

The compass

The Official Publication of the Cameron Station Community Association

Volume 21 Issue 5 • November-December 2020

A Different Kind of Halloween

By Rene Zimmer

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many Halloween activities were cancelled, locally and beyond. We also missed our favorite Cameron Station Halloween couple, David and Stephanie Thorpe, who recently moved to Florida. Their decorations and music on Grimm Drive attracted hundreds of trick-or-treaters from near and far. But once again, the Activities & Events Planning Committee did a wonderful job! Irina Babb generously sponsored “The Modified Cameron

Station Annual Halloween Celebration.” Committee members decorated the Cameron Station gazebo prior to Halloween and, on the big day, families could explore it, have photos taken of their little goblins and witches inside the gazebo and enjoy sweet treats from the Scoops2U truck. We hope many of you had a chance to participate!

(See Halloween continued on page 2)



2020 CAMERON STATION ANNUAL MEETING

Due to the Presidential Election scheduled for November 3, the CSCA Annual Meeting was postponed to the second week in November: Monday, November 9. By that time *The Compass* was well into production, so articles about the meeting, including the results of the Board of Directors election and recipients of the Mark Pillow Community Spirit Award and the Volunteer of the Year Award will be included in the January/February issue.

Please see page 4 for a list of the residents who applied for the open board seats. Kudos to all who were willing to volunteer for these very important positions.

(Halloween continued from page 1)

On the Friday before Halloween, lines of young children in their costumes walked around our neighborhood. Despite the absence of “official” trick-or-treating, it was good to see that many neighbors still decorated their yards and doors with festive décor. There were also many alternative activities such as pumpkin carving in the street with multiple families, gatherings around fire pits, etc. On Halloween, many neighbors placed tables at the end of their driveways with candy carefully laid out for socially distanced trick-or-treaters. Some delivered the goods through creative “pipelines” that provided even more safety and fun.

So while things were a bit different this year, everyone who participated seemed to be enjoying themselves, thanks to a group effort from our wonderful community. Hopefully next year we can return to a more traditional Halloween celebration! In the meantime, the most important thing to remember is that we need to remain safe, continue to adhere to the Covid-19 guidelines, keep our distance and wear masks.



About . . . *The Compass*

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

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

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

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

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

Editor-in-Chief: Marian Cavanagh

Editorial Staff: Carla Besosa, Lily Engle, Scott E.Z. Franklin, Lenore Marema, Pat Sugrue and Rene Zimmer

This Issue’s Photographers: Irina Babb, Ray Celeste, Steve Cornwell, Birgitta Dewell, Natalie Fay, Linda Greenberg, Ian Grove, Lenore Marema, Tom Styc and Pat Sugrue

Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(boardofdirectors@cameronstation.org)

Michael Johnson - President

Sarah Meyer Walsh - Vice President and Liaison to Activities and Events Planning Committee

Tom Sugrue - Secretary and Liaison to Communications Committee

Joan Lampe - Treasurer and Liaison to Financial Advisory Committee and Common Area Committee

Kim Canter - Director and Liaison to Architectural Review Committee

Jon Dellaria - Director and Liaison to Cameron Club Facilities Committee

Andrew Hill - Treasurer and Liaison to Financial Advisory Committee and Common Area Committee

CSCA COMMITTEES

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS PLANNING COMMITTEE

(events@cameronstation.org)

Andrew Yang - Chairperson

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(arc@cameronstation.org)

Stephen Pearson - Chairperson

CAMERON CLUB FACILITIES COMMITTEE

(facilities@cameronstation.org)

Ray Celeste, Jr. - Chairperson

COMMON AREA COMMITTEE

(commonarea@cameronstation.org)

Robert Burns - Chairperson

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

(communications@cameronstation.org)

Tricia Hemel - Chairperson

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(fac@cameronstation.org)

Takis Taousakis - Chairperson

Not Receiving The Compass Regularly?

If you have not been receiving the newsletter on a regular basis, or know of any neighbors who have not been receiving it, please contact the HOA office at 703-567-4881 or communitymanager@cameronstation.org to be sure they have the correct address on the mailing list. Each occupied residence is entitled to one copy of each issue of *The Compass*.



Volunteer Photographers



Thank you to the following members of our community who have volunteered to take photographs for use in *The Compass* and other venues for communication within Cameron Station: Steve Cornwell, Natalie Fay, Linda Greenberg, Ian Grove, Liz Hujsak, Martha Romans and Tom Styc. We very much appreciate and value their help.

Meet the Candidates Night

By Pat Sugrue

On Thursday, October 29, 61 residents logged into the virtual 2020 Meet the Candidates Night to hear from, and ask questions of, the 10 candidates running for three open seats on the Cameron Station Community Association Board of Directors. In a “normal” year, we’d be thanking everyone and noting which candidates were elected to the board; since this issue of *The Compass* was well into production by the time the annual meeting occurred, we still want to thank all the candidates and save our congratulations for the January/February newsletter.

It’s amazing how many folks were willing to throw their hats into the ring this year; kudos to every one of them. We are often out beating the bushes trying to find at least one person for each empty slot! Here, in alphabetical order, are the 2020 candidates ... thanks to all!

