



PHOTO/LAURA SIKES

WALK THIS WAY Doug Nelson, of the Pipes and Drums of the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., plays the bagpipes at the Scottish Christmas Walk on Saturday. **MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 14**

T.C. transformation in jeopardy

School shows progress as federal funding runs out

BY MELISSA QUINN

Despite signs of academic improvement at T.C. Williams, administrators admit the city's sole public high school remains on rocky ground with federal funding due to end next year.

T.C. earned a "persistently lowest achieving school" label in 2010 after failing to meet the federal Education Department's benchmarks. The classification meant T.C. ranked among the lowest 5 percent of schools based on English and math Standards of Learning test scores.

And for the last three years, the school has remained on the

state's list of lowest-achieving schools, receiving a \$2 million grant to transform test scores from below average to stellar.

"We have this school perceived as a really great place, but the reality is that it just wasn't making it," said Superintendent Morton Sherman.

After the high school received the embarrassing designation, Alexandria City Public Schools took several steps — known altogether as the T.C. Williams transformation — to help the institution rise from the ashes. ACPS staff replaced the principal and partnered students

with guidance counselors to set goals and monitor progress.

In addition, administrators bolstered the English and math

“All initiatives are on the chopping block.”

**-Morton Sherman
ACPS Superintendent**

departments — the two subjects needing substantial improvement — with five teachers each. They also created learning centers for the subjects and restructured the ad-

SEE **TRANSFORMATION** | 10

Fighting for affordability

City unveils housing plan as residents face displacement

BY DERRICK PERKINS

Not quite a month after the election, West End residents Veronica Calzada and Hector Pineda sit at their

ian attitude.”

Pineda, president of the tenants association, studiously folds and refolds a scrap of paper while his wife speaks. He occasionally shushes the couple's children when they get too noisy playing video games in the Beauregard corridor apartment they have



FILE PHOTO

Hector Pineda, who protested the controversial Beauregard plan in the spring, worries his family will be among those forced out of the neighborhood as rents increase and redevelopment looms.

table and wonder whether affordable housing will become a forgotten issue, discarded on the campaign trail.

"They have all of these promises, but once they're in office, they ignore us," said Calzada, speaking through a translator. "This is the same kind of attitude [taken] by other city council members in the past. They don't seem to care. We are asking that they have a more humanitar-

shared for about eight years.

Since real estate giant JBG bought the property, rent has risen along with everyday fees, Pineda said. Residents struggled to make ends meet even before city officials approved a plan in the spring that paves the way for the neighborhood's redevelopment.

If the increased cost of

SEE **HOUSING** | 6



A DREAM COME TRUE - PAGE 12



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THE WEEKLY BRIEFING

Huchler named new deputy police chief

Police Chief Earl Cook tapped David Huchler to fill former Deputy Chief Hassan Aden's shoes last week.

With more than 21 years of police work under his belt, Huchler has held positions in each of the department's four bureaus, including stints with the patrol and criminal investigations units. He also served as head of the department's special operations team.

Huchler, a graduate of the FBI National Academy, holds a master's in public administration and a Bachelor of Science in law enforcement from George Mason University.

His new assignment will include overseeing the department's patrol operations bureau.

Aden, another longtime



Deputy Police Chief David Huchler

member of the department, left Alexandria last month for Greenville, N.C., where he will serve as the city's new police chief.

- Ana Rampy

Freddie Mac backs New Hope Housing

Mortgage giant Freddie Mac has bestowed local nonprofit New Hope Housing with a grant to the tune of \$50,000, officials said.

New Hope Housing, which provides support services for homeless men, women and children, will use the cash infusion for its housing program for families in need. Officials with the nonprofit announced the grant late last month.

The effort provides long-term housing for residents and families at risk of homelessness, particularly those with disability needs, nonprofit officials said. The group offers housing for 14 area families.

"With the Freddie Mac award, we will provide housing and services to some of the most vulnerable families in our community," said Pamela Mitchell, executive director, in a statement. "We greatly appreciate this support to continue our work to strengthen the community."

New Hope Housing helped more than 1,500 people — including more than 250 children — in Alexandria, Falls Church and Arlington and Fairfax counties last year.

- Ana Rampy

Your construction update is here.

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CRIME

Lights out at Alexandria church

One or more vandals struck Grace Episcopal Church on November 26, say Alexandria police, damaging six ground-level, low-density lights.

The lights at the 3600 block Russell Road house of worship are valued at \$500 and lit the path leading to the church's columbarium, said Jody Donaldson, department spokesman.

The vandals likely struck between 6 p.m. November 25 and 9 a.m. November 26, authorities said. They do not know what was used to break the lights.

Police do not know of any witnesses and do not have descriptions of the vandals. The individuals remain at large.

Criminals target empty home

City police say one or more vandals took advantage of a vacant home on the 800 block of N. Quaker Lane late last month.

Breaking multiple windows to get inside, the defilers did not take anything, though several pieces of furniture remained in the home, said Jody Donaldson, Alexandria Police Department spokesman. They likely struck between 11 a.m. November 25 and 9:30 p.m. November 28.

The home has been for sale for more than a year.

There are no known witnesses, and authorities do not have descriptions of the individuals.

Thieves raid car, steal cash

A 1000 block N. Terrill St. resident found her unlocked car ransacked November 27, say Alexandria police.

The car was parked in front of the victim's home. She believes the crime occurred between 1:30 and 8 a.m., though there were no witnesses. The thieves made off with cash, police said.

Returning to the car, the vic-

tim found papers from the glove box strewn about the interior as well as clothes from her gym bag. She later realized \$22 in cash was missing, said Jody Donaldson, department spokesman.

No other cars in the area were broken into, and nothing else from the car was reported missing. Police have yet to make an arrest.

Briefcase, CDs missing from vehicle

A West End man found his car window smashed and personal possessions missing November 26.

The suspects broke the man's passenger-side front window and stole coins, several CDs and a briefcase with personal documents inside, police said. Authorities believe the crime occurred between 10 p.m. November 16 and 3 p.m. November 26 while the vehicle was on the 4600 block of Kirkland Place.

There were no witnesses, and police lack suspect descriptions, said department spokesman Jody Donaldson. The thieves did not target any surrounding vehicles, he said.

Police investigate similar credit card fraud cases

Alexandria police are investigating credit card fraud at the 2700 block of Hemlock Ave. after a woman noticed unusual purchases on her credit card while visiting the bank November 27.

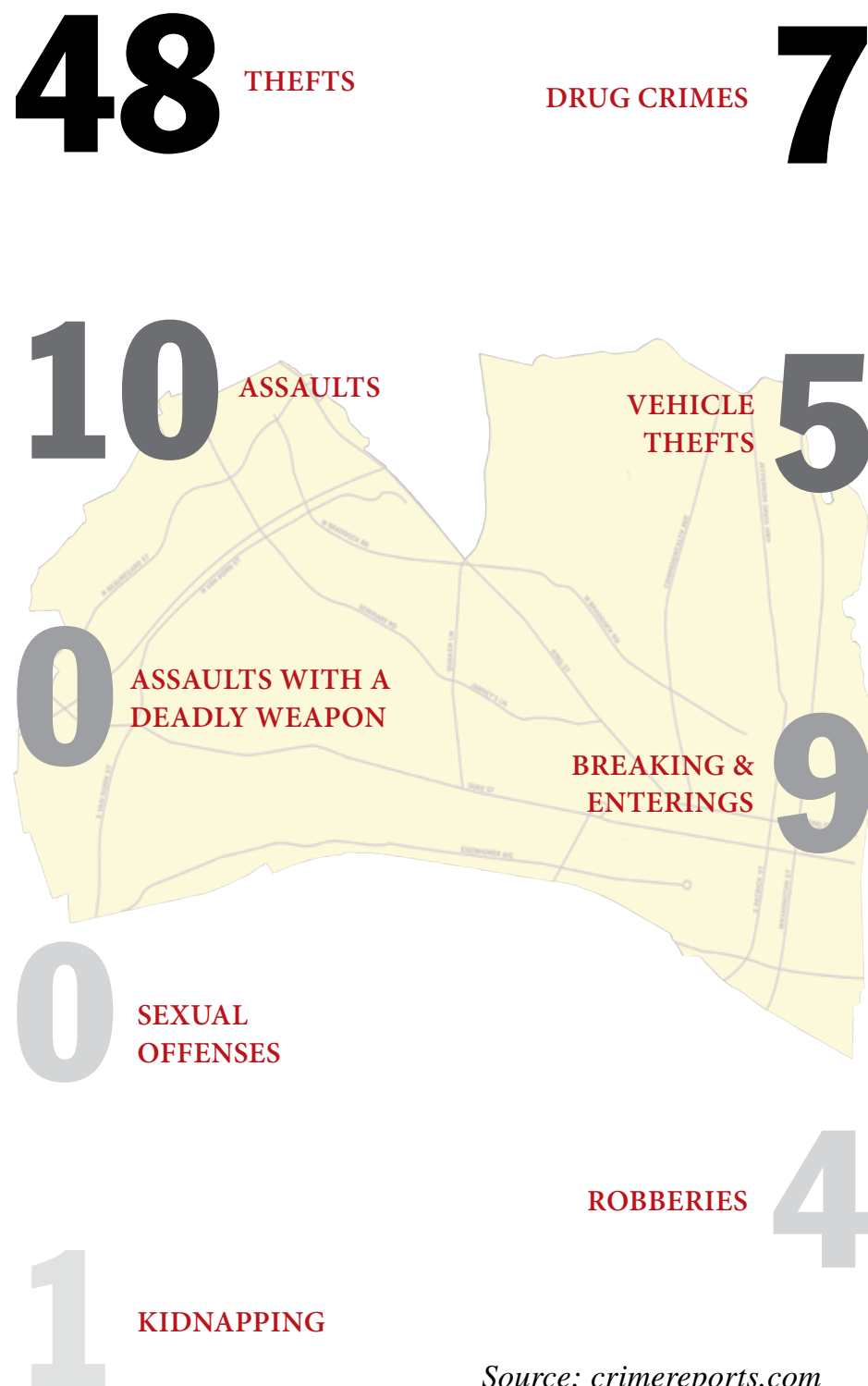
An unidentified fraudster attempted to buy \$25 worth of clothes from a New York store's website with the victim's credit card. Police do not know how the thief got the card.

