preferred, one can head to the Anacostia business corridor and discover Juneteenth historical facts through the “Juneteenth: Passage to Progress” curated walking tour. For sports-lovers and athletes, there is the Juneteenth Half Marathon and 10K; and D.C. United, the National Capital Region’s Major League Soccer club, hosts Inter Miami CF June 19.

### Locally in Alexandria

There also many great ways to mark Juneteenth in our city. There are guided tours at Carlyle House in Old Town, and its

historical park also hosts an annual Juneteenth celebration. Typically held on the lawn and gardens of Carlyle House, this free community event includes live music, hands-on activities, art, history, and poetry readings. The Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden is also hosting an event where attendees can learn about the enslaved and free African Americans who lived and worked in the historic home, both before and after the Civil War. Additionally, in partnership with the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts, the Classical Movements, will perform a one-hour live Juneteenth musical celebration at The Secret Garden at the Rectory.

### Virtual Celebrations

For those who want to celebrate Juneteenth from home, there are many online events, as well. “Step Afrika!,” a dance company in the District, will premier three unique works at their virtual celebration. The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, which recently reopened to the public, has extensive and outstanding virtual resources on the Juneteenth holiday, including videos and testimonials. Finally, the Juneteenth Foundation will be hosting an online career fair that will also feature career panels focused on cultural challenges in the corporate workspace.

# Calling All Voters

By Laura Lessing

A Democratic Party primary will take place Tuesday, June 21, 2022, in Virginia’s 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which includes Cameron Station. The primary will determine which Democratic candidate will run in the district’s general election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. (A Republican Party convention took place on Saturday, May 21, 2022, to select the Republican candidate.)

The deadline to register to vote for the primary was Tuesday, May 31, 2022. You can check your registration at: <https://bit.ly/AlexandriaVotes>.

Early in-person voting for the primary is now through Saturday, June 18, 2022, at the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, 132 N. Royal St., #100, Alexandria. Early voting days and hours are:

Monday-Friday	Weekend and Extended Hours
8am-5pm	Monday, June 6: 8am-8pm
Closed Monday, May 30	Tuesday, June 7: 8am-8pm
	Saturday, June 11: 8am-5pm
	Sunday, June 12: 11am-3pm
	Wednesday, June 15: 8am-8pm
	Thursday, June 16: 8am-8pm
	Saturday, June 18: 8am-5pm

The deadline to request a ballot by mail is Friday, June 10, at 5pm. You may apply for a by-mail ballot online through the Virginia Department of Elections website: [vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov).

A ballot drop box is available 24 hours a day outside the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, until 7pm Tuesday, June 21, 2022. This drop box is under video surveillance.

Polls will be open Tuesday, June 21, from 6am to 7pm.

# Background on Linear Park

By Greg Hillson

Linear Park is the half-mile trail that runs along the southern portion of Cameron Station parallel to Brawner Place, Grimm Drive, and Murtha Street. It is a city-owned park, and the city has the ultimate responsibility for maintaining it according to the standards and service levels for which it maintains other city parks.

However, in 2009, amid the “Great Recession” and the severe reduction in the city’s budget for park maintenance, the Homeowner’s Association (HOA) took on the responsibility for performing many of the maintenance duties at Linear Park based on concerns from residents that the city was not performing adequate maintenance. Indeed, between 2015 and 2022 (the latest years that data is available), the HOA spent or budgeted between \$17,000 and \$21,000 per year to maintain Linear Park.

Below is a brief timeline of key events concerning the HOA’s involvement at Linear Park, based on HOA meeting minutes and other materials:

- In March 2009, because of severe cuts to the city’s park maintenance budget and concern over the adequacy of the city’s ability to maintain the park, the Board of Directors approved a motion for Lancaster Landscapes to perform mowing and chemical applications at Linear Park at the HOA’s expense, and for the HOA board president to reach out to the city to see if the city would split the cost of maintaining the park.
- In April 2009, the city began working with HOA management to turn over park maintenance to the HOA for the remainder of 2009 and to establish an Adopt-a-Garden program for residents whose gardens were encroaching on city property.
- In May 2009, the city granted the HOA permission to mow and edge Linear Park. The city, however, did not allow the HOA to provide weed control or fertilization treatment due to the park’s proximity to Backlick Run.