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
|  | <p>Chris Alex
 Margaret (Megan) Brock
 Ernest Cage
 Kim Canter
 Megan Christensen
 Jeremy Drislane
 Greg Hillson
 Walt Keating
 Christopher Mulder
 Elliot Waters</p> |  |
|--|---|--|

Mark Pillow Community Spirit Award



Since the announcement came too late for this issue of *The Compass*, the January-February issue will include a photo and information on the person whose name has been added to this Mark Pillow Award plaque in the Cameron Club!

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Feeling Out of the Loop?

Decisions on community matters made by the HOA Board of Directors and committees are discussed, debated and determined in public, with the exception of private matters between residents and the board that are discussed in closed Executive Session. If you want to know what is going on in Cameron Station, attend the monthly board and committee meetings (and/or read the minutes posted on the website); read *The Compass* newsletters; visit the community website, www.cameronstation.org; and sign up for email blasts. If you have any questions for the board, committees or HOA management, send an email. These addresses can be found in *The Compass* newsletter.

From Community Association Management Professionals (CAMP)

It's hard to believe that the holidays are already quickly approaching. Snow will be here before you know it! CAMP is now 90 days into its transition to community management, and things are progressing very well. Over the last several weeks, we have worked collaboratively with the Board of Directors and various committees to wrap up outstanding projects and contract for services such as the renewal of the Lancaster Landscape contract; the bidding of the trash contract, which was awarded to Bates Trucking; and numerous other services such as the repair of street lights, tree pruning, etc.

The board recently held its first virtual Meet the Candidates night, with 10 candidates for three open board seats presenting and 61 participants. The meeting was positive and very productive; all candidates were provided with an opportunity to explain why they love being a part of Cameron Station. The Annual Meeting

took place on November 9; more information will be included in the January/February issue of *The Compass*.

Over the coming weeks, residents will receive additional information regarding the upcoming transition with trash services. As noted above, the board approved a new trash removal contract with Bates Trucking that will be effective January 1, 2021. We will be coordinating a change in trash bins so that the current company, ADS, can collect the existing bins, and Bates can deliver new ones. As soon as we have additional information we will let you know, but it will be important for everyone to actively participate in this coordinated effort. Please watch for details!

We are thrilled to be a part of your community, and we will continue to do our best to provide you with a high level of service.



Maintenance Technician Mark Bondurant, Assistant Community Manager Janeva Sharps and Administrative Assistant Juana Michel.

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

Susan Cassell, General Manager

scassell@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

Want to Get Involved in the Community?

By Pat Sugrue

How about joining a committee?

The large number of neighbors willing to run for the Cameron Station Community Association (CSCA) Board of Directors this year showed that many people are interested in being of service to our community. There's no better way to do that, and make new friends at the same time, than by joining one of the board's Advisory Committees.

Whatever your interest, there's a committee for you. Here are quick descriptions of the six committees that provide assistance to the board and are vital to the well-being of our community:

Activities & Events Planning Committee (Events): Advises the board on the planning of community events.

Architectural Review Committee (ARC): Acts on all applications for the approval of modifications or improvements to any lot as dictated by Article VI of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions.

Cameron Club Facilities Committee (Facilities): Advises the board on issues affecting the Cameron Club.

Common Area Committee (CAC): Advises the board on issues affecting common area services and maintenance (excepting the Cameron Club).

Communications Committee (ComCom): Works with the board on communication issues within the Cameron Station community. Some of these issues include producing *The Compass* newsletter, redesigning and updating the community website, establishing an on-line social networking group and welcoming new residents.

Financial Advisory Committee (FAC): Advises the board on issues affecting the financial position of the HOA.

If you are interested in joining one of the committees, please contact *managers@cameronstation.org* for an application. Your community thanks you!

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*.

Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

Activities & Events Planning Committee

By Andy Yang



The Activities & Events Planning Committee planned a few events in September. We closed out the summer with free ice cream trucks stationed at Samuel Tucker Elementary and in front of the Cameron Club, courtesy of Irina Babb. The Fall Yard Sale carried on, although with less fanfare due to current regulations. Finally, we offered Cameron Station our first “Shred Day,” giving residents the opportunity to do some fall cleaning and shred unwanted documents.

This year’s Halloween event offered a different experience. The gazebo was decorated in advance with spooky decorations for photo ops. A professional photographer was also made available on Halloween, in addition to a Scoops2U truck, offering free treats 2 to 4pm. Thanks to Irina Babb for sponsoring this event.

Although the future is unknown, our committee will continue to plan events as circumstances permit.

Cameron Club Facilities Committee

By Ray Celeste

I would like to welcome our new management team from Community Association Management Professionals (CAMP): Heather Graham, Executive Vice President; Susan Cassell, Community Manager; Janeva Sharps, Assistant Community Manager; Bethlehem (Mimi) Kebede, Covenants Administrator; Juana Michel, Administrative Assistant; and Mark Bondurant, our Maintenance Technician.



Maintenance Technician Mark Bondurant repaired and painted the clock outside the Cameron Club.

Our community could not thrive without a great community management team. Mark has already, in his short time here in the community, done a great deal of maintenance work, particularly in and around the Cameron Club. He had our beautiful freestanding outdoor clock repaired and painted, rehabilitated our trash enclosure, is ensuring that our HVAC systems within the clubhouse are well maintained and is looking into how to upgrade the air filtration systems to enable it to kill viruses and bacteria. Additionally, Mark is taking on maintenance projects in our locker rooms that must be done to prevent further water damage to our walls. He has recently added a pet station on Knapp Place and is clearing clogged street drains and straightening street signs. (See *Facilities continued on Page 8.*)



The trash enclosure was recently rehabilitated.