Whether the case is linked with a similar crime on the same day likewise remains unknown, said Jody Donaldson, department spokesman.

- Melissa Quinn

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents occurred between November 28 and December 5.



Source: crimereports.com

*Editor's note: Police reports are not considered public information in Virginia. The Alexandria Police Department is not required to supply the public at large with detailed information on criminal cases.

Del Ray Trolley hits speed bump

City finds no takers to operate free transit line

BY MELISSA QUINN

Plans to connect Del Ray to Old Town with a free trolley have ground to a halt, officials say.

Despite keen interest from residents and business owners for the free service — an extension of the King Street Trolley — the city has struggled to find a company to operate the transit line. Officials began soliciting contractors October 4 and held a pre-bid meeting for interested parties.

But when the bidding period closed October 31, officials found they had no takers, said spokesman Tony Castrilli. The struggling economy likely scared off potential companies, he said.

Still, officials maintain several contractors expressed early interest in running the trolley, though they have not named the companies.

Despite the setback, officials continue to support the project and are exploring alternatives to ensure the transit line gets back on track.

DASH — which operates the King Street line — does not have the capacity to take on the expansion. But Rich Baier, director of transportation services, hopes the mass transit agency can beef up its Saturday and Sunday bus service to Del Ray in the meantime. During weekends, DASH normally operates on a limited schedule in the neighborhood.

And business leaders likewise remain optimistic the city can find a solution.

“We’re hoping to get something going, but who knows how long it will take to get it done,” said Maria Wasowski, owner of A Show of Hands and president of the Del Ray Business Association.

Baier’s staff updated residents at a meeting in Del Ray last week. Officials pitched the DASH solution and explored alternative fixes with residents during the get-together, which touched on other transportation issues in the neighborhood.

“We want to get a trolley



FILE PHOTO

Despite interest from Del Ray residents and businesses, the city has postponed running the free trolley following a lack of interest from contractors.

service out there, the businesses and residents want it out there, but we have to find someone willing to offer the service and provide it,” Baier said.

He said they also considered issuing a second request for vendors — and residents responded favorably to this option.

Del Ray residents hope the trolley service will increase foot traffic by bringing tourists and visitors from Old Town to the neighborhood, as well as into their restaurants and shops.

“It would make the whole business district here accessible to tourists, new customers and people from Old Town,” Wasowski said. “There are a lot of restaurants and shops that people don’t know are here.”



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Affordable housing totals only 5,600 units



FILE PHOTO

City officials describe any efforts to preserve affordable housing at this point as playing catch up. Even as they release a new housing master plan, there is concern another of the city's last naturally affordable complexes – Hunting Towers – will disappear in the coming years.

HOUSING

FROM | 1

living doesn't force them out, the new development outlined in the controversial Beauregard small area plan will, Pineda said.

City planners, working with the area's major property owners, envision more open space, retail opportunities and traffic upgrades in exchange for increased density. But redevelopment also will mean the displacement of thousands — perhaps tens of thousands — of residents.

Estimates vary depending on who provides the figures. Officials admit redevelopment will push out as many as 2,500 residents during a 30-year period but ultimately will preserve upward of 1,400 affordable apartments. Critics contend around 10,000 neighborhood residents will be forced out of

the corridor.

At stake is one of the last bastions of naturally affordable housing in the city. In 2001, Alexandria was home to about 18,000 apartments deemed affordable — attainable by a family making 60 percent or less of the region's median income — but the supply has dwindled to around 5,600 units this year.

The Beauregard debate highlighted the city's delicate balancing act to preserve affordable housing. By offering incentives — like increased density — officials secured apartments for low-income residents. Those same units might disappear if landowners opted for by-right redevelopment, which officials have little to no control over.

“Development is going to occur if we do nothing or if we adopt this plan,” said Mary Lyman of the planning commission in May. “The city is very limited in what it can do.”

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Pineda understands the mayor — or any member of the city government — can't simply snap a finger and create affordable housing or prevent neighborhood redevelopment.

But they could try harder, he said.

"Where [is] the local government ... to protect this community? I know they can't do whatever they want, but they can also ask [for more]," Pineda said. "Let's work together."

While the Beauregard corridor debate forced the issue of affordable housing — and the lack thereof — into the city council and mayoral debates, Calzada and Pineda worry newly elected and re-elected officials will forget about affordable housing and the neighborhood.

"As residents, as human beings, we're fighting for something that belongs to us," Calzada said. "We live in this city; we pay our taxes here. I don't want to move. I want to live here."

PLAYING CATCH-UP

Though they have faced the brunt of resident criticism for fostering redevelopment, city officials recognize the loss of affordable housing — natural and subsidized — in Alexandria.

They unveiled a multi-pronged strategy to staunch the bleeding Friday, the culmination of a years-long effort to draft a comprehensive housing plan. The blueprint calls for — among other initiatives — a mix of incentives for private developers to set aside affordable units; teaming with Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority and local nonprofits to rehabilitate units and fund new construction projects; and loans and financial counseling for residents.

But rebuilding Alexandria's affordable housing supply will take time, said Mildrilyn Davis, director of the office of housing.

"One of the problems is

that the market-rate affordable units, which we have no control over, have really been dwindling," she said. "Anything we do, we're playing catch-up. ... We're hoping to preserve what's already there."

A redevelopment project spearheaded by Arlington-based AHC Inc. on East Reed Avenue represents a lone bright spot. City Hall agreed to give the nonprofit a \$250,000 loan in October, which will go toward erecting a 77-unit building — the largest infusion of affordable housing in recent memory.

The loan, which will only be paid back if the project succeeds, is a tactic the housing plan encourages, Davis said.

But officials learned about the potential sale of Hunting Towers — another bastion of naturally affordable housing — the same week that AHC's project went before the planning commission. While redevelopment of the riverside complex remains unlikely, new

owners could raise rents, officials warned when news broke about a buyer.

There's little time to protect affordable housing in those shoreline buildings, Davis said, but given the lengthy schedule to redevelop the Beauregard corridor, opportunities to help residents may arise.

"Beauregard is going to play out over a very long period of time, and there may be some things in this plan that will result in more units that will [serve as] a replacement housing resource for some of those people," she said. "We're also working separately on Beauregard. Hunting Towers, we don't know yet what precisely is going to happen, but we certainly will want to be involved in finding a solution."

ORGANIZING FOR THE FUTURE

City officials, Davis among them, will host a series of town

hall meetings to get the public's reactions to the affordable housing blueprint, beginning early next year. But Calzada, Pineda and their neighbors want to keep the issue — and the plight of Beauregard residents — in the spotlight.

Joined by their neighbors, the West End couple protested outside of a Commercial Real Estate Association event in Washington honoring JBG in October. During the lead-up to the election, tenants handed out fliers at debates and forums, highlighting their struggle.

And they have more demonstrations planned, including an event Monday to coincide with Human Rights Day. The situation is growing desperate, Pineda said.

"We want to enjoy the new area — the new schools, the new fire station. I see the future, but I don't think the future is for this community," he said. "The community that lives here, I don't think there is a future for our community."

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The case of the forgotten pound cake

Dear Hobie & Monk,

I have a colleague who promised to bake me a pound cake after I did a really big favor for her. She told me how happy she was to bake it because she so appreciated the favor. She even asked me what kind of icing I wanted. I was really looking forward to it.

Well, she never baked it, and when I asked about it, she blew me off. Then she came to me and told me this big story about how she baked one but it burned, so she would bake another one as soon as she returned from her vacation. Now she's back and acts like she never heard the words "pound cake." I have developed some bad feelings over this, and I have

to work with this person every day. I don't know what to do: Should I say nothing or remind her?