- In September 2009, the Financial Advisory Committee recommended the HOA not renew its contract with Lancaster Landscapes for weeding of Linear Park. The board and the Common Area Committee, however, recommended approving the Linear Park weeding contract, but also to continue monitoring the city’s budget so the city could resume maintenance of the park as soon as it had the funds to do so.

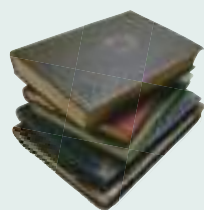
- From February-July 2010, there were discussions between the city and the HOA on the possibility of transferring Linear Park to the HOA, either through ownership or a long-term lease agreement. The proposed transfer never occurred.

- In March 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the HOA and the city was drafted under which the HOA would perform a variety of maintenance duties at Linear Park, including: maintaining the turf areas through routine mowing; removing litter; weeding all mulched areas; paying for the cost of electricity related to the security lights along the park; paying for the cost of water to irrigate the park; and irrigating all replacement and new trees installed by the city for a minimum period of one year following tree installation. Under that draft MOU, the city would inspect and monitor the area, clear snow and ice, and mulch landscaped beds. That MOU, however, was never executed.

- In 2021, HOA management began discussing with the city formalizing and signing the MOU from 2015, as well as re-negotiating the division of responsibilities between the HOA and the city. As of the writing of this article, the MOU has not been finalized.

- In March 2022, the HOA submitted a formal request to “adopt” Linear Park under the city’s Adopt-a-Park Program.

If you have any questions about Linear Park or the status of the HOA’s involvement with it, please contact Management or the Board of Directors at [managers@cameronstation.org](mailto:managers@cameronstation.org) or [boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org), respectively.



## Book Clubs

### New Book Club in Cameron Station

Neighbor Jackie Wright is starting a new book club for the community, which she is calling “We Can Do Hard Things.”

As Jackie explains it: “It’s a book club for folks who would like to learn how to live more authentically and peacefully in the world. It is inspired by the podcast with the same name.”

If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Jackie at [jackiewrightmartin@gmail.com](mailto:jackiewrightmartin@gmail.com).

### Monday Night Book Ball

- May: *Confessions of a Bookseller* by Shaun Bythell
- June: *Dancing in the Mosque: Agna Mother’s Letter to Her Son* by Homeria Qaderi
- July: *The Secrets We Kept* by Lara Prescott
- August: *We Band of Angels: The Untold Story of American Women Trapped in Bataan* by E. Norman

### Third Tuesday of the Month Book Club

- May: *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V. E. Schwab
- June: *The Dry* by Jane Harper
- July: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

### Reading Between the Lines

- May: *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy
- June: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
- July: *The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution*

January



Biscuit

February



Kayba

# Cameron Station PETS OF THE MONTH

March



Moose

April



Louie

# Cameron Café Hosts ALIVE! Fundraiser

By Carla Besosa

About 40 neighbors flocked to the coffee shop for a sing-a-long fundraiser for ALIVE!.\* There was much fun crooning with neighbor Gerry Hebert (current ALIVE! board member and former president) and his fellow musicians, Eileen Joyner and Dick Crutchley. Thanks to many generous contributors, \$1,100 was raised that night for a new facility in the Van Dorn Station shopping plaza.

\*ALIVE! is the oldest and largest private safety net in the City of Alexandria, dedicated to fighting poverty and hunger. For more information about ALIVE!'s programs and services, go to [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org).



## 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](mailto: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](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.





## Carla's Picks

By Carla Besosa

### Alexandria

June 3-5 Gardens & Landscapes in the Age of George Washington (Mount Vernon)

June 10 Mount Vernon Summerfest

June 17-18 Portside in Old Town Summer Festival (Waterfront Park)

