

# The compass

The Official Publication of the Cameron Station Community Association

Volume 24 Issue 4 • Winter 2023

## The Generosity of the Cameron Station Community Shines Again – 14th Annual Operation Gobble Gobble Was a Success!

By Donna Kenley

The Cameron Station Community reached its goal: to provide 100 Tucker Elementary families with \$100 in grocery gift certificates to purchase Thanksgiving meals.

On November 17, 2023, Donna Kenley, representing Cameron Station, presented Adaarema Kelly, Principal of Samuel W. Tucker Elementary, with **\$10,000 in grocery gift cards**. This community-wide, Thanksgiving project included donations from over 100 families, businesses (Irina Babb Homes LLC and Cameron Café), philanthropic organizations (West End Rotary Club - 10<sup>th</sup> Year), and the Alexandria Community Public School organization (Tucker PTA members and school tutors). In addition, the “Secret Sponsor” once again matched donations with \$2,000 in gift cards.

Included in this picture are members of the West End Rotary Club, Cameron Station and Tucker School staff. This gift provides hope to families who could use a little help during the holiday season; and this project’s success exemplifies what it means to be a part of this caring community — Cameron Station.



## There Is Still Time to “Adopt-a-Family”!

By Pat Sugrue

Or a child. Or a bunch of children. Or anything you can do to help needy families from Tucker Elementary have a Merry Christmas.

Since we provided details of the Adopt-a-Family program in the September/October 2023 issue of *The Compass*, and continue to do so in the weekly email blast, we won’t repeat them here, but we do want to remind you that the deadline is near – Thursday, December 14, 2023. Cameron Station neighbors have been busy shopping for these deserving families for weeks, but there are still many families that need our assistance.

If you are able to help now, Mindy Lyle, who has been the coordinator of this program for many years, advises that monetary donations and store gift cards would be very welcome. They can be dropped off at her house at



5235 Tancreti Lane or the desk at the Cameron Club at 200 Cameron Station Blvd. Please mark for the “Adopt-a-Family” program.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

# Thank You, from the Departing Editor of *The Compass*

By Gen Harrison-Doss

After 18 months of being a part of this incredible community and having the privilege of serving as your editor, the time has come for me to move on to new volunteer opportunities. I want to express my deepest gratitude for your readership and commentary. It has been a true pleasure and honor to be a part of this community, and I am grateful for the countless interactions, stories and experiences that I have had the privilege of sharing through our newsletter.

I am confident that the newsletter will continue to thrive under new leadership and in the new format as a blog, and I am excited to see the wonderful things that the future holds for our community. I will always cherish the memories and connections that I have made during my time as the editor, and I want to thank you all for making this experience so fulfilling and rewarding. More to come in 2024 on the new editor!



## Cameron Station Book Clubs

'Tis the season to stay at home and get cozy with a good book! See what other residents of Cameron Station are reading in two of the community's book clubs.

### Reading Between the Wines

November: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

December: *Code Name Blue Wren* by Jim Popkin

The Reading Between the Wines book club is currently full, but you're welcome to read along with us!

### Monday Night Book Ball

November: *This Is Happiness* by Niall Williams

December: *The Editor* by Steven Rowley

January: *The Bad Muslim Discount* by Seyed M. Masood

If you are interested in joining the Monday Night Book club, please email PJ at [sottilepj@aol.com](mailto:sottilepj@aol.com).



## About . . . *The Compass*

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

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

Please send us an email at [TheCompass@cameronstation.org](mailto:TheCompass@cameronstation.org).

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

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

**Editor-in-Chief:** Gen Harrison-Doss.

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

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

# Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

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### ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

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

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### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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

Tricia Hemel - Chairperson

### FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Takis Taousakis - Chairperson

## Communications Committee

By Tricia Hemel

In the last quarter of 2023, the Communications Committee (ComCom) and its subcommittees have been hard at work, making significant progress on various projects. We're excited about the upcoming website update, which will soon launch, offering a more user-friendly and accessible experience for our residents.

This year, we've welcomed a total of 144 new residents to Cameron Station, and our Welcome Subcommittee continues to ensure that they feel at home.

Our Photography Subcommittee, along with many residents, has been busy documenting beautiful and memorable moments in our community, which we've shared through our newsletter and Eblast and on social media. Connect with us on our social media platforms: Facebook: @CameronStationCA and Instagram: @CameronStationCommunity. Don't forget to like and follow!

We want to express our sincere gratitude to the Newsletter Subcommittee for their commitment to producing *The Compass*. This publication serves as a source of inspiring community news, highlights events and showcases the remarkable neighbors who contribute to our community. We hope you find this issue enjoyable!

As we look forward to 2024, we have other exciting plans

aimed at enhancing our community even further. Among them is the transition of our newsletter into a dynamic blog format, ensuring quicker and more timely sharing of community news. Additionally, we're actively exploring ways to streamline and launch new communication initiatives that will benefit everyone.

If you'd like to contribute to our projects, or have suggestions for improving community communication, please reach out to us at [communications@cameronstation.org](mailto:communications@cameronstation.org). Your support is invaluable in keeping our community connected and informed.

## Cameron Club Facilities Committee

By Ray Celeste

The Cameron Club Facilities Committee (CCFC) has had another busy year working on behalf of our residents. We continue to assess our fitness equipment, pool and clubhouse needs. This is no small task. I am very grateful for all our committee members' hard work and input. They are: Vice Chair Dan Ogg; Recording Secretary Dan McPhillips; Financial Advisor Tim Regan; and Mike Heard. Brandon Hanlon has done a superb job in advising the CCFC and CAMP (Management). I am also grateful for our Community Manager Steve Philbin and our Assistant Community Manager Angel Robles. They are a pleasure to serve with. Psy Scott, our Fitness Director, and his

(Continued on page 4)

# Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

*(Committee Corner continued from page 3)*

team continue to provide outstanding fitness classes and workshops that are well-attended. Psy has been with us for many years and has an absolutely incredible fitness resume. If you have time, please engage him with any fitness questions you may have.

I also want to thank our Board of Directors whose members work hours on end to ensure our community is a great place to play, work and live. I wish all of you a blessed holiday season!

“Dead last finish is greater than did not finish, which trumps did not start.” ~Anonymous

## Activities & Events Committee

*By Andy Yang*

The Activities & Events Committee (A&E) held two events on September 30, 2023: the Fall Yard Sale and the return of Casino Night. As in the past, residents were able to do some “fall cleaning” for the Yard Sale and shop around for various goods. Casino Night featured table games and plenty of food and drink for all to enjoy. Gift cards were awarded to the top chip earners to end a fun night at the Cameron Club.