(Facilities continued from page 7)

We are very appreciative of our residents' cooperation in using the fitness center's reservation system and wearing masks during their workouts. We respectfully ask that, if you make a reservation and cannot keep it, you either cancel it or call the fitness center front desk at 703-567-8555. We still have many reservation spaces available for residents to use our fitness center, basketball court and ten complimentary classes. If the fitness center reservation system is showing that all slots have been taken, please know that we do have a fairly high no-show percentage, so you still may be able to work out during that time. Please call the front desk to check.

Please note: the fitness center will be open two additional hours per day (12 hours total) starting in December. We will be setting new fitness center hours from that month onward. Here is the reservation link: <https://cameronstation.getomnify.com/>.

We are pleased to announce that, after 21 years of hard use, our basketball court floor will be retired. It has served our community exceedingly well, but it has exceeded its life expectancy after strenuous usage. A new one will be installed soon, and we are very appreciative of the Board of Director's approval of this important project.

With winter on the way, we want to optimize the use of our fitness center in as safe and responsible a manner possible. Our goal continues to be to serve all of you in the best way possible. We wish you and your family a great Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year!

Common Area Committee

By Kathy McCollom

Fall is a busy season for community plants. Declining trees and bushes that were removed earlier in the year are now being replaced, as much as possible, by new plants better suited to the location. Grassy areas get turf improvements and reseeding of bare spots. Along Duke Street, bare spots from snowplows or wayward cars are getting refilled with bushes and perennials, plus daffodil bulbs for next spring.

A recent project inspected the lights along community streets and replaced many that were out, dim or misdirected. Lights along city streets in the community are replaced by the city, although any that residents see (regardless of who is responsible for replacing them) should be reported to the management office for action. Be sure to report the light pole number so the correct light can be found.

Brick sidewalk repairs have been ongoing through the year. Tree roots and settling continually create new uneven spots; again, this is something to report when residents see them.



New contracts for landscaping and trash pickup are in the works for the beginning of the year.

The fall flowers at the entry and gazebo circle are violas, much more vigorous than pansies and likely to return in the spring. The daffodils will remain and return every spring.

Watch the community email blasts for dates of leaf cleanups. Clear leaves under bushes or in beds so they can be gathered on leaf days.

It's not too soon to buy a snow shovel when you first see them in home stores. They sell out quickly after the first snowfall.

Communications Committee

By Tricia Hemel

This fall, the Communications Committee has welcomed 55 new residents to Cameron Station, continued to work with management to get information out to the community via email blasts in an easier-to-read format and updated the community map to include more detailed information about amenities such as pet stations, Little Free Library locations and walking paths within our community.

Financial Advisory Committee

By Takis Taousakis

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) has been working on a smooth transition of management from CMC to Community Association Management Professionals (CAMP). One of the more challenging efforts was the collaboration between the FAC and CAMP on the 2021 budget. Each of the Cameron Station Community Association committees did an excellent job putting together its budgets and supporting any changes that will be necessary to maintain the high standards of service and appearance of our community. CAMP's systems also helped streamline the budgeting process. The final budget was approved by the Board of Directors during its meeting on October 27, 2020.

CAMP recommended the segregation of the Operating Budget and Balance Sheet from those of the Replacement Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund. This is common practice for homeowners associations that results in a cleaner audit trail and avoids any possibility of commingling funds. This change will necessitate the opening of separate bank accounts for the Replacement Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund with quarterly contributions going directly to these accounts. CAMP is in the process of establishing the necessary accounts and having the appropriate funds set up by the end of 2020.

In October of 2020, Chelsea Lasik joined the FAC. We want to welcome Chelsea and hope to get a few more volunteers to fill the committee openings.

New Names for T.C. Williams and Maury?

By Mayu Molina Lehmann

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has embarked on a process called “The Identity Program” in order to determine whether two local schools, T.C. Williams High School and Matthew Maury Elementary, should change their names.

The Identity Program aims to reveal the actions of the two men after whom the schools are named, highlighting the contrast between their beliefs and the diverse ethnic and cultural makeup of today’s ACPS student population.

Thomas Chambliss (T.C.) Williams was the Superintendent of ACPS from 1933 until his retirement in 1963. After the landmark ruling in *Board v. Brown of Education* in 1954, Superintendent Williams fought to preserve segregation in Alexandria, creating bureaucratic hoops in order to delay and disincentivize African American students from enrolling in White schools. He asked that each Black family individually petition ACPS to transfer into White schools. Williams personally penned the rejection of several Black students, citing among other motives that it would be “a frustrating and discouraging experience to pass from a position of prestige in one place to a position of low rating in another.”

During his long tenure, only 75 Black students successfully switched schools, representing just three percent of the Black student population.

Matthew Fontaine Maury was a renowned oceanographer and U.S. Navy commander. His extensive works contributed to the creation of ocean lanes for maritime traffic. His charting of seas allowed vessels to benefit from currents and winds, thereby reducing the length of travel.



Matthew Maury Elementary School

During the Civil War, Maury resigned his commission as a U.S. Navy commander and joined the Confederate Army, where he helped oversee Virginia’s military readiness and resistance to the Union. The Alexandria school was named after him in the 1920s, as part of a movement to memorialize iconic southern heroes of the Confederacy.