June 25 Old Town Arts & Crafts Festival

### Bethesda Blues & Jazz Club (Bethesda)

June 4 33 1/3 Live's Killer Queen Experience

### Birchmere (Arlandria)

June 3 Purple Party - Prince Tribute

June 5 José Feliciano

June 10 TUSK - Fleetwood Mac Tribute

June 11 Four Bitchin' Babes

June 20 Jesse Cook

June 22-23 Lalah Hathaway

June 26 The Music of Cream

July 6 Acoustic Alchemy

July 9 Laurel Canyon 1966-1972

July 14 Herman's Hermits

July 15 Voice of Motown

### Capital One Hall (Tysons)

June 10 Emanuel Ax Plays Beethoven

June 12 Don McLean: 50th Anniversary of American Pie

### Creative Cauldron (Falls Church)

May 5-29 *Into the Woods*

June 10 Project Locrea

June 11 Dave Kline Band

June 12 Alex Martin Quintet

### Dulles Expo Center (Chantilly)

July 30-31 D.C. Big Flea & Antiques Market

### The Hamilton (DC)

June 25 Lez Zeppelin - Led Zeppelin Tribute

### Jammin Java (Vienna)

June 2 International Jazz Night

June 3 All You Need Is Beatles

June 24 Janiva Magness

### Jiffy Lube Live (Bristow)

June 10 The Doobie Brothers & Michael McDonald

June 11 Dave Matthews Band

July 13 Josh Groban

### Little Theater of Alexandria (Old Town)

June 4-25 *Prelude to a Kiss*

### MGM Theater (National Harbor)

June 24 Patti LaBelle

### Round House Theatre (Silver Spring)

June 8-July 3 *Nollywood Dreams*

### Signature Theater (Shirlington)

Apr.30-June 12 *The Upstairs Department*

### The State Theater (Falls Church)

July 10 Average White Band

### The Strathmore (Bethesda)

June 9-11 BaltoSymphOrch with Anne-Sophie Mutter

### Warner Theater (DC)

May 27 RuPaul's Drag Race

June 7 Kenny Loggins

### Wolf Trap (Vienna)

June 4 Black Violin

June 5 Gipsy Kings

June 10-11 Bonnie Raitt

June 16-17 Sheryl Crow, Jason Isbell & the 400 Unit Waxahatchee

June 21-22 *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*

June 25-26 Steely Dan & Steve Winward

June 30 Bruce Hornsby & the Noisemakers

July 8 Pink Martini

July 15 Verdi's *La Traviata*

### Woolly Mammoth (DC)

May 10-June 5 *There's Always the Hudson*

## And Another Thing...

(random thoughts and notable news)

*Northern Virginia Magazine* "20 Favorite Pizzas" includes:

Stracci Pizza (Hume Ave., Del Ray)

Emmy Squared (King St., Old Town)

Piece Out (Mount Vernon Ave., Del Ray)

Pizzeria Orso (S. Maple Ave., Falls Church)

Pupatella (Walter Reed Dr., Arlington)

Four Northern Virginia restaurants made the Yelp National Top 100 List:

Aracosia (McLean), Ruthie's All Day (Arlington), L'Auberge Chez Francois (Great Falls) and Yunnan by Potomac Noodle House (Old Town).

Mason's Famous Lobster Rolls has opened in Shirlington.

Dogfish Ale House at 7 Corners closed.

2 Jefes, new Tex-Mex restaurant at 2249 Huntington Ave.

Matt & Tony's now open in Del Ray.

Taco Bamba now open at 6259 Little River Tpk.

Diko Lounge Hookah Bar open next to Shooter McGee's.

The Top 10 Diners' Choice Winners for Virginia Suburbs includes two restaurants formerly reviewed in *The Compass*: Yayla Bistro and Afghan Bistro.

Padaek to replace Delia's on S.Glebe Rd.

Tiki Bar pop-up open on Mount Vernon Ave.

Bonchon open in Bradlee Center.

Foxtrot Café & Grocery open in Old Town.

Matt Hill of Ruthie's All Day is a semifinalist for Best Chef in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Movie Recommendation: *My Father's Violin* (Netflix)

## What Am I Listening to?

Bacon Brothers: 36 Cents

Alison Crockett: Bare

Las Cafeteras: Tastes Like L.A./It's Time

Altin Gün: Yol

# Dykes Marsh Wildlife Preserve

By Ian Grove

Just two miles south of Old Town, Alexandria, along George Washington Memorial Parkway lies the small wildlife preserve of Dykes Marsh. It is a simple “there-and-back” trail, approximately a mile-and-a-half long, that flirts with the water’s edge of the Potomac River. There is plenty of parking to access this site in the public Belle Haven Picnic Area parking lot (no fee) that abuts the Mount Vernon bicycle and walking trail. The access point to the nature trail is slightly hard to find, but it is along the entrance road that leads to the Belle Haven Marina boat ramp, just a few yards walk along the Mount Vernon Trail from the parking areas.