Halloween came to Cameron Station with the annual Halloween Party on October 28. It began with a costume parade, starting in the Farmers Market parking lot in Ben Brenman Park and ending at the main gazebo in Cameron Circle. Residents had the opportunity to participate in a costume contest as they passed by on the Brenman Park Drive median. Before announcing the winners of the costume contest, there was a surprise flash mob dance to some Halloween tunes. Cameron Cafe, IndoChen and



Pawsh Dog Wash gift cards were awarded to the best individual, group and pet costumes. Reflective Halloween bag giveaways and candy goodie bags were also available at the gazebo. After the main event at the gazebo, there were additional treats at the Cameron Club in the Victoria Hebert Great Room and games in the gym to close out the day. Thanks to Irina Babb for sponsoring this event.



Most recently, on November 4, the A&E committee held another wine tour trip to visit two Virginia wineries. About 30 residents participated in this event, which stopped at Barrel Oak Winery and Three Fox Vineyards & Brewery.

The A&E committee will end the year with a Holiday Party on Sunday, December 17, from noon to 3 pm. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for additional details in the near future.

## Financial Advisory Committee

By Takis Taousakis

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) was established in order to advise the Board of Directors on issues affecting the financial position of the Association that may include but not limited to:

- Review the monthly financial statement, as prepared by the community management company (CAMP) and the Community Manager Review Repair and Replacement and Operating Reserves and make necessary updates.
- Focus on ensuring that our community operates smoothly and that we have a robust plan for all our future needs.

- Review Association's investments and maximize the return on our deposits and CDs.
- Assess delinquencies and collection policies.
- Recommend funding options for special projects and unbudgeted expenses.
- Assist other committees, as requested, with regard to the budget and/or other financial matters.
- Review the annual audit and tax returns as prepared by the Association's audit firm.
- Participate in the annual budget process and ensure that the different budget line items consider historical costs and the needs of the community as expressed by the different standing committees.
- Review the annual budget as prepared by the Community Management team for the Annual Meeting.

As Cameron Station owners ourselves, members of the FAC never relish the prospect of increasing assessment rates.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Was another wonderful Halloween!



# Committee Corner

HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS

(Committee Corner continued from page 5)

At the same time, we know how important it is to maintain our community's high standards, not just in 2023 and 2024, but for many more years to come.

## Common Area Committee

By Don Williams

Fall is a busy season for landscaping, and the Common Area Committee (CAC) has been busy with turf maintenance and the completion of several needed tree and shrub replacements. Fall is the best time for planting, as the air

is cool, the ground is still warm and plants can establish without heat stress. Winter flowers have been planted in common areas at the Duke Street entrance, Cameron Circle gazebo and in front of the Cameron Club.

Late fall is also a great time for tree trimming, which can help protect trees and nearby property from winter storm damage. The city maintains trees along city streets, and Lancaster Landscapes performs tree trimming on trees in common areas. The tree or trees closest to your home may be on your property, which makes them privately owned trees. These trees are the responsibility of the homeowner. If you are unsure whether a particular tree is on private property, you can reach out to Management. Residents who would like to replace privately owned trees should submit an application to the Architectural Review Committee (ARC); replacement trees must meet guidelines outlined in the current Design & Maintenance Standards (DMS): [https://www.cameronstation.org/images/CSCA\\_Design\\_and\\_Maintenance\\_Standards\\_DMS\\_Effective\\_09162021.pdf](https://www.cameronstation.org/images/CSCA_Design_and_Maintenance_Standards_DMS_Effective_09162021.pdf).

Please contact Management if you notice an area of concern in our community's common areas, including uneven bricks on sidewalks, dead trees or burned out streetlights. Management maintains a list of ongoing maintenance tasks and can help route items to the appropriate party. We depend on reports from residents to help address issues promptly.

It's not too soon to think of snow. Some winters we receive very little; some winters we receive a lot. If you need to purchase a shovel, we advise doing so ahead of the rush that comes with the season's first snow forecast, when many stores sell out of shovels. A smaller shovel (even one called "child-sized") may be worth investigating, as it is adaptable enough for decks and door entry areas plus light enough even when full of wet snow to allow the user to clear walks and driveways with less risk of injury. If ice melt is required, we recommend using a plant- and pet-safe formula, such as calcium chloride, magnesium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate.

## Architectural Review Committee

By Stephen Pearson

Winter is typically a slower time for the ARC, as homeowners schedule fewer exterior maintenance projects during the colder months.

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Cameron Station Activities and Events

# HOLIDAY PARTY

Horse Carriage Rides	<b>SUN DEC 17TH NOON- 3 PM</b>	Maggianos Catering
Meet Santa		Hot Chocolate
Holiday Market		Festive Cookies
		Adult Beverages

Cameron Station Clubhouse and Gazebo  
For questions or volunteer opportunities,  
email [events@cameronstation.org](mailto:events@cameronstation.org)

# Cameron Station Civic Association: Developments of Interest to Cameron Station

By Arthur Impastato, Immediate Past President Cameron Station Civic Association

The Cameron Station Civic Association held its virtual membership meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. Mindy Lyle (Planning Commissioner) discussed numerous initiatives affecting Cameron Station. Below is a summary of key points from a few of those matters of interest to our community.

Commissioner Lyle discussed the redevelopment of Landmark Mall that includes a state-of-the-art Inova Hospital and a diverse offering of rental and for-sale housing opportunities, including affordable housing, senior housing, market-rate apartments, condos and townhouses. Her best guess is that the Inova Hospital Development Special Use Permit will come before City Council for a vote in 2024.

Commissioner Lyle noted that the redevelopments of Landmark Overlook, across the street from Landmark Mall, is moving ahead. (For information on both Landmark Mall and Landmark Overlook, go to <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/EWLVD%20IAG%20Presentation%2001262023.pdf>).

In addition, the Vulcan Materials site is in the process of redevelopment (<https://media.alexandriava.gov/content/planning/EWLVDAGPresentation20220427.pdf>). She noted that there already is interest among local redevelopers for parcels of land along the corridor covered by the recently passed Duke Street in Motion bus rapid transit initiative. For information on Duke Street in Motion, go to <https://www.alexandriava.gov/DukeInMotion>.