Following a student-led initiative and a petition by Alexandria residents, the school board voted in September 2020 to begin a public engagement process to reconsider the school names. In October, there were multiple opportunities for community and student involvement, including virtual presentations to shed light on the actions of the men behind the names.

The overarching theme emerging from these public events centered on the disconnect between the segregationist views of Williams and Maury and the multicultural demographics of the schools today. Educators, parents and students spoke passionately about the harmful message conveyed by enshrining the names of those who fought to oppress people of color. Their prejudice challenges the aim of inclusion and social justice that is at the heart of ACPS’ current goals, as stated on its website: “Today, T.C. Williams High School is proud to educate students from 120 different countries, with 121 different languages spoken. Alexandria City Public Schools views our diversity as a strength. Ensuring racial equity is the heart of the school division’s Strategic Plan: Equity for All 2025.”

The last public engagement hearing occurred on October 29. The school board will vote on November 23 to decide if it should finalize the process and accept new name proposals. Learn more at www.acps.k12.va.us/identityproject.



T.C. Williams High School

There's (Mostly) Good News for Alexandria

By Lenore Marema

Three recent survey results mention our state, city and neighborhood. There's a lot of good news and one area where we've got some work to do. Here's a look.

Alexandria: Among the Best Small Cities in America

Alexandria, Virginia, was number five of America's Top 10 Small Cities to visit, according to Condé Nast. The magazine began its annual survey after the pandemic started, when few people were traveling. This year Condé Nast asked its readers for their top travel memories that are getting them through the pandemic.

While it's always an honor to be on Condé Nast's lists of the best destinations, hotels, cruises, airlines and trains, it's extra special that Alexandria is one of the Top 10 Small Cities that gave visitors their most enduring travel memories. Washington, D.C., ranked number two in the Top 10 Large Cities, second only to Chicago.

Cameron Station: Among Best Real Estate Markets in the DMV

September 21, 2020 issue of *The Washington Business Journal* listed Cameron Station as one of the hottest real estate markets in D.C., Maryland and Virginia. Out of



2,644 advertised subdivisions, we made it into the Top 25 hottest real estate markets (at number 25). The median price in our neighborhood was \$659,000, up 4.6% from last year. Other local markets listed were Old Town (7) and Parkfairfax (21).

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Oops—We’re Rude Drivers

A study of data from 2.5 million drivers who sought an auto insurance quote from the Insurify Insurance Company examined and identified rude driving behavior as it related to driving violations, as reported in *Alexandria Living Magazine* (Sept. 30, 2020). Failure to stop for a light, sign or school bus; failure to yield the right of way; and passing where prohibited were the most common rude driver violations.

With 52.8% out of every 1,000 drivers having one or more of these violations, Alexandria drivers ranked third in the list of the nation’s rudest drivers in cities with a population of 50,000 or more. Virginians are rude in general, as nine of our 12 qualifying cities made the rude list, the highest number for any state. (Drivers in the Idaho cities of Pocatello and Caldwell were the first and second rudest, respectively.)



The bottom line: Cameron Station is one of the best neighborhoods in one of the best small cities in America - but we’ve got to work on our polite driving skills!

Annual Community Yard Sale: Saturday, September 19



Out and About

By Lenore Marema

Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house...we can't go! More Cameron Station residents will be staying close to home for Thanksgiving and the December holidays. Some may start new family traditions or gather with neighbors. Look at this as an opportunity to be creative.

Some Holiday Hacks

Table Décor: If you usually travel for holidays, make your table decor this year. Core mini-pumpkins or apples to serve as candleholders. Make a turkey out of a pineapple for the centerpiece: set down the pineapple horizontally – you have the turkey's body – and the crown and leaves of the pineapple are the tail feathers. All you need is a gourd for the head and toothpicks to put it in place. Use whole cloves or peppercorns for the eyes. One homeowners association had a pumpkin-decorating contest which resulted in an inspiring creation: a wine bucket. No need to store anything for next year!

Turkey Take-Out: 2020 has been so weird that all bets are off. You might dispense with the turkey and serve a roast, some salmon or baked lasagna. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce will still be on most menus, however.

With smaller gatherings, how much turkey do you need? There's something glorious about the smell of a big turkey roasting. If you cook a 16-to-18-pound bird, you'll own it for the next 3-4 days. It will take the majority of your oven time on the holiday, refrigerator space afterwards and brainpower to use the leftovers. If you have one oven, most of your sides will need to be cooked on the stovetop.

Consider some of these options. Buy a pre-cooked turkey, then carve and reheat it. Most grocery stores have complete dinners tailored by the serving size, such as 3-5- and 6-8-persons. Some restaurants also offer these meals.



They're all more costly than cooking, but are less laborious and stressful ways of celebrating.

Grocery stores carry turkey breasts of different sizes, both fresh and frozen. This is a great option in terms of far less roasting time, but only if all at the table love the white meat. For small gatherings, this may be the year to buy the turkey in parts. Wegmans has the most choices to date – half of a turkey breast and dark meat thighs and legs packaged in small amounts. Cook the combination that pleases the guests.

Homemade Cranberry Sauce: Most children will like the snap, crackle and pop of the cranberries as they cook. Buy a bag of fresh cranberries in any grocery store and follow the cooking instructions, except substitute orange juice for the water and cut the sugar in half. Add more sugar to taste. This is the only time I buy orange juice with pulp.