- Broken Promises

Monk: This is serious. As a fellow pound cake lover — OK, dessert lover — I totally empathize with your sense of dessert expectation and loss. (Did you specify lemon icing?) Even more disappointing than the big cake bake fake is that after supporting your colleague, she let you down. Favors and gestures of appreciation are time-honored currencies of friendship, and you have been short-changed.

Your first decision: Is this a colleague or a friend? The distinction is important, because



Hobie and Monk are two Alexandria women with husbands, children, dogs, jobs, mortgages, unmet New Year's resolutions, obsessions with impractical shoes, English novels ... and Ph.D.s in clinical psychology. Their advice, while fabulous, should not be construed as therapeutic within a doctor-patient context or substituted for the advice of readers' personal advisors.

if you see your work associate as a colleague (and no real friend potential), this is about a cake. If you consider her a friend, this is about a relationship and a cake.

Let's assume you value the relationship at least as much

as the cake. In this case, it's important to note that your colleague gets the connection between "really big favor" and "expression of appreciation" because she promised the (frosted!) pound cake. What appears to be lacking is con-

viction and the ability to follow through. Good intentions do not equal results.

You also know that in response to your rather direct reminder, she blew you off with stories of burnt offerings. Re-

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Planning commission OKs new Jefferson-Houston

\$35.9 million building to open in 2014

BY MELISSA QUINN

Despite opposition from neighbors, plans to rebuild the Jefferson-Houston School received a unanimous go-ahead from the planning commission Tuesday night.

Alexandria City Public Schools officials began planning for a new building in 2009 after seeing Jefferson-Houston's mounting maintenance costs. During the next 20 years, the school would cost about \$12.7 million to upkeep, according to district officials.

When finished, the 130,000-square-foot school will house 610 to 750 students — a substantial increase from the 364 children attending Jefferson-Houston. The L-shaped building will boast an athletic field made of synthetic turf,



FILE PHOTO

The new school will cost \$35.9 million and accommodate up to 750 students. Staff expect the building to be completed by 2014.

state-of-the-art classrooms and new playgrounds.

Officials also hope to make substantial improvements to the Durant Center, which sits on the school's property.

"This process will serve

as a model for future school projects and address a rising school population," said Mark Eisenhour, Jefferson-Houston's principal on assignment.

SEE JEFFERSON-HOUSTON | 11

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TRANSFORMATION

FROM | 1

ministration to include deans for each grade.

"The difference in the school is that all children are important, and all children can learn," said Principal Suzanne Maxey. "It is no longer good enough to serve one section of the population. Every child is important."

Maxey and her team created five focus areas as part of the transformation: individual achievement plans, professional learning plans, student achievement goals, school support structures and external partners. Each was designed to analyze performance on standardized tests and offer resources for improvement.

But a few have been slow to embrace the transformation.

"Every aspect of T.C. we want to make excellent, and for some folks, students and staff, that's not been the yardstick they use for whatever reason," she said. "That's very hard. It's been incredibly challenging."

All programs funded by the grant became part of the transformation — and the administration and school board hoped to see substantial change. Last month, Maxey and Sherman received word that the plan was working.

According to a report by Hanover Research, students have improved substantially in English and math, meeting federal benchmarks for the first time last year. Additionally, the number of students taking advanced placement classes and the SAT jumped while the school's dropout rate fell.

We've turned the corner, Sherman said.

"I think that T.C. Williams is entering a bronze stage," he said. "It's not yet silver and it's not yet gold, and so the question ... we're dealing with is whether or not T.C. Williams has ever had a golden age."

Despite T.C.'s hard-earned

success, though, a challenge remains for officials: Federal funding for many of the new initiatives dries up at the end of the school year, putting the future of many programs at risk.

"All initiatives are on the chopping block," Sherman said.

But administrators are toying with the idea of increasing the school's operating budget, compensating for the loss of

“I look at \$2 million a little differently. It's like a military surge. ... But guess what? It worked. So now we're going to pull it out before our work is done? I don't think so.”

-Morton Sherman
 ACPS Superintendent

federal dollars and saving initiatives with proven records of success.

The district has yet to make a final decision, and Sherman has asked T.C.'s staff for suggestions on what to keep. He will put together a proposal for the budget after receiving recommendations — though he insinuated replacing the full amount of the grant with local dollars in the fiscal 2014 budget.

"I look at \$2 million a little differently," he said at a school board work session last week. "It's like a military surge. ... But guess what? It worked. So now we're going to pull it out before our work is done? I don't think so."



PHOTO/MIKE ANDERSON

PARADE OF LIGHTS Alexandria's Potomac shoreline blazed with festive colors Saturday evening as more than 40 decorated boats made their way up and down the river. Judges handed out a slew of awards, including most spirited crew, most animated and "thinking outside the Christmas box," to the crews.

Commission passes on sewer plan, fees

Decision delayed until February

BY MELISSA QUINN

Officials have deferred addressing the sewer master plan — a proposal with the potential to increase fees — for the second time in as many years.

On Tuesday, the planning commission tabled the proposal until February. Officials want to give residents more time to examine the document, said Rich Baier, director of transportation and environmental services.

"It's difficult to get people into these master plans that don't involve development," said Baier. "We want people understanding and supportive of the infrastructure."

His staff drew up the plan to address projected wastewater flow changes and identify upgrades to

the city's sewer infrastructure.

As is, the plan would raise user fees from \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons of water used per household to as much as \$2.29. The extra revenue would be earmarked for the sewer system.

Though fees could be raised by more than \$1, residents would not see a price hike until at least 2015. Residents also face an increase in connection fees — though those are usually one-time-only costs.

City staff has proposed alternatives to generate revenue, including tying fees into development projects.

Given the document's size — 202 pages — Baier hopes residents will take advantage of the extra time and read it. Officials also have set aside December 17 for a public meeting on the proposal at the Durrant Center.

JEFFERSON-HOUSTON

FROM | 9

But several neighbors worried about how the site will fit into the historic Parker-Gray district and whether the new school will increase traffic. Others criticized the city for failing to engage the community in the project's early stages.

"It has become less and less [acceptable] to the people ... who will have to live with it day in and day out, 24/7, when school

is in session and when it isn't," said Dino Drudi, a neighbor.

Others stressed Jefferson-Houston's recent loss of accreditation, arguing a new school will do little to improve the students' test scores — the reason behind the downgrade.

"Schools don't take tests, the students do," said Ralph Timmons. "I doubt very seriously a new school building is going to affect the tests one way or another."

However, several school board members in

attendance reiterated their approval of the project. The board voted unanimously to approve the plan, Chairwoman Sheryl Gorsuch reminded the audience.

"I am confident we are moving down the right path," said School Board Vice Chairwoman Helen Morris.

If the estimated \$35.9 million project receives city council's blessing, the building could be finished in time for the 2014-15 school year.



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SCENE AROUND TOWN

Relive the glamour and glory of Motown



PHOTO/ CHRISTOPHER MUELLER

Deena Jones (Shayla Simmons), center, takes the lead, supported by Effie White (Nova Y. Payton), left, and Lorrell Robinson (Crystal Joy) during one of several glitzy musical numbers in Signature Theatre's "Dreamgirls." The show runs through January 13.

'Dreamgirls' arrives in a whirlwind of song and dance

BY JORDAN WRIGHT

Riddle me this: Do goose bumps get goose bumps? Well, yes, if Nova Payton is singing her pipes out.

Payton plays Effie White in Signature Theatre's production of "Dreamgirls" — a career-establishing role made famous by Jennifer Hudson in the Broadway and film versions.

So there's a lot on the line. Payton not only nails it, but also makes the role her own in songs like the poignant "I Am Changing" and the earthshaking "I'm Not Going." I promise the powerful vocals, mus-

cular hepcat and cool-kitty dancing, and lavish costumes won't disappoint.

There is so much to like that it's hard to pinpoint why some moments seem flat. Here's a show with a theatrical pedigree — evidenced by six Tony Awards — a cast brimming with talent and a plot tear-drenching enough to melt the hardest heart. So what's wrong with it? Not much, but we'll get to that.

The story centers on a black girl group from Chicago and their meteoric rise to fame and fortune. You'll immediately recognize them as The Supremes, and though

the story is legally defined as "loosely based on them," there are too many parallels to count.

The three women, known as the Dreamettes, start out as runners-up in a rigged talent show at the Apollo Theater but soon are urged to tour as backup singers for the velvet-voiced, slick-dancing, ego-centric singer Jimmy Early, brilliantly played by Cedric Neal.

"I don't do oohs and aahs," Effie complains, though her partners, Deena Jones (Shayla Simmons) and Lorrell Robinson (Crystal Joy), quickly overrule her, and they hit the

road. As the women rocket to superstardom, they go through a series of business challenges, jealousies, diva meltdowns and heartbreaks.

Costume designer Frank Labovitz chronicles the trio's ascent with gorgeous electric-hued gowns that increase in fabulousness with miles of chiffon and Lurex stitched with tons of ostrich feathers, spangles and sequins. As for the menswear, shiny sharkskin suits neatly define the times.

The show is set in the early '60s, an era when the pop charts were controlled by big

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To have your event considered for our calendar listings, please email events@alextimes.com. You can also post your event directly to our online calendar by visiting www.alextimes.com.