Commissioner Lyle also discussed the Zoning for Housing initiative that was passed by the Planning Commission on November 1, 2023. This initiative involves nine proposals to change the Zoning Ordinance to create more affordable housing. A lively discussion of this topic ensued on the issues of density and on property rights. Public opportunities to comment before City Council was scheduled for November 14 and 18, with a City Council vote planned for November 28.

The Civic Association notes that, while none of the Zoning for Housing proposals will apply within the four corners of our community, they could have a significant impact on density and what is allowed to be built nearby. There are strong proponents of these initiatives, as well as equally vocal opponents. To get a well-balanced view on these proposals, go to <https://www.alexandriava.gov/planning-and-zoning/zoning-for-housinghousing-for-all> and <https://livablealexandria.org/>.

Please join us for our next membership meeting on February 7, 2024, at 7:00 pm. We guarantee the topic to be chosen will be one of import and interest to any renter or homeowner in our community. All Cameron Station residents are welcome to attend our membership meetings. To join the Civic Association, 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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*(Committee Corner continued from page 6)*

So, this month, I'll focus on the two types of projects the ARC sees the most throughout the year: roofs and windows.

For applications to replace windows and glass doors, always include a scope of work describing the style and exterior color of all your replacement windows, including depictions of mullions and whether you plan to use half or full screens. Pictures of the existing windows you're replacing are critical in helping the ARC understand your project. If the ARC can't determine which windows you're replacing, your project may be delayed with additional questions.

If you are replacing a patio or deck door, include the exterior color, a depiction of the mullions and a description of the door's hardware design and color. For roof applications, always include a scope of work from your contractor that clearly conveys the shingle type and color of your replacement shingles. Make sure your replacement shingle color was selected from Cameron Station's preapproved list. If it looks like your installers

may have to step onto your neighbor's roof to install yours, get their permission via email or signature and include that in your package.

The ARC strongly encourages homeowners to appear before the committee to discuss their applications and answer questions. No application is a "slam dunk." If you have a pending application, you should definitely attend the meeting. We are still meeting via Zoom, so attending is easier than ever. If you did not receive a Zoom link to the meeting, check your spam folder or email management's on-site Covenants Administrator Brandon Throckmorton ([bthrockmorton@gocampmgmt.com](mailto:bthrockmorton@gocampmgmt.com)) to have the link resent.

Always begin planning for your exterior modifications by consulting the Design & Maintenance Standards (DMS). The forms you will need to submit (the Exterior Modification Application, Private Tree Replacement Application and approved color and shingle lists), along with the latest version of the DMS, are located here: <https://cameronstation.org/our-neighborhood/board-committees/architectural-review-committee/covenants>.

*In the past six months, Cameron Station has lost three important members of our community, all original owners. Thanks to their family members and friends for providing us with these memories.*

## In Memoriam – Linda Greenway

Linda Greenway of John Ticer Drive passed away in May 2023. Linda and her husband Pete were two of the first residents of Cameron Station; in fact Pete tells us they were actually the very first to sign a contract with the Cambridge Company, one of the ten builders of our community.

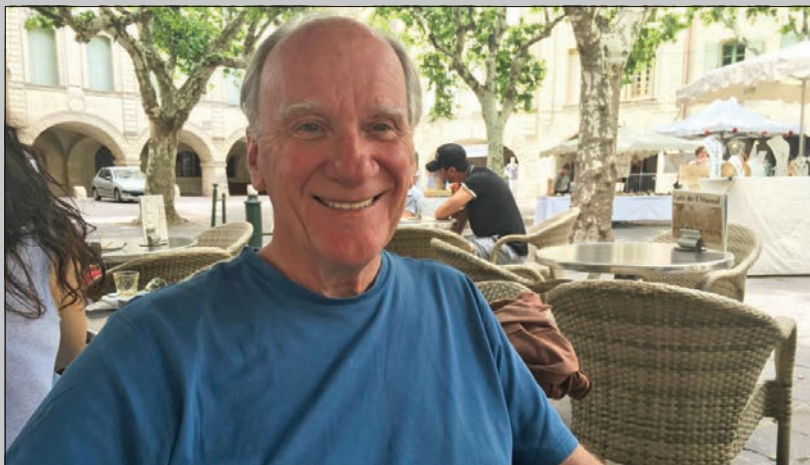
Linda and Pete were living just a few blocks away in Gretna Green Court when the City of Alexandria acquired the Cameron Station U.S. Army base. They watched as it was leveled and construction began to turn it into a premier residential community. An unfurnished model of their Cameron Station townhouse was enough to convince them that this was the place they wanted to be.

In 1998, they moved in with their beloved Irish Wheaton Terrier, Max. From day one, Linda was committed to helping make this community something special. John Ticer Drive has always been a friendly, social block, and much of that is due to Linda's



enthusiastic participation in every Ticer event. She was often the organizer, but at the very least an attendee, at such varied gatherings as pocket park parties, chili cook-offs, toga parties, Easter egg hunts and St. Patrick's Day parties. Linda came up with the idea of giving out Halloween candy in the pocket park so neighbors could visit and not spend the night running up and down stairs to answer the door to Trick or Treaters. And it was she and Pete, along with neighbors Ken and Jane Schwetje and Gwen and Mel Lewis, who first put up the Christmas tree in the Ticer gazebo, a tradition that continues to this day.

After Ken and Mel passed away suddenly, Ticer neighbors began referring to the tree as the "Ken and Mel Memorial Tree" and remembered them fondly as they decorated it. We are sorry to add Linda to that memorial, but are grateful for all the happy memories she provided.



## In Memoriam – Gerry Hebert

Gerry Hebert passed away in September 2023 after a valiant, six-month-long battle against brain cancer. Gerry's strength, optimism, kindness and character are what distinguished Gerry in his personal and professional lives.