Some New Seasonal Products

Hershey and Yuengling Beer have teamed up to make a new Chocolate Porter. It's brewed with Hershey's chocolate and based on Yuengling Dark Brewed Porter.

Land O'Lakes now has **Cinnamon and Sugar Butter Spread**. If your attempt at homemade cinnamon rolls during the pandemic left a bit to be desired, putting this new spread on warm toast is sure to please.

Classified Ad

Refinance now while interest rates are at all-time lows. 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).

Add new flavor to breakfast with **Eggo Apple Cinnamon Waffles** and **Thick and Fluffy Salted Caramel Waffles**. Giant Food carries them in the frozen food section.

Look for the **Turkey Butter Molds** at Wegmans and buy them when you see them; supply is limited. Watch for the person at your table who whacks the head off the turkey to butter their dinner roll; there's one in every crowd.

Green Giant's latest frozen veggie is **Cauliflower Breadsticks** – original and garlic. They're gluten-free.

Safeway's **Turkey Hill Farm Ice Cream** has a new seasonal flavor – **Brown Sugar Bourbon Vanilla**.

Seriously Up Your Game

Brine Your Turkey: Brining your turkey in salt water yields a firmer and juicier turkey. The brine opens up the membranes so that the turkey will hold more juice in roasting, and the sugar will help it brown. The basic brine is one-and-a-half cups of kosher salt and one cup of sugar dissolved in two quarts of hot water and then cooled with two quarts of ice. Bay leaves, peppercorns and fresh thyme may be added. Most grocery stores sell kits that contain large Ziploc bags for this purpose. Skip the more expensive kits that the cooking stores sell that add lemon pepper or other flavors. You're just paying a lot more for salt and sugar.



Place the turkey breast-down in the brine and refrigerate for 12 hours ideally, but no more than 24 hours. The turkey doesn't absorb the salt and sugar, but you must still give it a good rinse in the sink to get out all the saline solution. Discard the brine. Briners swear by this process, while others think it's not worth the effort. But the pandemic might give you the needed time at home to try it out.

Take-Out Cocktails: Virginia is one of 33 states that have passed laws allowing restaurants to sell cocktails for take-out and delivery. Ask your favorite restaurants for their offerings, especially those with seasonal ingredients such as apple cider martinis. Buying a round and having it delivered is a nice holiday splurge.

Queen/King for a Day: Get the Thanksgiving menu from **Rose's Luxury in D.C.**, and have dinner from a Michelin-

starred restaurant via take-out or free delivery within 30 miles. The **Northern Virginia Magazine** website generally keeps an updated list of NOVA restaurants that have holiday meals to go at www.northernvirginiamag.com.

Founding Fathers Drink: While our Founding Fathers were fond of French wine, but lacked refrigeration technology, the barrels were filled with vinegar on arrival in the colonies. The Portuguese-fortified Madeira wine survived and was the colonial drink of choice. **Verdelho Madeira** is the only wine left of the original exporters and has been preserved by the Rare Wine Company in Savannah.

This is the wine Thomas Jefferson toasted with after signing the Declaration of Independence, so it makes a very special after-dinner drink for the holidays. Remember, the colonists drank from BCB's (Before Crate and Barrel's) glassware; they used small glasses, about the size of a shot glass, and sipped slowly. **MacArthur Beverages** in D.C. is the only local seller. Call ahead (202-338-1433) to make sure it's in stock.

Some New Mixers for 2021: M&M's will sell bags with a mix of M&M's flavors. The new **Classic** mix will be milk chocolate, milk chocolate peanut and peanut butter. The new peanut mix will be white, milk and dark chocolate peanuts. Do you know someone who takes a handful of M&M's and eats them by color? These new mixers are for them.

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We have loved you for 10 years and, although the future is completely unpredictable, we sincerely hope to be part of your daily routine for the next decade as well. Thank you for your unwavering support, especially as the pandemic upended life for almost everyone in 2020. We truly appreciate your patience with all the changes we've made to adhere to ever-changing restrictions. You are the HOW and WHY we stay open.

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Our mission is to serve all pets no matter the breed, personality or background. At Pawsh we strive to get to know your pet and cater to their needs and make them as comfortable as possible in a place we know isn't the most comfortable. We will always choose humanity over vanity.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU...

The staff of *The Compass* welcomes your comments and suggestions about the newsletter and community updates. Please send them to thecompass@cameronstation.org. Thank you.

See a Problem in the Neighborhood?

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

Trash and Recycling Collection Schedule

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

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day

New Year's Day

When these holidays occur on pick-up days, your trash will be picked up on the next regularly scheduled day. Please note that collection days after holidays are the heaviest days of the year, and pickup delays may result due to additional trash and trips to the landfills.



Please Don't Feed the Wildlife

By Marian Cavanagh



We often see people (adults and children) feeding the wildlife in Ben Brenman Park pond, despite signs asking us not to. Human food isn't healthy for wild animals, and they don't need food from humans to survive. Here's some information on the harm that may result, adapted from the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust website.

Ducks that are fed bread may become malnourished. Adult ducks may become fat and overweight. If they eat a high-calorie, low-nutrient diet, young ducks can develop a condition called "angel wing," a deformity that usually means they cannot fly.



Feeding bread to **geese** will cause them to defecate more, which can spread bacteria that can contribute to disease. Moldy bread that is not eaten and left on the ground can cause aspergillosis, a lung infection that can be fatal to waterfowl.