Now to December 23

SANTA CLAUS IN OLD TOWN

Santa and Mrs. Claus are back in Old Town to take pictures with children and find out who was naughty or nice.

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays

Location: Bike and Roll Alexandria, 1 Wales Alley

Information: 703-501-6289 or old-townboutiquedistrict.com

Now to December 25

CHRISTMAS ATTIC'S HOLIDAY ADVENT ART EVENT

The Christmas Attic has partnered with area schools, churches and community groups to help produce illuminated canvases of art in each of the store's windows or on the brick of the building. Each day at sundown, the store will reveal advent art featuring a variety of local holiday creations.

Time: Sundown

Location: Christmas Attic, 125 S. Union St.

Information: 703-548-2829 or www.christmasattic.com

Now to December 31

MARSHALL HOUSE INCIDENT EXHIBITION

The deaths of Union Col. Elmer Ellsworth and secessionist James Jackson at the Marshall House Hotel along King Street during the Federal occupation of Alexandria on May 24, 1861, stirred patriotic fervor in the north and south. This exhibit at Fort Ward features objects from the museum collection — like a star from the flag which had flown over Marshall House and loan items from the Mary Custis Lee chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy — to tell this notable story about the event that launched the Civil War in Alexandria.

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday

Location: Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road

Information: 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org

OCCUPIED CITY: LIFE IN CIVIL WAR ALEXANDRIA EXHIBITION

This exhibition examines life in an American town seized and held by its federal government, following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. Explore the experiences of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this tumultuous time through their words, as well as period photographs and collections items. Suggested admission is \$2.

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday

through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday

Location: The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

Information: 703-746-4994 or www.alexandriahistory.org

AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS: COAST TO COAST EXHIBITION

The Alexandria Black History Museum presents this exhibition, in which artist Kathleen Stafford explores the landscape, architecture and people of Africa. She provides a kaleidoscope of variety and color for the eye with watercolors and collagraph print. The exhibition is free.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday

Location: Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St.

Information: www.alexblackhistory.org

December 6

BUSINESS OF BASEBALL EVENT

Join the front office of the Washington Nationals for a behind-the-

scenes look at the nuances of running a Major League Baseball franchise. The event costs \$45 for Alexandria Chamber of Commerce members and \$65 for nonmembers.

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Hilton Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road

Information: alexchamber.com

LGBTQ TASK FORCE CELEBRATES 5 YEARS

The LGBTQ Task Force will recognize community leaders who have made a commitment to creating safe and inclusive services for all people in Alexandria. There also will be food at this free event.

Time: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Location: City Hall, 301 King St.

Information: Contact Erika Kleiner at 202-277-8439 or erika.kleiner@alexandriava.gov

ALEXANDRIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATION HEARING

The Alexandria chapter of the League of Women Voters will sponsor this public hearing with members of the

Alexandria General Assembly delegation. Sens. George Barker, Adam Ebbin and Richard Saslaw will join with Delegates Charmiele Herring and Rob Krupicka to listen to constituents' suggestions on priorities for the 2013 legislative session.

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: City Hall, 301 King St.

Information: Contact Sam Bosch at district30@senate.virginia.gov

MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO 2013 LIVING LEGENDS

The musical tribute at Northern Virginia Community College's winter concert will introduce the 2013 Living Legends of Alexandria nominees. The concert is free.


Time: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Location: Rachel M. Schlesinger Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St.

Information: Contact Nina Tisara at ninat@natisara.com

SEE CALENDAR | 20

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Alexandria's SCOTTISH WALK

The cry of bagpipes echoed across Old Town once again Saturday as the city put its Scottish heritage on display for the 42nd year in a row. The Campagna Center teamed up with the Scottish government for the two-day celebration, which included food tastings, concerts, a children's party and, of course, the Scottish Walk Parade. **Photos by Laura Sikes**



Even Santa joined in, playing his own set of pipes. Right, Carlie Bair, 3, pets a grouse terrier who walked with the Famous Grouse Border Terrier Association. The youngster came with her mother Ellie Bair of Hanover, Penn.

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Mayor Bill Euille got into Saturdays festivities, donning a kilt for the annual stroll with Vice Mayor Kerry Donley, left, and other city council members.



Collins Speed, 2, gets a ride from her father, Gordon Speed. They joined in the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center's group with her mother Kim and sister, Raleigh, 8. Kim Speed is on the center's board.



Lauren Brenzo, right, and a fellow violinist march with The Celtic Society of Southern Maryland.



Wow your friends and family with these amazing presents

This week we check out the presents that make people exclaim, "Oh, wow!" Alexandria shops offer a variety of these inspiring gifts, and they don't necessarily have to break the bank.

Flowers and fruit baskets from Conklyn's Florists always delight recipients. The 2100 Jefferson Davis Highway shop is well worth a visit, but customers also can go to www.conklyns.com and see the breadth and depth of the floral, fruit and gift options. Conklyn's also sends flowers and fruit almost anywhere in the United States, so call 703-299-9000 for more information.

Society Fair offers a far more extravagant food-related present

— the Arbiters of Taste — a dinner demo for 10 friends or family members. For \$3,500, join Eat-GoodFood Group's Chef Cathal Armstrong and bartender extraordinaire Todd Thrasher for an exceptional dinner. But the twist is everyone in the party of 10 assists as guest chefs, helping prepare the meal and cocktails as Armstrong and Thrasher entertain with culinary knowledge and kitchen antics. For more information about this unforgettable gift, check out store.societyfair.net.

Know a couple with a new baby or possibly buried with work? Why not wow them with the gift of time and cleanliness. Set them up with a visit from

Sparkle Cleaning Service (www.sparklecleaning.net) or Maid Brigade (703-560-5110).

Another special gift is tickets to terrific entertainment at local venues like The Carlyle Club, The Little Theatre of Alexandria and Synetic Theater. Check out their upcoming schedules for some amazing plays and performances.

For something a bit different, attend The Potomack Co.'s auction this weekend at 526 N. Fayette St. The event includes items like an 1857 desk from the House of Representatives as well as an autographed Donald Duck. For more information, call 703-684-4550 or check out www.potomackcompany.com.

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SPORTS

Maroon rebuild and rearm

**Young team hopes to
build on past successes**

BY MELISSA QUINN

The Episcopal Maroon have fallen from grace — not far, but just enough to grab the attention of every team in the Interstate Athletic Conference.

The six rival teams knew Episcopal was the one to beat, but after losing two top starters — Kethan Savage and Arnaud Moto — the talk of the conference is that they're not even championship contenders anymore.

But that's just the way this year's boys varsity basketball team likes it.

"We'll be surprising everyone in the IAC," said Brennan McCann, a senior point guard.

And, of course, everyone loves an underdog.

Episcopal began their season on the heels of an IAC championship and a berth to the state finals, where they fell to Paul VI. Returning to the court, though, the Maroon face a bevy of challenges — primarily inexperience.

The team graduated seven varsity players after last year and have just two veterans returning — McCann and captain Doug Chappell. Many of the players have yet to see action at the varsity level, and it's something the team will have to improve upon, said head coach Jim Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick began coaching at Episcopal in 2006 and has seen immense success on the court. In 2010, the team went 25-3, and last year, his varsity squad finished at 24-4.

Despite their inexperience, Fitzpatrick hopes this year's team will be ready to compete in a flurry of championship tournaments — the IAC Tour-



FILE PHOTO

Episcopal's boys varsity basketball team faces a tough season after losing Arnaud Moto and seven other players.

ament, Sleepy Thompson Tournament and state tournament — by February. It's his goal for the team each season, and it never wavers.

"If my team is better this week than we were last week and better in January than we were in December, then we'll have put ourselves in the right place to be the best we can for the season," he said.

Fitzpatrick looks to his returning starters for strength and leadership on the court. Chappell, a shooting guard, and McCann are the backbone of the team's perimeter and have the ability to switch positions, a luxury for the coach.

And this season, they hope to finish off their high school careers with a championship win — a task the team knows will be a big undertaking.

"We're looking forward to winning," said Chappell, who committed to play at Fairfield

University in the fall. "We want to follow up on what we did last year."

In addition to fielding a young team, the Maroon lack interior size — starting a 14-year-old freshman and a sophomore.

"To have those young front-court players is a challenge in itself," Fitzpatrick said. "They will get better as the year goes on, but rebounding and interior defense is something to focus on."

But what the team lacks in experience they make up for on the perimeter. This season, the Maroon boast strong shooters and guards — Chappell and McCann — and once Episcopal finds players who can master rebounding and play in the paint, they'll be unstoppable.