Gerry's life was one of service – to his family, his friends, his community and his country. Gerry and his wife Victoria moved onto Waple Lane in 1999 and quickly committed themselves to



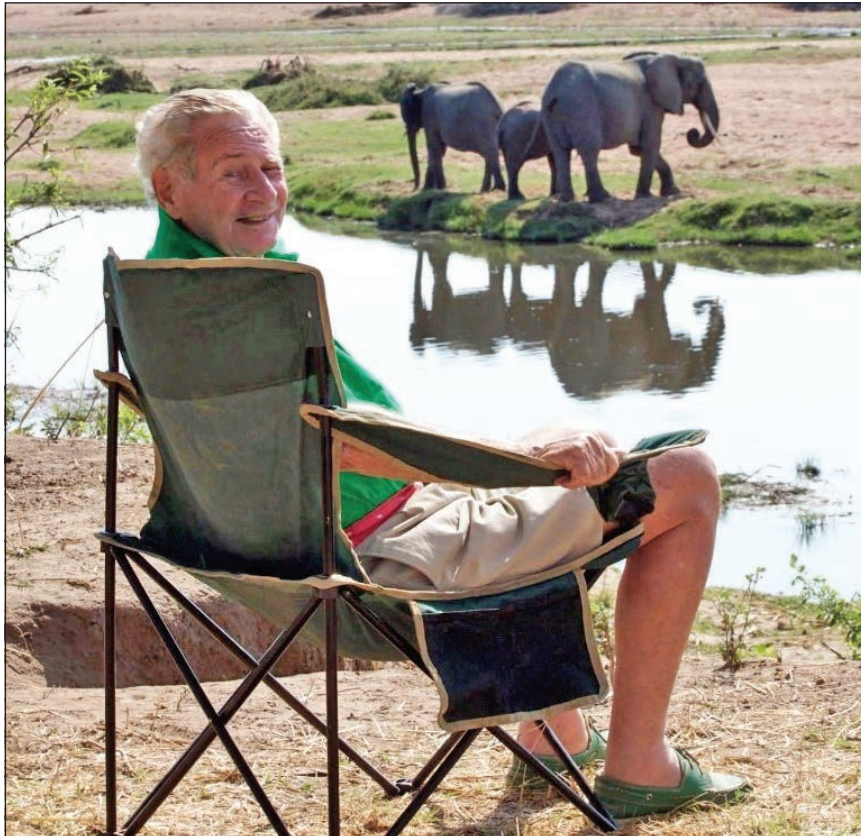
# In Memoriam – Edward Lifmann

Ed Lifmann passed away in August 2023, four days after his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Ed and his wife Dubey lived in one of the earliest and most beautiful houses in Cameron Station – the stately home on Somerville – which was modeled after the John Carlyle house in Old Town. Before they purchased their home in 2001, the community used the house for management offices and meetings because the Cameron Club was not yet constructed.

Ed was born in Rotterdam, Netherlands, survived the bombing of Rotterdam and the rest of World War II, and immigrated through Ellis Island to the U.S. He became a U.S. citizen and a very successful businessman. Much of his career was in international operations for major companies, which involved traveling all over the world.

Ed spoke five languages and developed a passion for travel – for years he traveled to Europe every four weeks and to Africa every six months – but his life was dedicated to his wife and daughter. He planned elegant family vacations and prioritized his daughter’s sporting events over business responsibilities wherever possible. Ed was an avid athlete himself. When age limited his mobility, and the big home became too difficult to manage, Ed and Dubey moved into a condo in Cameron Station, unwilling to leave the community they loved and had called home for more than 20 years.



While Ed’s travel schedule made it difficult to be as involved in the community as he would have liked, he totally supported his wife as she organized Cameron Station neighbors for almost a decade to help the “Wounded Warriors.” Dubey coordinated the collection of clothing, books, CDs and sundries for the men and women soldiers recuperating at Walter Reed Hospital. She drove to the hospital every month and spent hours with the soldiers as she distributed the donations. And every year, Dubey organized a bake sale to raise money for this worthy cause.

We extend our sympathy to Ed’s family, especially to Dubey, and to his many friends.

building community. They created Martini Monday, where so many neighbors met and formed life-long friendships. They were co-owners of Food Matters, the first restaurant in our neighborhood, which was not only a gathering place to enjoy great food and drink, but was also often the site of charity fundraisers and neighborhood celebrations.

While Victoria served on the HOA Board and was its first president, Gerry dedicated much of his time and talents to Alexandria’s

premier charity organization, ALIVE!, serving as president, director of development, chair of the furniture program and Last Saturday food distribution coordinator.

Gerry’s professional career was also one of advocacy and service. He was a respected civil rights and voting rights attorney, specializing in election law; he was acclaimed for his work on school desegregation cases. But it was in his personal life where he found the most joy and purpose,

as a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and a steadfast friend.

A few months before we lost Gerry, *The Compass* featured him in the Summer 2023 issue in “Neighbors in the News” – he was given an award from Volunteer Alexandria for his work with ALIVE!. If you did not know Gerry personally, we recommend you read the article, much of which includes words and thoughts from Gerry that capture well the good man that he was. (Newsletter issues are archived on [www.cameronstation.org](http://www.cameronstation.org).)

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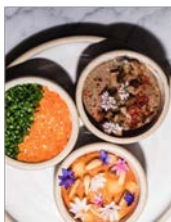
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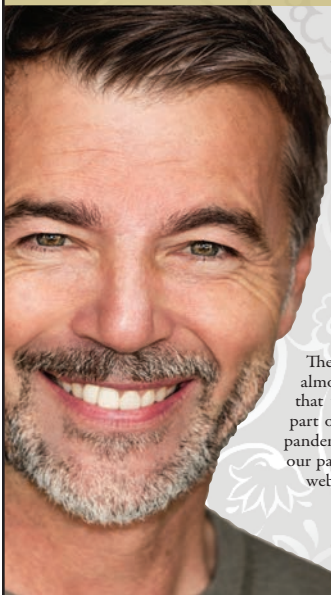
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**Dr. Josephine Salumbides**

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# Neighbors in the News

## Meet Local Arist Nicole Gauvin

By Pat Sugrue

Nicole Gauvin has been a resident of Cameron Station for almost 20 years. For the past 10, she has been making art, but only recently has the neighborhood learned of her unique talents.

Nicole creates handmade greeting cards and artwork using “iris paper folding,” a technique that has been around for decades. It’s thought to have originated in Holland during the 20<sup>th</sup> century when people would cut old envelopes into paper strips and then fold and stick them to create a unique spiral effect. Each card has multiple layers of paper, with the center of the template forming an iris – a shape reminiscent of the iris of a camera lens.

Nicole elevates upcycled paper materials to make each card, which is an intricate work of art. She demonstrated this fascinating technique on October 25 during Wine Wednesday at the Cameron Café. Her cards and artwork are available at the Café, and she hopes to have more demonstrations in the future.

More information about Nicole and her craft can be found on her website: <https://knerq.square.site> and on Instagram @madebyKnerq.