Turtles lack the enzymes needed to break down foods like bread and those that contain dairy. Since they cannot properly process these foods, they don't obtain the vitamins and nutrients they require for proper growth and development.

Feeding wildlife can also lead to public health concerns. Concentrating too many animals in one place increases the chance of disease transmission to people and among other wildlife.

So please: Do Not Feed the Wildlife! Thank you.



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Samuel W. Tucker News

By Linda Greenberg

For at least the last nine years, students at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School and three other Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) have participated in the Constitution Day Proclamation Signing ceremonies in the City Council chambers at City Hall. The event is always celebratory, both because of the occasion and the spirited singing of patriotic songs.

The Proclamation honors the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787. This year, because of the pandemic, the usual program could not take place; nevertheless, Samuel W. Tucker was well represented at the 2020 program, which was Covid-19-safe.

Using video recordings produced by ACPS Director of Media Nathan Goldstein, segments of the 2018 and 2019 Constitution Proclamation program became, with a few new additions, a 2020 video recording that was compelling and vivid. The new sections show Mayor Wilson with the signed proclamation and include short speeches about the importance of the Constitution by ACPS Superintendent Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr. and Linda Greenberg, Constitution Week Chair of the John Alexander Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In addition, a former Tucker student and now Francis C. Hammond Middle School student, Arianna Espiritu, spoke about the Constitution's importance to her today. Each year the recorded program is shown on ACPS's Channel 72 to all the students in the city's public elementary schools.

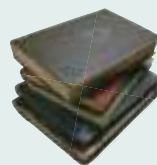
2018 Tucker students sang, with spirit, "The Preamble" and "The Bill of Rights RAP." The students were dressed in colonial costume and the music was composed by former Tucker music teacher Debra Lindsay.

In addition, this year Tucker teachers received a PowerPoint titled "20 Fun Facts and Questions" about the Constitution. Questions for students included "Do you know which of several Virginia delegates signed the U.S. Constitution?" and "Which Virginian is usually acclaimed as the principle drafter of the U.S. Constitution?"

Whether studying in school or at home, Tucker students learn the importance of the Constitution in structuring our government and guaranteeing American freedoms.

Put a Lid on Garbage

Rats, raccoons, crows and all sorts of furry and feathered creatures can easily eat their way through garbage bags left on the curb. Please remember to put all garbage in trashcans with tight-fitting lids.



Book Clubs

Monday Night Book Club

- November: *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi
- December: *The Splendid and the Vile* by Eric Larsen
- January: *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin

Reading Between the Wines

- November: *The Stationery Shop* by Marjan Kamali
- December: *Children of Blood and Bones* by Tomi Adeyemi

PG | COMPASS

Happy Holidays!



Thank You
for your continued support in 2020.
Stay safe and healthy!

Aaron Podolsky
202.271.3050 | aaron@podolskygroup.com
podolskygroup.com

Welcome New Pets!

We recently asked residents to send us photos of pets they've adopted during the pandemic. Thank you for your responses, and for welcoming these lovely animals into our community.



Appa, here at six months, is a Miniature Australian Shepherd. Adopted by Cassandra Franz.



Coco is a two-year-old Chihuahua/Jack Russell mix. Adopted by Rochelle Germano.



DeeDee, adopted in July, is a two-year-old domestic short hair with possibly a little bit of Siamese. Adopted by Laura Favinger.



Enzo, here at four months, is a Keeshond who arrived in late July. Adopted by Jennifer Mon.



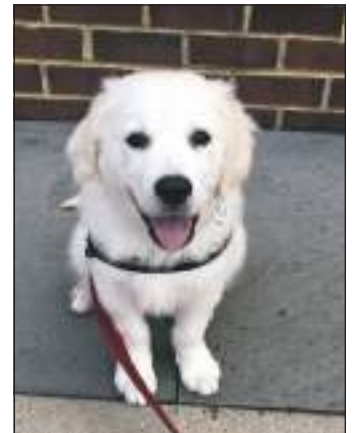
Josie is a three-year-old mix, probably of a St. Bernard and a beagle. Adopted by Bonnie Bosler.



Oscar is a three-year-old Yorkie adopted in July. Adopted by Heather Lovelace.



Ruddi is a five-year-old Black Mouth Cur. Adopted by Bonnie Bosler.



Shamrock, here at three months, is an English Cream Golden Retriever. Adopted by Shannon Hartnett.



Tilda, here at nine months, is a Shichon (Shitzu-Bichon mix). Adopted by Veronica Jones.



Yuki, here at eight weeks, is a Samoyed. Yuki means "snow" in Japanese. Adopted by Jacqueline Rizzi.

Transportation Options

In addition to the Cameron Station shuttle bus, the Alexandria Dash bus AT-8 stops on Duke Street in front of the community and provides transportation to both the Van Dorn and King Street Metro stations. Go to www.dashbus.com for a schedule. The Washington Metro-bus 8Z also stops on Duke Street and provides rush-hour service to the Pentagon Metro station. Go to www.wmata.com for more information.



Uncertainty for Alexandria Schools Re-Entry

By Mayu Molina Lehmann

(Author's Note: The school situation is fluid, and by the time this issue is printed, things may have changed. The information is correct as of October 29, 2020.)

The students at Samuel Tucker Elementary School will remain in virtual mode until December 2020 at the earliest, according to the Alexandria City School Board. Some students will be allowed to phase into in-person classes during November, giving priority to special education students and English language learners, as they are considered to be in greater need.