"We're going to spend the majority of December learning

— OBITUARIES —

ELSA N. ABELLA, of Alexandria, November 28, 2012

WILLIAM C. BAILEY SR., of Alexandria, November 28, 2012

KENNETH W. BARNES (53), formerly of Alexandria, December 2, 2012

JAMES F. BRACKMAN, of Alexandria, November 22, 2012

GLENN W. COLEMAN, of Alexandria, November 22, 2012

ALICE K. COPPA, of Alexandria, November 28, 2012

GEORGE R. DAVIS (65), of Alexandria, November 26, 2012

SHIRLEY M. HAMPTON (59), of Alexandria, November 7, 2012

ERNEST R. MCCREADY JR. (56), of Alexandria, December 1, 2012

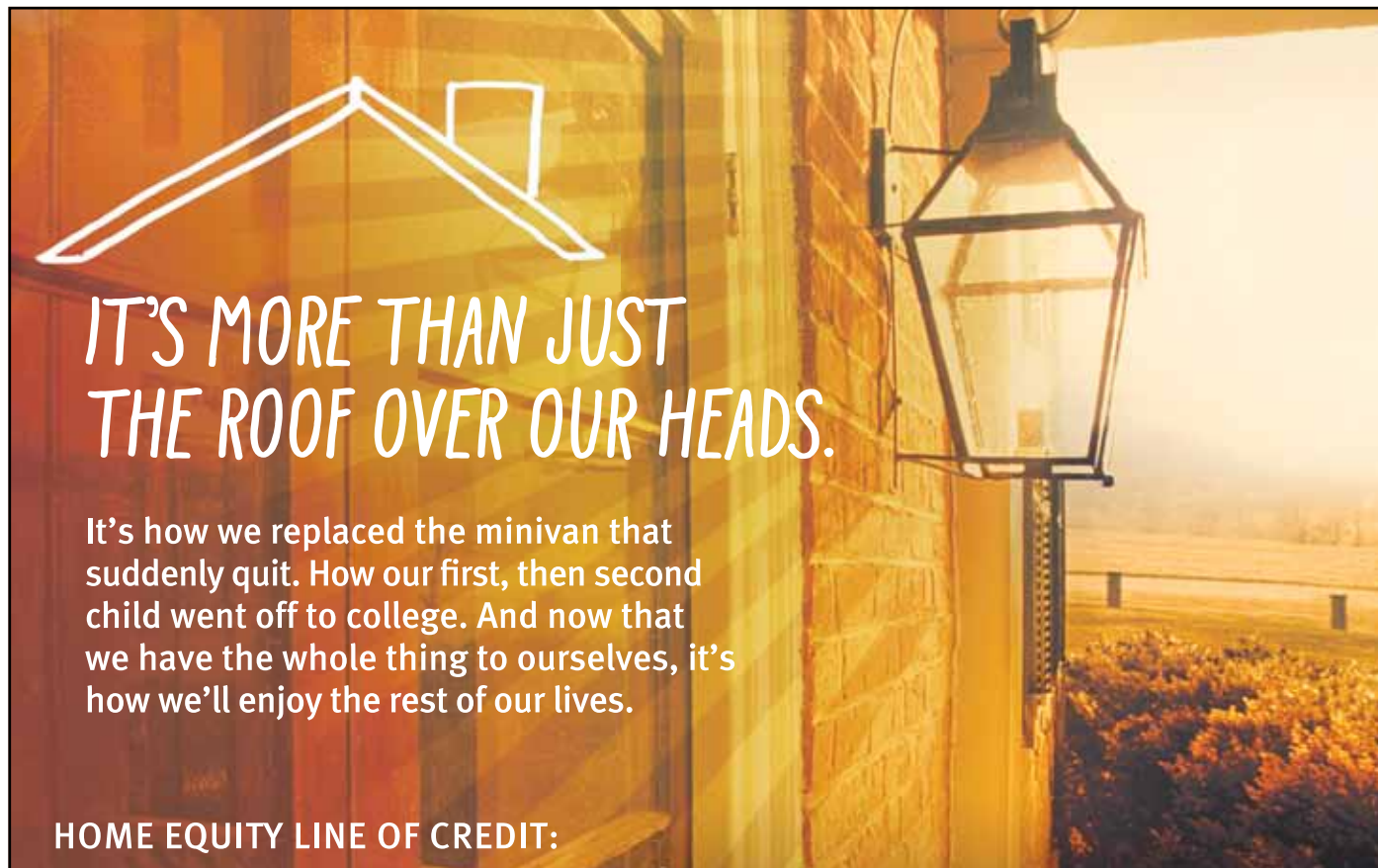
CHARLES E. MCDOWELL, of Alexandria, November 25, 2012

CHRISTINE E. DE MEETER (58), formerly of Alexandria, October 25, 2012

NANCY E. WEAVER, formerly of Alexandria, November 30, 2012

W.J. WILLIAMS, of Alexandria, November 15, 2012

BENJAMIN O. WOOD JR., of Alexandria, December 1, 2012



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Let's Eat A special advertising feature of the Alexandria Times

Society Fair has it all and then some

Society Fair offers a multitude of food-related experiences and options — it's part bakery, part market, and part demonstration kitchen and wine bar — and excels at each. The multisensory market is like a French-inspired Harrods, the famous London food and wine shop, with its decor and flair (designed by Meshelle Armstrong). And the 277 S. Washington St. eatery also serves high-quality and delicious dishes.

Society Fair's reputation has spread since it opened last year. Some patrons love catching a quiet cup of coffee and a pastry with friends or family. Others enjoy a bowl of tasty soup. And then there are the customers who just stop by for a friendly chat with the butcher.

The demo kitchen boasts a lot of fans. It's an inter-engaging dinner where 10 guests gather around a kitchen/bar as a three-course din-

ner is prepared right before their eyes. This unique experience is perfect for a date or a meet-up with friends. The restaurant possesses a special relationship with winemakers, which allows for private demos too.

Need a hostess gift or something for a person who has everything? The Society Fair shop — which is also online at store.societyfair.net — contains fun, interesting items at every price point. A bag of multicolored gumballs only costs \$3, and there are chocolates as well as scrumptious baked goods, such as caramel pecan rolls and light, fluffy croissants. For wine enthusiasts, there are several fine choices, but the prize among them is a handsome, leather cocktail rollup kit filled with tools of the craft.

For something a bit different on date night, Society Fair makes being romantic easy with Friday Date

Night Bags. The special consists of a complete dinner for two (prepared and ready in a bag), including dessert and wine, for \$45. These popular theme dinners change weekly, and the restaurant recommends ordering ahead and then swinging by to pick up the bag meal.

Last but not least, Chef Cathal Armstrong brought his favorite pantry goods and selections to his market, a one-stop shop at Society Fair for prepared dinners (lasagna, chicken pot pies, etc.) and meal enhancements, like specialty cheeses, olives and pates.

Society Fair has it all, and it's all fantastic. Needless to say, no one leaves disappointed.

For more information call 703-683-3247 or visit www.societyfair.net.

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Real estate wiz unveils new venture

Longtime local businessman Christopher Campagna announced last month the launch of his latest venture — Braddock Commercial Real Estate Services Inc.

The new company will offer brokerage and advisory services to landowners, tenants, and local and national buyers. In a statement, Campagna said the timing was right to launch the range of services.

“As a full service firm, our brokerage, consulting, asset management and development services will provide clients the expertise of a proven professional staff to expand their opportunities in the commercial real estate market,” Campagna said. “In a resilient and expanding regional Washington metropolitan market, there’s no doubt this is the right time to elevate the level of service available to ensure

clients’ needs are covered though the entire life cycle of commercial real estate.”

Campagna unveiled Braddock Commercial Real Estate Services after more than 25 years in the field in Alexandria and the Washington metropolitan area.

-Ana Rampy

HOBIE & MONK

FROM | 8

mediation efforts equal smoky story.

Do you want to continue to invest in the relationship? If the answer is yes, you might consider a friendly chat with your colleague about your relationship, maybe over coffee and cake, emphasizing your wish to be rid of the bad feel-

ings. If the answer is no, cut your losses, reconsider the next favor and make yourself a cake.

P.S. Beware the insincere dessert gift. Have you seen “The Help”?

Hobie: I agree with Monk. If she’s just a colleague, you now know she’s an “over-promiser” at best, so forget about it and get back to busi-

ness as usual. If she’s also a friend, how about a direct and humorous “Charlene, I know you’re never going to bake me that cake, so let’s go to lunch next Friday, and I’ll let you buy me a slice of cheesecake?”

Got a question for Hobie and Monk? Email them at hobieandmonk@alextimes.com

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PHOTO/DERRICK PERKINS

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT Fernando Torrez, second from left, celebrated the grand re-opening of Nanotech Computer Consulting at 105 N. Washington St. last week along with Mayor Bill Euille and City Councilor Frank Fannon. Torrez founded the expanding Old Town tech firm while serving in the U.S. Air Force.

CALENDAR

FROM | 13

December 7 - 8

MIA KATRIN JEWEL COUTURE TRUNK SHOW Come check out this trunk show at Gold Works.

Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

Location: Gold Works, 1400 King St.

Information: 703-683-0333 or goldworksusa.com

'SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET'

For a bloody good time, attend Stephen Sondheim's classic tale of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." This play — performed by the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology's student choir along with faculty, parent and alumni choirs — is about a vengeful London barber and his landlady's scrumptious but mysterious meat pies. Tickets are \$10.