*(Nicole’s talents go beyond her creative greeting cards. She fosters cats for Pets Bring Joy rescue organization -- 35 lives saved since 2017. Our community benefited from her skill and her generosity during the pandemic when she created and gave away for free 118 masks. She also manages Cameron Café’s social media on Instagram and Facebook.)*

## Sarah Walsh Receives Mark Pillow Award

By Pat Sugrue

Former Cameron Station Board of Directors President and current Samuel Tucker Elementary PTA President, Sarah Walsh is the 2023 recipient of the Mark Pillow Community Spirit Award.

Sarah has been a resident of Cameron Station for eight years, and from the start she has involved herself in the life of the community. She was an active member of the Activities & Events Committee; co-founder of the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade; and member of the HOA board for three years, including during the challenging years of the pandemic. As board president, her collaborative style of leadership made for a well-functioning body that accomplished much for the community.

Sarah’s children attend Tucker Elementary, and she and her husband Hockley are strong supporters of our local school, including the Adopt-A-Family program which was first started by Cameron Station in 2002, and Operation Gobble Gobble, now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year. Last year Sarah was PTA treasurer, and this year volunteered to be PTA president, a huge, important job, bringing to Tucker the same energy she brings to Cameron Station.

Reaching way beyond “the walls,” last year Sarah directed her company, Haute Papier, to create special notecards in the colors of the Ukrainian flag to help support that suffering country.

Sarah is a kind, compassionate, dedicated neighbor who supports our community in so many ways. She perfectly represents the spirit of the Mark Pillow Award. Congratulations, Sarah!



# Neighbors in the News

## Ray Celeste Is Named 2023 Volunteer of the Year

By Pat Sugrue

Ray Celeste, Chair of the Cameron Club Facilities Committee, has received the 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Ray moved into Cameron Station in 2004 and joined the Cameron Club and Activities Committee, which he eventually chaired. When that committee was broken into the Activities & Events Committee (A&E) and the Cameron Club Facilities Committee (CCFC), Ray became chair of the CCFC; he has continued to lead it for more than 10 years.

If you've ever used the pool or the fitness center, or attended a fitness class at the Cameron Club, you can be sure Ray had a hand in those activities. Ray and his committee work tirelessly to ensure the facilities at the Cameron Club provide the best experiences for residents. They are always on top of needed updates and improvements, and during the past year completed several important projects at the Club, including: new flooring, light fixtures and paint in the fitness center; decorative plants in the Club's entryway; and new fitness equipment.

The CCFC is responsible for some of the largest contracts in our community, and this entails a significant amount of work soliciting and vetting all applicant companies. In conjunction with our management company CAMP, and under Ray's leadership, the CCFC prepares Request for Proposal documents and then evaluates responses from all bidders, before arriving at a recommendation which is sent to the Board of Directors. This is very important and time-consuming work.



Ray, however, always makes time to discuss matters with residents. He is very much a hands-on person, happy to engage, and takes seriously resident feedback, both suggestions and complaints.

In addition to his work inside Cameron Station and his commitment to our community, Ray also gives his time as a volunteer reader to children as part of an Alexandria City Public Schools program. In his spare time (as limited as that must be!) Ray acts as a volunteer coach for a Running Club and is a regular participant in the local Marine Corps Marathon.

Thank you Ray for your tireless dedication, and congratulations on this well-deserved award.

## Days to Celebrate

By Carla Besosa

Dec. 8 Toilet Paper Appreciation Day (Did this start with COVID?)

Dec. 10 Dewey Decimal System Day (100-Philosophy, 200-Religion...Remember?)

Dec. 12 National Cocoa Day (Try the Hot Chocolate at *Cameron Café!*)

Dec. 16 National Chocolate Covered Anything Day (pretzels, strawberries and coffee beans)

Dec. 20 National Sangria Day (Try 2 *Jefes.*)

Dec. 21 Short Film Day (Check out Wes Anderson's films on Netflix)

Dec. 30 Bacon Day (Kevin? I don't think so.)

Jan. 4 Trivia Day (Stump your friends with mental minutia!)

Jan. 7 National Tempura Day (*Kuma* in Kingstown, *Zento* and *Nasime* in Old Town)

Jan. 10 National Oysters Rockefeller Day (*Vaso's on King*, *Hank's Oyster Bar* and *Whiskey & Oyster*)



## Carla's Picks

By Carla Besosa

### Alden Theater (McLean)

Dec. 19 *Frosty*  
Jan. 6 *Navidad Flamenco*

### Alexandria

Nov. 17-Jan. 1 *Winter Village at Cameron Run*  
Nov. 24-Dec. 17 *Mount Vernon by Candlelight*  
Dec. 15-16 *Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon*  
Dec. 16 *Very Merry ALX Jazz Festival - Masonic Memorial*  
Dec. 31 *First Night Alexandria*

### Anacostia Playhouse (DC)

Nov. 29-Dec. 31 *One Mo' Time*

### Arena Stage (DC)

Nov. 26-Dec. 30 *Swept Away*

### Atlas Performing Arts Center (DC)

Dec. 16 *Glade Dance Collective*  
Dec. 17 *Holiday Concert & Sing-Along*

### Bethesda Theater Blues & Jazz Super Club (Bethesda)

Dec. 16 *A Motown Christmas*  
Dec. 17 *Kirk Whalum*  
Jan. 26 *Peabo Bryson*

### Birchmere (Arlandria)

Dec. 20 *A John Waters Christmas*  
Dec. 22 *"The Voices" Motown Christmas*  
Dec. 23 *A Very Maysa Christmas*  
Jan. 17 *All You Need is Love - Beatles Tribute*  
Jan. 19 *Laurel Canyon - Golden Songs of L.A. 1966-1972*  
Jan. 24 *Herman's Hermits*  
Jan. 26 *Who's Bad - Michael Jackson Tribute*

### Black Rock Center for the Arts (Germantown)

Dec. 16 *Tula's Holiday Drag Show & After Party*

### Blues Alley (Georgetown)

Dec. 12 *Veronneau (also at Cameron Cafe Dec. 20!)*  
Dec. 16-17 *Lori Williams*

### Capital One Arena (DC)

Dec. 14 *Trans-Siberian Orchestra*  
Dec. 18-19 *Madonna*

### Capital One Hall (Tysons)

Dec. 14 *Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland*  
Dec. 20 *NatPhil: Handel's Messiah*  
Dec. 22 *Virginia National Ballet: Nutcracker*  
Feb. 10 *The Beatles 60th Anniversary Tribute*