The school board voted on October 21, 2020, to adopt this phased-in approach for students in grades Pre-K to 12, with the intention of adding the full student population starting in January 2021. This plan is contingent on Center for Disease Control guidelines on school capacity and transportation, however.

Confusion ensued shortly after the school board's vote, as Alexandria's Superintendent of Schools, Gregory Hutchings, spoke that same day to CNN's Jake Tapper, saying he thought having all students at one time in classrooms wouldn't happen until a vaccine was deployed. According to Hutchings, it was "clearly impossible" to have all students back until then. This exchange raised concerns with parents, teachers, students, support staff, etc., who would face the possibility of a fully virtual school year.



At this point, it is unclear when Tucker and other Alexandria City public schools will be able to safely reopen. At the moment, Tucker is being used as a daycare center for children of essential workers, a program being managed by the YMCA of Alexandria.

Amazon gives the option of selecting Tucker Elementary to receive 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases. Please shop through their website at www.smile.amazon.com, and select Samuel W. Tucker Elementary PTA as your charity of choice. Thank you!

Please remember to relink your Harris Teeter VIC card with Tucker Elementary, as it expires every school year. When you shop Harris Teeter brands, a percentage of your purchase is donated to the school that your VIC card is linked to. You can link your number online (<https://www.harristeeter.com/tie-back-to-school>) or visit the customer service desk and provide our school code, 6272. Thank you!

Alexandria Operates 24-Hour Nuisance Abatement Hotline

The City of Alexandria's Nuisance Abatement Hotline, 703-836-0041, is a 24-hour phone number for residents and businesses seeking assistance with public nuisance issues involving violations of city codes. If, for example, there are problems caused by a business operating after approved hours, residents can call this number to report the violation. Please state the nature and location of the problem, as well as your name and phone number, which will enable the city to let you know what action they took to address it. If the problem is urgent, a city agency will immediately dispatch personnel to investigate. If not, action will be taken no later than the next business day.

No Soliciting

Solicitations are not permitted in Cameron Station. Residents who find flyers, business cards, etc., at or near their doors should turn them in at the Cameron Club so community management can take action.

Carpenter's Shelter: 930 N. Henry Street, Here We Come!

By Shannon Steene, Executive Director, and Steve Valley, Communications and Development Associate, of Carpenter's Shelter

Despite a two-week delay, we're on target to move into our new building, and we can hardly wait!

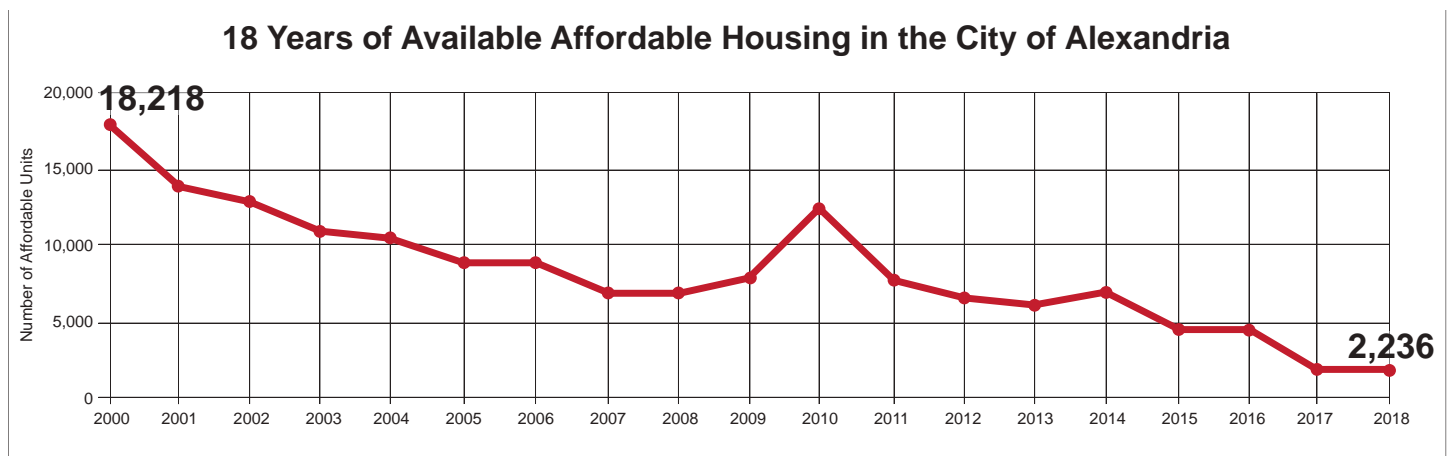
It's hard to believe, but this whole process started about 15 years ago when some very forward-thinking individuals proposed that Carpenter's Shelter redevelop its space. That's right, we are just about to see the results of many years of dreaming, planning, fundraising and, finally, building. That journey to our purpose-built space has been long and fraught with all kinds of distractions and dangers, including false starts and Covid-19. Through it all, though, Carpenter's has never closed its doors or stopped helping those who ask for it.

By now you should all know the story of how Carpenter's Shelter came into being and how it wound up being located

being what? Ending homelessness. Think about that for a moment. In the almost 30 years that Carpenter's has been in existence, it's always been located in spaces where we made do. It's always been in places that weren't built with that use in mind. Nonetheless, we made do. In the new building, we will not need to make do. We can't wait to experience that.