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road

Information: tjchoir.org

December 7 - 9

DEL RAY ARTISANS HOLIDAY MARKET

The 17th annual Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market will offer handmade work from local artists and a bake sale to benefit Computer CORE. The event is free.

Time: 6 to 9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday

Location: Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

Information: www.thedelrayartisans.org/holidaymarket

December 7

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Children learn valuable social skills and improve their developmental skills through play. Parents and caregivers will join their child in stimulating activities that reinforce physical, cognitive and social development. The playgroup is free.

Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon

Location: Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 W. Reed Ave.

Information: Contact Deatrice Williams at 703-746-3430 or deatrice.williams@alexandriava.gov

CHRIST CHILD PROJECT CHRISTMAS STORE

This store helps low-income families of Alexandria provide Christmas gifts for their children.

Time: 5 to 9 p.m.

Location: Historic Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St.

Information: Contact Michele Smith at 703-778-4937 or msmith@ccalex.org

HOLIDAY ON THE AVENUE IN DEL RAY

This event will feature the annual Del Ray tree lighting, a visit with Santa and the lighting of thousands of candles. Enjoy carols, hot chocolate, cider and cookies at the free holiday event.

Time: 6 to 9 p.m.

Location: Del Ray Farmers Market, Mount Vernon and East Oxford avenues

Information: 703-746-3301

1964 THE TRIBUTE This critically acclaimed group is a tribute band to The Beatles and has been performing since the early 1980s. Tickets are \$35.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.

Information: 703-549-7500 or www.birchmere.com

December 8 - 9

SANTA PAWS PET PHOTO EVENT

Kimpton Hotels will host its annual Santa Paws event, where pets can get their picture with Santa and owners can nibble on holiday treats. The event will benefit Veterans Moving Forward.

Time: 2 to 4 p.m.

Location: Hotel Monaco, 480 King St.

Information: 202-466-1306

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA CANDLELIGHT TOUR

Take a break from the fast pace of the season and enjoy the unique charm and history of Old Town at this popular holiday event. Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House and the historic Bank of Alexandria by candlelight and enjoy seasonal decorations, entertainment and light refreshments. And special this year — a holiday taste of historic chocolate, co-sponsored by the Historic Division of Mars Inc. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$5 for kids.

Time: 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday and 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday

Location: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.; Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St.; Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St.; and the historic Bank of Alexandria, 133 N. Fairfax St.

Information: 703-746-4242 or www.historicalexandria.org

December 8

OLD TOWN FARMERS MARKET

The market includes local dairy, fish, fruits and vegetables. There is free parking in the garage during market hours.

Time: 5:30 a.m.

Location: Market Square, 301 King St.

Information: 703-746-3200

DREAMGIRLS

FROM | 12

record labels and disc jockeys were known to take payola. Soul and black R&B were a hard sell, and radio stations stuck to “white” music — black music performed by white performers.

It was a hard road for all black musicians until the Motown sound began to dominate the airwaves. “Dreamgirls” captures the essence of that Berry Gordy/Phil Spector period thanks to Krieger’s music. His 25 glorious numbers are dead in the center of that unforgettable sound.

Set designer Adam Koch created the painted black set and mechanical stage, which is so cavernous that at times it seems to swallow the cast. It is only when the women sashay onto center stage with increasingly spectacular wigs, jewels and gowns that it becomes a frame for their glamour.

Thankfully it’s all about the music and dancing since actor Sydney

James Harcourt’s portrayal of the Dreamettes’ impresario, Curtis, is not convincing either as a Svengali or a Lothario. The role calls for their agent — and Deena’s boyfriend — to embody a self-centered, slimy, back-room double-dealing manipulator, and Harcourt lacks the smarminess to pull it off.

Matthew Gardiner does double duty as director and choreographer, and you can’t find fault there. The dancing is stellar, particularly for Neal’s Jimmy, who shakes, rattles and rolls ’till the cows come home in the number “Baby-Baby.”

See it, love it and spend some time backstage with the Dreamettes back when Motown was the pinnacle of the music world.

The play runs through January 13 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. For tickets and information, call 703-820-9771 or visit www.signature-theatre.org.



PHOTO/CHRISTOPHER MUELLER

R&B star Jimmy “James Thunder” Early (Cedric Neal) croons a new tune in “Dreamgirls.”

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PET COLUMN

Finding a friend for the holidays

As soon as the turkey is out of the oven Thanksgiving Day, we're on the quest to find the perfect holiday gifts. We scour the Internet, catalogs and shops for that hallelujah moment — when bells chime, lights shine and we exclaim, "It's perfect!"

We hope to make a lasting impression. We want our family and friends to squeal in delight as they unwrap our thoughtful and deeply meaningful gifts. It's all in the holiday spirit, and it's precisely why this is such a joyful time of year.

But beware the enthusiasm, friends. We wouldn't want the glittery holiday haze to distract you into making a poor pet decision.

First and foremost, pets are not gifts. Pets are a serious commitment. Regardless of size or species, all pets require a considerable amount of time and dedication. And they often come with a hefty financial obligation.

Pets are not toys. They are living, breathing creatures that require proper nutrition, care and exercise. Simply feeding them is not enough. Having the money to buy the very best and offer outstanding veterinary care is not enough. Loving them to pieces is not enough. Pets need all of the above and more.

Puppies look adorable with a festive bow, but there is a lot more to that sweet, squirmy surprise than you may bargain for. And the recipient of your

special gift may not know the level of commitment it takes to raise a puppy, dog, kitten, cat, rabbit, turtle — you name it. Pets are a responsibility, not a gift idea.

What's that? You've thought long and hard and still want a pet this holiday season? And you're committed to raising your new friend right? Great! Let's discuss the obstacles that you may encounter in your search.

You may have heard the term "puppy mill." If you have, the words should conjure up images of suffering, filth and, well, absolute terror. Puppy mills are hell on earth for dogs, and you want to avoid a puppy-mill pup at all costs. Cats and small mammals aren't bred as poorly or as extensively as dogs because they are less popular in purebred form. But puppy-mill equivalents exist for many species and should be avoided.

A puppy-mill pet will not only come with extensive psychological issues, but may also cost you a fortune in veterinary bills as a result of deplorable breeding practices — including inbreeding, unhealthy and overbred moms and pops, and high levels of contamination. Buying from a puppy mill is as much a bad investment as it is an utter lack of social responsibility. Don't do it.

How do you avoid a puppy mill? Start by doing your homework. Research the breed, contact a number of

highly regarded breeders, and ask friends, colleagues and — most importantly — pet experts for recommendations. Once you've narrowed down your search, refuse to buy pets off the Internet or from pet shops, visit a number of breeders and observe their operation before committing to a purchase, and report questionable breeding practices to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Bad breeding is a vicious cycle, and we can contribute to its end. Buying a pet from a less-than-reputable breeder only helps fund future litters and encourages the disgusting scheme. You may have saved an animal, but you've supported the operation and ensured future generations of pets will similarly suffer.

I would skip the breeders and purchases altogether, considering the thousands of wonderful pets waiting for a home at local shelters and rescue organizations. This holiday season, open your heart and home to a pet that has dreamt of you their entire life — they will not only repay you in love but also in gratitude. Don't make a purchase, save a life. What better way to celebrate the true spirit of the season?

Alexandria resident Isabel Alvarez owns The Wag Pack, a professional pet services company that the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters named its 2012 business of the year.



By Isabel Alvarez

Our View

Take action now on affordable housing

“We’re playing catch-up.”

That’s how Alexandria Office of Housing Director Mildrilyn Davis described the city’s efforts to preserve and replenish the dwindling supply of affordable housing. It’s an accurate assessment, captured in a single, shocking factoid: The city’s affordable housing stock has fallen from more than 18,000 units in 2001 to about 5,600 this year.

But that’s no secret, just as it’s no secret affordable housing ranks high on City Hall’s stated list of priorities. Last week, officials released a draft housing master plan, which outlines — in detail — ways to save and eventually expand affordable housing in Alexandria.

The plan is the culmination of years of community meetings, consulting work and study, and it’s chock-full of good ideas. No doubt officials see this as evidence of their commitment to tackle the problem, and we’d be tempted to agree, if Alexandria wasn’t known for its love of plans and high-priced studies.

No, what’s needed is action — and immediately.

We worry the plan will be left on a shelf somewhere and consulted only when a new developer comes to town, looking to add more luxury condominiums or townhomes to the landscape. Given the precipitous drop in affordable housing in just a little more than 10 years, we can’t afford to wait for opportunities to come Alexandria’s way. We need to create them.

Partnerships with nonprofits in the business of building affordable housing — like Arlington’s AHC Inc. — must be encouraged. It’s great when they come knocking at City Hall’s doors with a project in mind, but officials also must approach and lure them to Alexandria.

And officials need to take a harder line with developers. It’s true the city is limited in what it can demand from the private sector, and these real estate moguls and businesspeople are, obviously, looking for the biggest bang for their buck. Still, it’s become public perception that City Hall isn’t pushing them hard enough to set aside affordable housing during negotiations.

As Hector Pineda, a Beauregard corridor resident, told the Times this week: “I know they can’t do whatever they want, but they can also ask [for more].”