### Creative Cauldron (Falls Church)

Dec. 5-20 *Holiday Cabarets*  
Jan.11-Feb. 3 *Passport to the World Music Series*

### Dance Place (DC)

Jan. 13-14 *KanKouran West African Dance Co.*

### DAR Constitution Hall (DC)

Dec. 30 *New Year's Comedy Jam*  
Jan. 25-26 *Jim Gaffigan*

### Del Ray Artisans (Del Ray)

Jan. 5 *Visions of Resilience: Art for Climate Justice - Opening Reception*

### Dulles Expo Center (Chantilly)

Dec. 15-17 *International Gem & Jewelry Show*  
Jan. 5-7 *DC Big Flea & Antiques Market*

### 1st Stage (Tysons)

Dec. 7-24 *Quilters*

### Ford's Theater (DC)

Nov. 17-Dec. 31 *A Christmas Carol*

### Gaylord (National Harbor)

Nov. 19-Dec. 31 *ICE!*

### George Mason Center for the Arts (GMU/Fairfax)

Dec. 16-17 *Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker*  
Jan. 12-13 *International Saxophone Symposium*

### The Hamilton (DC)

Dec. 16 *Earth, Wind & Fire Tribute*  
Dec. 23 *Yellow*

### Multiple Locations (DC)

Oct. 7-Dec. 31 *Shakespeare Everywhere Festival*

### Imagination Stage (Bethesda)

Dec. 26-Jan. 14 *Jungle Discovery*  
Jan. 13-Feb. 11 *Mouse on the Move*

### Kennedy Center (DC)

Dec. 14-17 *NSO: Handel's Messiah*  
Dec. 20-Jan. 21 *Frozen*  
Dec. 22 *A Candlelight Christmas*  
Jan. 13 *Seth Meyers*  
Jan. 26-Feb. 4 *tick, tick...BOOM!*

### Little Theater of Alexandria (Old Town)

Dec. 1-16 *A Christmas Carol*

### MGM (National Harbor)

Dec. 15-17 *Cirque Dreams Holiday*  
Jan. 12 *Dancing with the Stars*  
Feb. 18 *Boyz II Men*

### National Theater (DC)

Dec. 12-17 *Pretty Woman*  
Jan. 1-28 *Annie*

### Providence Players (Falls Church)

Dec. 8-17 *DASH the Musical*

### Round House Theater (Bethesda)

Dec. 6-31 *The Seafarer*  
Jan. 24-Feb. 25 *Next to Normal*

### Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center (NOVA Alex Campus)

Dec. 9-10 *Nutcracker*

### Signature Theater (Shirlington)

Oct. 24-Jan. 7 *Ragtime*

### State Theater (Falls Church)

Jan. 26 *Dave Matthews Tribute Band*  
Feb. 2 *Greggie & the Jets - Elton John Tribute*  
Feb. 9 *The Stranger - Billy Joel Tribute*

### Strathmore Music Center (Bethesda)

Dec. 13 *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs (ballet)*  
Dec. 15 *A Candlelight Christmas*  
Dec. 16-17 *Handel's Messiah*  
Dec. 19-22 *Hip Hop Nutcracker*  
Dec. 23 *Samara Joy (2023 Grammy: Best New Artist)*  
Jan. 26 *Jazz at the Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis*

### Studio Theater (DC)

Jan. 10-Feb. 18 *Love, Love, Love*

### Synetic Theater (Crystal City)

Dec. 8-Jan. 7 *The Golden Fish*  
Dec. 9-Jan. 6 *Snow Maiden*

### Theater J (DC)

Dec. 1-24 *Moses*

### Warner Theater (DC)

Dec. 2-30 *The Washington Ballet: The Nutcracker*

### Woolly Mammoth (DC)

Nov. 13-Dec. 23 *Public Obscenities*

# Inside Scoop: Key Takeaways from the Annual HOA Meeting

By Lenore Marema

Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson was the featured speaker at the Cameron Station 2023 Annual Meeting. He is working on the budget for next year and reported that the Metro faces a \$750 million funding gap, which comes from a significant decrease of rail revenue, with many persons now working at home. The Mayor warned that Alexandria will have to help pay the deficit. Riders may pay higher fares, and residents may see some taxes increased.

Much of the City of Alexandria's budget is funded from real estate taxes, and while growth has slowed, Alexandria's growth is 2%. The Mayor told the audience that Northern Virginia is second in the country in converting commercial space to housing units and private businesses.

Residents at the meeting engaged the Mayor on many topics - police and fire fighters staffing, problems with 911 calls, transportation on Duke Street, the transportation in the Landmark development and the conversion of the Victory Center to apartments.

The police liaison to Cameron Station reported that crime is up, but it is not random acts, but rather targeted victims. Law enforcement is focusing on hot spots of crime. Overall, Cameron Station is safe; the main issues are package thefts and items taken from unlocked cars.

The Treasurer's report from 2022 was given an "unqualified opinion," which is the highest standard, and the HOA has set aside funds to maintain its operation. The HOA's funds are earning interest, which is important for the third year of the asphalt project.



At the Annual Meeting, four board members were elected. Andrew Hill, Joan Lampe, William Blumberg and Tom Kopko. The current Board approved a 2.54% increase in homeowner fees. Many residents attended the meeting in person this year, and there were also 60 people on Zoom.

## And Another Thing... (fun facts & random musings)

### Did You Now...

*Zuki Moon* replaced *Kaizen Tavern* in Del Ray.  
*HiFi BBQ* is behind *Evening Star* in Del Ray.  
*Rubia's* (formerly *Stomping Ground*) in Del Ray added a dinner menu.  
Holiday pop-up bar *JOY* opening next to *Pork Barrel BBQ* in Del Ray.  
*Sidekick Bakery* coming to *Carlyle Crossing*.  
*Atlas Brew Works* coming to *Carlyle Crossing*.  
*Falafel Inc.* open on *King St.*  
*Eddie's Little Shop & Deli* open on *King St.*  
*Sprig's Coffee & Pastry Café* open on *Ballenger* in *Carlyle*.  
*Hotel Heron* to open on *Prince St.*, spring 2024.