Equally important is that, as Carpenter's has been growing and helping with homelessness, the availability of affordable housing has actually dropped. That's one more reason why the new shelter has been built.

From 2000 to the present, the amount of affordable housing units in Alexandria has dropped by 88%; with the notable exception of 2008-2012, the number of available units has consistently trended downward (see the chart below).



Source: The City of Alexandria Virginia's, Market Affordable Update 2018

in many different spaces, such as a church basement, a pair of warehouses, an old Department of Motor Vehicles building and a defunct shopping mall. With each step in this growth story, however, Carpenter's increased its ability to handle the growing need for housing the homeless of Alexandria.

And that's just it: **homelessness is a lack of housing.** It's at our core. It's our *raison d'être*! Finding affordable housing and doing so reliably is the main way to move people from homeless to housed.

When we move back to the new shelter on North Henry Street, we'll be moving, for the first time, into a purpose-built building and space to do our business. That business

To help fight this trend and to put more affordable housing back on the market, Carpenter's Shelter's new building will feature 97 affordable units, thanks to our partners at the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation. These new modern units will house anywhere from one to eight people and will be within walking distance of all that Alexandria has to offer.

We've felt so welcomed to the West End of Alexandria. You all have truly been such supportive neighbors. Please know that we are profoundly grateful for the many ways you've shown your support, and we hope that will continue after our move. Getting into our new building is a cause for real celebration, as it helps us toss more sand dollars back into the ocean.

Why do we do this? 97 units and the Sand Dollar Parable

The story goes ... A young boy and his father are walking down a beach. The previous night, a big storm had come in and washed up thousands of sand dollars that had started to die in the sun. As they walked, the father would stop, reach down, pick one up and throw it back into the water. Puzzled, the boy asked, "Father, why are you throwing them back in? Surely you can't make a

difference, because there are so many of them." And the father replied, as he tossed in the next one, "It made a difference to that one."

It may seem like the 97 affordable units in Carpenter's new shelter is but a drop in the bucket, but it will make a difference to each person we house.

West End Farmers Market

By Whitney Johnson

Typically the West End Farmers Market runs every Sunday from May through October. This year, due to Covid-19, we had to open a little later, making it very different, and sometimes difficult, for everyone. Even though our country has had a major setback, the market managers still wanted to give the vendors a chance. We treat them all like family and know that they also make a living by showing up every Sunday for the community; so we had to make sure we did our part by opening up the market, and then staying open a little longer too, until November 15.

During this season, our vendors were able to provide you with fresh produce, local honey, teas, meat, fish, cheese, etc. We offered amazing crafts such as soy candles, hand-made leather purses, wallets, bags, jewelry, holiday wreaths, and even hand-made craft toys for children. The market had something for everyone. It was the place to be. Whether you wanted to purchase local goods or just get out of the house for some fresh air, it was the place for you!

We love and cherish this community. We would like to thank everyone for continuing to believe in us, and we thank you for your support. Please be safe, and we look forward to seeing you next year!

The Williams Family



Days to Celebrate

By Carla Besosa

Nov. 15: I Love to Write Day (You hear that? *The Compass* wants YOU!)

Nov. 16: National Fast Food Day (I'm going with Taco Bell's Cheesy Gordita Crunch!)

Nov. 18: National Apple Cider Day (Might as well make it hard cider at Lost Boy Cider.)

Nov. 23: National Espresso Day (Celebrate at Cameron Café ... and no "x" in espresso!)

Nov. 28: National French Toast Day (Del Ray Café for Brioche in Organic Milk/Grand Marnier Batter, or Silver Diner for Caramel or Banana-Stuffed French Toast.)

Dec. 4: National Cookie Day (In a word: Oreos! Peanut Butter Oreos, Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie Oreos and Latte Oreo Thins.)

Dec. 9: National Pastry Day (I like Cameron Café's Cinnamon Swirl or try the Börek and the Simit from our Mediterranean Farmers Market vendor Ozz Catering.)

Dec. 10: National Lager Day (Try Port City Brewery's Derecho Lager, originating from an interrupted batch that was brewing during the July 2012 derecho storm that wiped out power to much of the DMV area, including the brewery.)

Dec. 13: National Violin Day (I recommend watching the 1998 movie *Red Violin* with its award-winning score played by Joshua Bell. One of my favorite movies and soundtracks.)

Dec. 20: Go Caroling Day (Gather in the gazebo, socially distanced, and sing!) Also National Sangria Day (Perhaps an earlier stop at Los Tios for one of their tasty sangrias would enhance the sound of the caroling!)

Dec. 21: National Hamburger Day (Check out Half-Price Burger Night, Mondays at Foxfire Grill.)

Dec. 27: National Fruitcake Day (How many fruitcakes are there in the world? Just one, and it keeps getting passed around.)

Advertising & Submissions Policies & Procedures

Advertising:

The Compass newsletter is published bimonthly and distributed to approximately 1,800 residences, as well as 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** (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. Estimated (not guaranteed) time of delivery for the last week in January to the first week of February.

Article Submissions:

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). 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.

Publishing 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.

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.

Halloween in Cameron Station

Enjoy these glimpses of Halloween throughout our neighborhood. Things were different this year, but, as always, it was a fun day to decorate, dress up, and get in the spirit of this special occasion! Thanks everyone, for your many contributions!



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