**Tip:** Don’t park on the roadside entrance to the marina as you are likely to get ticketed if you do; use the allocated parking spaces.

The Dykes Marsh trail starts through a woodland area, with the river shoreline on your left-hand side. The trail itself for the most part is a gravel covered track, but does turn into a muddier path, depending on season, rainfall, and flooding. The trail itself ends on a wooden boardwalk with a couple of viewing points. The end viewing platform of the boardwalk overlooks the Potomac River and across towards the National Harbor area. Dogs are allowed on the trail, but are to be kept leashed, as this is a nature preserve for the maintenance of an important marshland wildlife habitat.



From early spring, ospreys can be found at the very start of the trail and near the boat ramp itself. There are several perching sites where the ospreys will display and call. The start of the hot weather brings snakes into view, as they bask in the sunshine. Spring is always a great time for spotting these harmless creatures who are a vital part of maintaining balance in the food chain. The warmer temperatures after the cold of winter brings them out from their hideaways to seek the warmth, and the lack of foliage growth makes them easier to spot. Northern banded water, eastern rat, rough green, and garter snakes can be found all along the trail, but sightings are more frequent toward the latter stages of the trail.

The eagles are by far the biggest attraction to draw walkers to the preserve, but their No. 1 status is being tested by a family of barred owls that have been using the preserve for the last several years. Since April, an owl family has been using the trees within the woodland area as their daytime roost. They are hard to spot with their camouflage and quietness, but a glimpse of these birds is a special treat. The fluffy, downy owlets are usually close to each other, offering comfort in numbers, while the larger adult birds sit quietly and protectively, never far away. It is not uncommon to see five owls in a visit during the spring.

There is a significant amount of biodiversity in this 2,200-year-old marsh area, but there are a couple of seasonal attractions to this preserve. Since mid-January, bald eagles have been flying around or sitting on their nest that lies approximately 150 yards into the trail on the right-hand side. The large nest is high in the trees, but a clearing in front allows good viewing access to watch as the chicks progress to flight stage over several weeks. There are usually photographers in the area waiting for an eagle, with its fish catch, to swoop into view. Another good place to look for eagles is on the small islands just 100 yards offshore, where there are usually several preening in the branches.

Throughout summer, the trees are filled with the calls of warblers, gnatcatchers, and other insect-eating birds as they hunt through the trees. In autumn after the eagles, owls, and osprey leave, the woodland area is visited by a wide variety of migrating bird species, making their way from the north to the warmer climes of the south.

More about the preserve, its flora and fauna, and the work of its naturalists can be found on the Friends of Dykes Marsh website:

[https://fodm.org/marsh\\_life/about-the-marsh.html](https://fodm.org/marsh_life/about-the-marsh.html)



# West End Farmers Market Open for the Season

By Pat Sugrue

Blues skies, bright sunshine, and warm temperatures were the order of the day on Sunday, April 24, 2022, opening day of our local farmers market. According to a beaming Rubie Williams, one of the market's four co-owners/managers, "The place was mobbed! This was the best opening day we have ever had!"

Three dozen vendors were selling their wares, which included farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, fish, barbecue, coffee, lemonade, popcorn, baked goods, treats for dogs, and a variety of crafts and jewelry. "Even more are coming!" promised Rubie.

The West End Farmers will be open every Sunday through November 20, 2022, from 8:30am to 1pm, in the southern parking lot of Ben Brenman Park. For information, including a list of vendors, click on [westendfarmersmarket.org](http://westendfarmersmarket.org) or contact Rubie Williams at 703-606-0503.



Whitley, Rubie, Bernice, and Dawnta are managers and co-owners of the West End Farmers Market.



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**Dr. Paul Gibberman**  
Washingtonian Magazine, 2021  
Virginia Living Magazine, 2020  
Northern Virginia Magazine, 2020

**Dr. Lauren Gibberman**  
Washingtonian Magazine, 2021  
Virginia Living Magazine, 2020

**Dr. Maria L. Hodas**  
Virginia Living Magazine, 2020

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