### What am I Listening to?

Hot Sardines: French Fries & Champagne (swing)  
Anabel Montesinos: Guitar Recital (classical)  
Kate Price: Deep Heart's Core (Celtic)

### Music at Cameron Café

Dec. 14 *Peacemakers* will perform during *Wine Wednesday*.  
Dec. 20 *Lynn & Ken* of *Veronneau* will perform during *Wine Wednesday*.

# Winter Wonderland Adventures: Unforgettable Experiences for Kids This Holiday Season

By Gen Harrison-Doss

Looking for fun and exciting ways to keep your kids entertained during the winter holiday break? Look no further! I have compiled a fantastic list of winter activities that will make their vacation memorable and enjoyable. From outdoor adventures to cozy indoor events, there's something for every child and adult to enjoy during this festive season.

**Christmas at the Gaylord National:** The Gaylord hotel and resort hosts its annual holiday celebration, ICE!, November 19- December 31, 2023. Take a 20-to-40-minute stroll through oversized ice sculptures, frozen slides, tunnels and more. Additional activities include a Christmas-themed Cirque-style show, ice tubing, ice skating, gingerbread making and photos with Santa. My family attended these events last year and particularly loved the Cirque-style show!

**Mount Vernon:** Visit the first president's home for its landmark holiday event, Christmas Illuminations, set to return December 15-16, featuring a fireworks and holiday lights show over the Potomac River. This event includes an 18th-century winter market featuring handmade items by colonial artisans and much more.

**The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol":** From the first "bah humbug" to the final "wassail," this timeless classic is sure to rekindle your holiday spirit. Join all the beloved Dickens characters — Tiny Tim and the Cratchit family, the Fezziwigs, the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come and, of course, everyone's favorite curmudgeon, Ebenezer Scrooge — as they transport the audience to Victorian England and remind everyone of the meaning of Christmas.

**Christmas Market & Craft Show:** John Carlyle Square Park will dress up for the holidays and host more than 100 artisans and crafters, independent consultants and other local small businesses. Check items off your shopping list as you peruse everything from unique handmade jewelry to organic bath and body products, home decor, holiday ornaments and much more. Take a break from shopping to enjoy the beautiful Christmas Carols Show and bring little ones to the Elves' Shop where they can create a customized Christmas ornament. Pictures with Santa will also be available. Activities take place on Saturday, December 9, from 11am to 4pm.

**ALX Jazz Fest:** The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts is proud to present "A Very Merry ALX Jazz Fest," a new



holiday event on Saturday, December 16, 7-9pm, at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial that is free and open to all. Immerse yourself in the timeless melodies of jazz and prepare to be moved by mesmerizing spoken word performances that will inspire and uplift. Performers are selected through the Office of the Arts Jazz Fest activation team, composed of professionals from the Smithsonian, NPR's Tiny Desk Concert Series and the Levine School of Music. Before the main event begins, attend the pre-show and mingling session starting at 5pm, featuring three art projects commissioned by the Office of the Arts through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Breakfast with Santa:** Alexandria Restaurant Partners, a group of several local restaurants, offers up a magical morning of charm for kiddos and adults alike with their Breakfast with Santa Events. It starts with a festive breakfast feast, complete with take-home treats for children and mimosas for adults. Then, you'll meet Santa Claus and take a keepsake photo with him - an experience that truly brings Christmas to life for any child! Weekend sessions are available December 2-24 at Theismann's, Ada's on the River, and Mia's Italian Kitchen. This is an annual tradition for my family and we enjoy this very special tradition.



**29th Annual First Night Alexandria:** Experience the region's signature family-friendly New Year's Eve festival of music and more. A community celebration of the performing arts, First Night Alexandria rings in the New Year with music, comedy, dance and

fireworks. New this year is a spectacular twilight fireworks display at 6pm. Following an evening of live entertainment, an abbreviated encore fireworks display over the Potomac River will occur at midnight. Visit the event website for a full schedule of events. The event runs from 2pm until midnight on Sunday, December 31.

## Relevant Links:

<https://christmasatgaylordnational.marriott.com/>  
<http://www.mountvernon.org/Illuminations>  
<http://www.thelittletheatre.com/>  
<https://visitalexandria.com/events/alexandria-christmas-market-holiday-craft-show/>  
<http://alexandriava.gov/arts/Jazz>  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/breakfast-with-santa-in-old-town-alexandria-by-arp-1039279>  
<https://www.firstnightalexandria.org/>



# Young Neighbor Excels in School, Sports and Community Service

By Ray Celeste

I want to spotlight a young, brilliant, rising star in our community, Catherine “Cassie” Page. Cassie is a junior at Bishop Ireton, who has accomplished a great deal in her young life. Recently she was thanked by the White House for her leadership in our community.

Cassie was nominated for this year’s White House “Girls Leading Change” cohort in honor of International Day of the Girl. This is a noteworthy testament to the impact of her work in our community, in her school and in Alexandria.

Cassie’s list of achievements is long:

- 3.65 GPA
- Academic Second Honors 2021-2023
- Varsity Swim and Dive 2021-2023
- Varsity spring track and field manager
- Varsity football manager
- As an intern with Ready, Set, Help, she helped perform a variety of duties

which included managing social media accounts, as well as supporting events and workshops hosted by the organization.

- Pineapple Labs Fellow at Pineapple Labs. April 2023 – Present
- Student intern at Alexandria City Council. Sept. 2022 – Present
- Summer swim coach, Canterbury Woods Swim Club. May 2021 – Aug. 2022
- Intern in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Summer swim coach, where Cassie worked with children ranging from 5 to 11 years old, in individual and group training settings, to develop techniques and racing skills.
- Cassie assisted the head and assistant coaches of the Northern Virginia Swim League by leading nightly and morning practices.



Cassie is in pursuit of a congressional nomination to the esteemed U.S. Military Academy at West Point. We wish her well in her goal to serve our great nation. Thank you, Cassie, for your incredible sense of service to Americans.

## Samuel Tucker Elementary School Update

By Sarah Walsh, PTA President

School is back in session for the second quarter for Samuel W. Tucker Elementary students, following their Fall Intercession. Fall activities that have kept families and students busy included Candy Caravan, a trick-or-treat-inspired event the weekend prior to Halloween, and our Annual Heritage Night, a cultural celebration of our communities.

If you’ve taken a stroll in the west end of the neighborhood recently, you may have seen our school’s newest addition: Tucker’s Community Garden and Outdoor Classroom. The PTA was excited to spearhead this project, after being awarded a Community Matching Funds grant last October. We worked in coordination with Lancaster Landscapes, clearing the area adjacent to the playground and installing six large, raised beds and a pollinator garden.