The big fear is developers will ignore City Hall’s pleadings and go with by-right development, that without incentives — such as increased density — they will simply build what they want and likely without any affordable housing.

But that worry should not stop city officials from asking for more. It’s a negotiation, and as with any haggling, you start high and work your way down. The city, it seems, needs to start higher.

It never hurts to ask. They can always say no.

Opinion

“Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe.”

- Thomas Jefferson



Your Views

What’s Next Alexandria won’t heal city’s divide

To the editor:

Regarding Melissa Quinn’s article “City Hall hits reset button” (November 29), I can’t help but wonder if Bob Wood’s city council campaign slogan — Reset Alexandria — did have an impact. As a volunteer for Mr. Wood’s campaign and attendee of the first What’s Next Alexandria meeting, there are several points I would like to address.

Regarding the city’s use of a “political-type poll” rather than a survey for participating residents and business owners, I found this to be very biased. City Hall already knows how many of us activists feel about the lack of trust and respect from city staff and our elected leaders.

The presentation by Carolyn Lukensmeyer was rather

generic and didn’t present any new information for those in attendance. After all, Alexandria taxpayers paid Lukensmeyer \$3,000 for a 40-minute presentation, and all she did was discuss her experience as founder of America Speaks and as a community coordinator along with sharing the poll results. I can only conclude that city officials did not talk with her prior to the event about Alexandria or resident concerns. Or she chose to do her own thing in order to avoid making any statements that would disagree with the city’s agenda. Very disappointing.

The poll results could have been on the city’s website prior to this kickoff, and more time should have been spent having a conversation

with participants — a mix of activists and new residents. It was a waste of time and money.

I agree with Jack Sullivan’s comments to the Times that getting residents involved in this initiative will be difficult. But I must disagree with Mr. Sullivan’s observations about the outcome of the recent local elections. Alexandria is a Democratic town with a strong party machine.

As for What’s Next Alexandria, there was supposed to be time for a question-and-answer session with participants, but it never happened. Why not? And who wrote the specific wording for the poll, which clearly was biased and showed that City Hall already

Pedestrians lose out in shared-street concept

To the editor:

City Hall is seriously considering turning Union Street into a shared street where automobiles, tour buses and bicycles will commingle with pedestrians? Has City Hall lost its marbles?

A tour bus weighs 10 tons; an SUV two tons; and even a compact car weighs a ton. Then there's me, a pedestrian, weighing — more than I should — at 165 pounds, and City Hall thinks it's perfectly OK for me to share the street with traffic? With merely a painted line to protect me? The only thing protecting pedestrians from motor vehicles is the curb, which keeps them off the sidewalk.

Even cyclists, typically blessed with more gall than brains — blowing through stop signs and weaving in and out of traffic — are beginning to figure out they

need trails or other bicycle-lane separators, which the District is pioneering, to keep them safe from traffic. They are lately demanding more bicycle lanes because they have figured out they need to be separated from motor vehicles and that getting hit by a door beats getting run over. Imagine throwing bicycles in with pedestrians and motor vehicles in a narrow street with little maneuvering room.

The wealthy merchants who built Union Street with slave labor in the early days of the American republic built it for horse-drawn carriages, a dimension copied from Roman chariots and abided faithfully for two millennia in land transport. At least until some set of fools in Detroit decided to give automobiles and trucks wider 6-foot wheelbases.

In keeping with City Hall's modus

operandi of trying to stuff 10 pounds of stuff into a 5-pound sack, where are these automobiles going to fit on a street designed for carriages' narrower axles? Where two carriages could pass, two automobiles or buses with wider wheelbases cannot. The two motor vehicles are not going to sideswipe each other. Instead, without a curb to keep them in the roadbed, they will crowd out and squish the pedestrians.

Why not just paint bull's-eyes on every pedestrian on this shared street and have Mayor Bill Euille personally autograph it?

- Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Scottish Walk's timing could have been better

To the editor:

The preparatory season of Advent began Sunday and runs through December 24. Christmas begins — yes, begins — December 25. So why was the Scottish Christmas Walk on Saturday?

It could not even be called the Scottish Advent Walk this year.

- Kenneth J. Wolfe
Alexandria

Waive toll fees and reduce the risk of fatalities

To the editor:

Pretty much every day since the new Interstate 495 express lanes opened November 17, there has been at least one accident. Near misses and fender benders — luckily no fatalities so far — are the rule of the day. And there are those who mistakenly find themselves on the toll road, who then maneuver to avoid

paying the fines and fees.

Since this new addition to the Beltway was not scheduled to open until December anyway, why doesn't Virginia follow the example Maryland set with the Intercounty Connector? In the spirit of the holiday season, which will bring more than a few oblivious out-of-towners to the area, officials should grant a

reasonable grace period of adjustment — a monetary moratorium for lost motorists — before the cost of an accident becomes much more expensive: a valuable human life.

- Karen Ann DeLuca
Alexandria

FROM THE WEB

What the Times' online readers are talking about

In response to ["Sharing the road," November 29:](#)

Flinston writes:

You want to get from Del Ray to Shirlington? Hello, there's a trail running from the north end of Arlandria to Shirlington (which was a very expensive undertaking, I might add). Gee, I'm sorry you can't have everything just be perfect for you.

We'll be sure to allot \$1 billion next year to dig a tunnel from Del Ray to Shirlington just so you don't have to enjoy your bike ride another quarter-mile more than you absolutely must. We'll put in a teleportation machine the year after that.

Good God, be satisfied with something once in a while.

Allen Muchnick writes:

I agree with Flinston that there are multiple reasonably safe and relatively low traffic routes between Del Ray and Shirlington, but West Glebe Road can, and should, be economically reconfigured to be friendlier for on-road bicycling. The virtue of West Glebe Road is that it's relatively flat as well as direct.

Retrofitting on-road bicycling accommodations, such as sharrows or bike lanes, need not take years of study and community meetings, but it probably does require assigning a qualified and motivated professional traffic engineer to make things happen.

On the other hand, Alexandria's West End is a nightmare for pedestrians and bicyclists and needs a total makeover.

DIVIDE

FROM | 23

knows a majority of residents no longer trust Alexandria's elected officials and staff. And why weren't more residents involved?

So did this first community dialogue succeed? No. If Mayor Bill Euille, City Manager Rashad Young and Assistant City Manager Tom Gates are serious about honest and transparent civic engagement, I believe this agenda should be dropped. Then the city can move forward with residents, business owners and developers and begin a real discussion about whatever issues and concerns we want to talk about and eliminate the middle man: the many boards, commissions and advisory groups.

Not everyone will be happy about this proposal nor agree on the future issues facing Alexandria, but at least we can attempt to negotiate — and hopefully resolve — the important issues that impact Alexandria's residents. Or City Hall could just be honest and transparent and put its agenda on the table now.

- Annabelle Fisher
Alexandria

Quick Takes

THUMBS UP to the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra for helping residents celebrate the Christmas and Hanukkah seasons with its annual Children's Concert. The event features holiday arrangements and classic sing-alongs and will be held Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Church at 228 S. Pitt St. in Old Town. Buy a ticket and come sing along to get in the holiday spirit!

— Denise Dunbar

THUMBS DOWN to the vandal or vandals who smashed ground lights at Grace Episcopal Church on Russell Road last week. Really? Someone decided it was a fun idea to take a baseball bat or a similar instrument and cause more than \$500 in damage to a church over Thanksgiving weekend? For shame!

— Denise Dunbar

THUMBS UP to the Old Town Boutique District for bringing Santa Claus to Alexandria. Families can visit with Santa and be photographed every weekend at 1 Wales Alley.

— Patrice Culligan

THUMBS UP to the annual holiday boat parade. Hundreds of viewers gathered at the waterfront to watch as dozens of decorated boats meandered down the Potomac, many accompanied by holiday music. Along with the Scottish Walk, the boat parade helped to kick off this festive season on the right note.

— Patrice Culligan

OUT OF THE ATTIC

Lloyd House becomes home to Alexandria's history

This is the final installment of a three-part series covering the unusual history of the Lloyd House, a building a few of the city's most prominent dignitaries and characters called home.

When California oilman Robert V. New suddenly acquired Lloyd House in 1956 — just hours before its demolition — he was feted as Alexandria's architectural savior. During his first visit to the property, he was offered the opportunity to acquire other threatened landmarks, such as The Lyceum, in hopes he might be interested in spreading his wealth and generosity around.

But New's status as a preservation hero, and the hope of him restoring Lloyd House as a museum, proved short-lived. After removing all plumbing from the house, he left it vacant for several years while he pursued different options. New proposed that the house be used as a lobbying headquarters for American psychiatrists, a residence for the president of the American Red Cross, a science center and, finally, an office for one of his oil exploration companies: Green Cabin Development Corp.

But these plans fell through, and he leased the house to William and Randall Vosbeck, two young brothers who had recently founded an architectural firm in Alexandria, known as Vosbeck and Vosbeck. The firm would eventually play a major role in the '60s urban renewal project in Old Town. In fact, the redesign of the historic city's core was planned within the walls of Lloyd House.