Thanks to generous donations by Lancaster Landscapes and the Rotary Club for the startup, the PTA looks forward to installing outdoor furniture, an instructional table and compost area in the spring. Ms. Christine Waters, Tucker’s Instructional Science Coach, is planning to work with teachers and students in the spring to utilize the space through project-based learning aligned with Virginia’s Standards of Learning.

If you’d like to get involved in upcoming opportunities for Cameron Station residents to engage with the Samuel Tucker community, please consider participating in one of our Restaurant Nights. We’ve partnered with area restaurants in a dining-for-dollars program, where they give a portion of the day’s sales to Tucker’s PTA. There is one scheduled for January 10, 2024 at Taco Bamba Landmark — All day long they will be giving back to the school if you mention Tucker when dining in or picking up-to-go.

# All Rice Thai

By Carla Besosa - Cameron Station Foodie

*"Every grain of rice you waste in this life is one you'll be hungry for in the next." (Chinese Proverb)*

There's a new, fun Thai restaurant in Kingstown! *All Rice Thai*, in the Festival at Manchester Lakes Shopping Center, offers an all-encompassing Thai menu with standard options as well as new creations. Chef Gahn has been cooking since she was a teenager. She is both "an alumna and instructor" of a premier Bangkok cooking school. Her creative touch yields beautiful culinary masterpieces that are artistic as well as delicious.

The space is bright, colorful and festive with imaginative themes, influenced by the homeland. The restaurant is small enough to feel intimate, yet large enough to rally a group of neighbors. The recipes are inspired by Bangkok's Chinatown (Yaowarat) and Kanchanaburi province. The owner, Katy, is delightful and welcoming and will assure your experience is positive.

There are many appetizers from which to choose. My faves are rather traditional: the Shrimp Dumplings and the Potstickers. A more exotic choice might be the Tempura Soft Shell Crab. The *All Rice* signature dishes are made with their tasty garlic butter rice (subtle, not too much of either). Grilled pork and grilled chicken lead the way, followed by numerous build-your-own-options, including shrimp and salmon. Noodle dishes abound as well in as many combinations.

The Chef's Specials seem to be on a more grandiose scale (i.e., perhaps sharable) and authentically indigenous, as I witness many Thai patrons enjoying these - the Crispy Whole Fish, Lamb Massaman, Duck Basil, etc. There is also a Chef's Secret Dish, not described on the menu, but curiosity may prompt you to inquire further - always a imaginative surprise! I choose to end with Mango Sticky Rice, but there are several other tempting options...if you have room.



Libation options are endless, as they stock a bit of everything. They pour about a dozen wines by the glass, including my J. Lohr Riverstone Chardonnay. Beers, you should opt for the Singha or Sapporo. They've created their own take on some intriguing cocktails: Tom Kha Martini (coconut rum, passion fruit, honey, and cream); All Rice Blue Sky (vodka, blue Curacao, peach schnapps, and lime juice). They even have four flavors of milkshakes, and I would love to try the coffee flavor.

*All Rice Thai* is just a 12-minute trek from Cameron Station. Experience the artistry of Chef Gahn and indulge the senses!



## All Rice

7001-L Manchester Blvd.  
Festival at Manchester Lakes/  
Kingstowne Alexandria, VA 22310  
[www.allricethai.com](http://www.allricethai.com)  
[contact@allricethai.com](mailto:contact@allricethai.com)

### Hours (vary by day)

Mon., Wed., Thurs.  
11am to 3pm • 4pm to 8:30pm  
Tuesday: Closed  
Friday & Saturday  
11am to 3pm • 4pm to 9pm  
Sunday  
11am to 3pm • 4pm to 8:30pm

### Price

Appetizers: \$8-\$15  
Main: \$13-\$20  
Chef's Specials: \$18-\$35

### Bar

No physical bar  
Full bar offerings

HC Access: Yes

Parking: Lot

Reservations: Yes

# Cameron Station Walks to Support ALIVE!

By Mary Eileen Dixon

On Sunday, October 15, walkers from Cameron Station joined hundreds of other Alexandrians to support ALIVE!, the city's oldest and largest safety net organization, by participating in the 42nd Annual Step ALIVE! Walkathon. Proceeds from the event will be used to provide food, shelter, emergency financial assistance, furniture and housewares to struggling Alexandrians.



Following a walk through various Alexandria neighborhoods, participants returned to ALIVE! for live music, snacks, a raffle and the awarding of prizes to teams participating in the event. The Cameron Station team, the Cameron Station Striders, placed first in the community (noncongregational) category, raising almost \$1700!

Many of those who participated in StepALIVE! this year did so to honor Gerry Hebert, Cameron Station resident and long time supporter of ALIVE!, who died in September. Thank you to all who participated in StepALIVE! and to our many neighbors who support ALIVE! throughout the year.

## Farmers Market Season Is Extended Through December

By Rubie Williams

Each year, the West End Farmers Market continues to grow and flourish. This season saw more than three dozen vendors selling farm-fresh vegetables and fruits, fish, flowers, barbecue, coffee, lemonade, popcorn, baked goods and a variety of crafts, clothing and jewelry. And so many buyers, regardless of the weather!

This year, we are delighted that the City of Alexandria is allowing us to **extend our season and remain open December 3-December 31, 2023!** We hope you will join us

during this holiday season, as there truly is something for everyone at the West End Farmers Market.

We are very grateful for our amazing vendors and the wonderful community that supports us so strongly. We love and cherish the residents of Cameron Station, we thank you for your continued support, and we hope to see you in December and again next year.

Happy Holidays from the Williams Family!

## End of Summer Pool Party – The Largest Yet!

By Ray Celeste

I want to thank Andy Yang, Chair of the Activities & Events Planning Committee (A&E) for his leadership, and for the work of our resident volunteers, for a hugely successful pool party in August. Over 400 residents attended the event. It was the biggest Cameron Station event since 2019 that we know of. The Mission Barbecue food was delicious; the DJ was wonderful; and most importantly, America's future – our young people – had a glorious time.

We are most appreciative to Andy and his volunteers who put on numerous community events over the course of the year. These events, especially the annual ones, are time-consuming and require a great deal of work. They bring great joy to hundreds of our residents.



If you would like to get involved in volunteering for A&E or other committees, please read the weekly Cameron Station Email blast for volunteer opportunities.

# The compass

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