Interestingly, the Vosbeck firm de-



PHOTO/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

signed a nine-story, L-shaped building in a Georgian design for New that was proposed to surround Lloyd House. Though the building technically adhered to zoning, the board of architectural review rejected it as "monstrous."

Finally New applied for a demolition permit, prodding the city and Alexandria Historic Restoration and Preservation Commission to acquire the property for public use. After serving as part of the Alexandria Library for nearly 25 years, it is now the headquarters for the Office of Historic Alexandria.

Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.

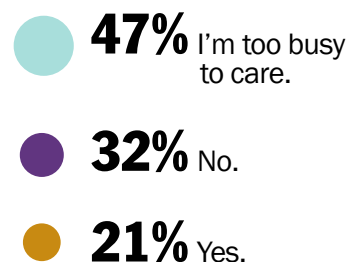
Weekly Poll

This Week
How important of an issue is affordable housing to you?

- A. Very.
- B. I'm not overly concerned.
- C. We have bigger problems.

Take the poll at alextimes.com

Last Week
Will What's Next Alexandria foster better civic engagement?



19 votes

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Letters must be signed by the writer. Include address and phone for verification (not for publication). Letters are subject to editing for clarity and length. Personal attacks will not be published.

At Home

Celebrate the holidays by candlelight

BY ELAINE MARKOUTSAS

Rheostats have nothing on candles. Dimming the lights boosts the ambience when you're trying to dial down a bright interior at night. But candlelight interjects another dimension.

It's romantic. Dramatic. Even magical. It lends a familiar, old-fashioned comfort to a space. Candles evoke moods from spiritual to sensual.

The glow of candlelight adds warmth — most welcome during the holiday season, along with the scent of pumpkin pie or pine. Candles are integral to many Thanksgiving, Hanukkah or Christmas tabletops.

In recent years, there's

been a proliferation of candles — tapers, pillars, votives and sculpted wax, including pumpkins, snowmen, angels, Santas and nutcrackers. They come au naturel or colored, striped, polka-dotted, sculpted or even embellished with everything from painted autumn leaves to glitter to actual crystals. Appropriately, the selection of candleholders has expanded to reflect most every design style, from ubersleek to over-the-top baroque.

Over time, candleholders have been crafted from metal, glass or crystal, porcelain, ceramic, resin and wood, as well as mixed media. From holders to accommodate short votives to

tall tapers — some extend up to nearly four feet — to candelabra whose multiple “arms” housing lights can be significantly wide. Price tags range from under \$1 to nearly \$9,000 for a Baccarat crystal candelabrum.

Shape is pushing the design envelope. Three-dimensional and figural pieces, such as regally robed angels holding candles, are popular at this time of year, but among the newest designs are engaging sculptural looks that celebrate form. A dragon shape interpreted in richly detailed nickel-coated brass was designed by Josie Natori, and is available at Neiman Marcus.

An organic interpretation

SEE **CANDLELIGHT** | 27



PHOTO/POTTERY BARN

Create a new tradition with a sculptural menorah hand carved from a single piece of mango wood. The piece has a light stained finish that easily blends with many furniture styles.

— HOME OF THE WEEK —

Stately home has stunning architectural details

This lovely residence features almost 5,000 square feet in the heart of Old Town. Circa 1850, the stately home — on a double lot — boasts six fireplaces, a ballroom-sized double parlor, 13-foot ceilings and two gorgeous staircases.

The sun-drenched rooms are framed by stunning architectural details, such as deep moldings and millwork as well as original random-width pine floors. An entertaining-sized dining room overlooks the private courtyard and swimming pool through several sets of French doors.

At the rear of the home, a gour-

met center-island kitchen opens to a wonderful family room with fireplace. Each of the home's generously sized five bedrooms conveniently contains an en-suite bath, but the true showstopper is the master suite. A sitting room with built-in bookcases and an office with half-bath add to the private retreat, which also has a fireplace and extravagant master bath.

Outdoors, enjoy a dip in the pool or relaxing on the lovely porches on each level, including one off of the master suite. Off-street parking for two cars also is accessible from the rear of the home.



PHOTO/MCENEARNEY ASSOCIATES

(Left) Sited on a double lot, this property features a pool, two porches, gardens and off-street parking. (Right) This gorgeous double-parlor with two fireplaces is ideal for entertaining.

At a Glance:

Location: 414 Duke St.,
Alexandria, VA 22314

Price: \$3,495,000

Bedrooms: 5

Bathrooms: 6 full, 2 half

Style: Federal

Year Built: 1850

Parking: 2 off-street

Contact: Sue Goodhart of McEneaney Associates at 703-362-3221 or sue@suegoodhart.com

CANDLELIGHT

FROM | 26

of the traditional menorah is handsomely hand carved out of a single piece of mango wood. The piece from Pottery Barn commands attention with its sculptural leaves and blooms, and its graduating candles rising and falling from 10 1/2 inches at center.

An almost cup-shaped iron tree that stands 31 inches tall is a dramatic centerpiece or anchor for a sidebar. Votive candles nestle in its black iron branches, which maintain a visual lightness because you can see into the “nest.”

There are plenty of unexpected shapes, even on a smaller scale. At CB2, for example, some low-slung contemporary candleholders are chunky and faceted, with surprising dimension. The squatty 5 1/4-inch-tall iron pieces, available in white or chartreuse powder-coat, are called Pivot because of the sharp turned angles of their sides.

Cues from fashion are being expressed in novel ways. The so-trendy animal patterns that have been cropping up on everything from sweaters and shoes to fabrics and area rugs have a spot-on interpretation in gold-painted metal at Neiman Marcus. Simple rectangular lanterns are decorated with cutout patterns suggesting the coats of Serengeti animals, allowing light to dance through.

A similar effect is achieved with piercing, like that of traditional tinwork. One particularly fetching design at Crate and Barrel features a leaf pattern. Hundreds of pinholes create the design, which looks beaded as it stands out on the face of a black iron hurricane, which is gold plated inside, glowing when the candle is lit.

Light play also is affected by media such as glass, and especially enhanced when the glass is colored, frosted, crackled or silvered. The antique silvery finish of mercury glass is a popular fashion look today. Replicated in hurricanes

or shapely candleholders and available from retailers such as Pottery Barn and Ballard Designs, the low-luster pieces shimmer in candlelight.

The scale of some candleholders has been beefed up in recent years. Hurricane lamps, for example, can be quite substantial in height and diameter to lend impressive visual weight. Simple glass cylinders or traditional hourglass shapes have evolved to glass that's thicker, sometimes rustically mottled and/or banded in metal. There may be decorative grillwork outside or inside, part of what cradles the candle. Some hurricanes are architectural in stature, such as a 30 1/2-inch tall, 15 1/2-inch wide metal bamboo model that resembles a pagoda.

A handsome design from Ralph Lauren Home, the almost 9-inch wide Nelson hurricane is wrapped in narrow leather thongs, set in neat yet irregular horizontal rows to complement brass rims. The larger version, at 17 3/4 inches tall, sells for \$995 at Neiman Marcus.

Lantern-style candleholders, so popular for outdoors, now are finding their way onto indoor tabletops. On the Wisteria website, one metal tabletop coach lantern sits on a fancy scrolled base. Non-footed styles are both casual and more formal, depending on shapes and materials.

Candlesticks have fattened up and slimmed down, offering a wide variety for those seeking this traditional format. Column-like, turned, spindled, fluted and stacked elements are among the features that take on very different looks in glass or wood.

A “style your own” option offers even more flexibility. A very modern collection of five skinny holders of different heights, lined up side by side, turns out to be mounted on a base. The Ibis candleholder from Crate and Barrel actually has movable parts; you can switch up the order of the sticks, varying the heights at your whim.

Customizable, transformable design is the premise of the website Module-R. Embracing a kind of Lego approach, the idea is to make the pieces your own. A stacked crystal candleholder, for example, is composed of multiple parts and shapes — with color options in red, green, black, orange and blue — which you can rearrange to your heart's content. Another candelabrum-style piece folds in different configurations.

Holders for pillar candles also have evolved into broader cylinders and hybrids that seem to be an extension of candelabra, such as a heavily scrolled black iron piece inspired by Moroccan gateway and available from Pottery Barn.

Finally, votives and even the smaller tea lights, which often are combined in multiples with other candleholders ranging in scale, are sporting more decorative housings. Fancy filigree-like wires, sometimes studded with jewels, create a strong dynamic. An intriguing horizontal arrangement is a glass log-shaped piece crafted from beaker glass. Available at Crate and Barrel, it holds five votives.

Although candleholders are considered decorative accessories, they can make quite an impact on decor.

More often, candlesticks are used symmetrically in pairs, especially on the table or on a fireplace mantel. Votives are effective in odd numbers, multiples of three, five or seven. Candleholders for tapers are smashing, ganged together, especially engaging in the same medium — all glass or metal in varying shapes and styles.

Classic designs, of course, are versatile. So candleholders need not be static. Those that grace the table for the holidays can move to a sideboard, mantel or cocktail table throughout the year.

With so many choices, you are bound to find candleholders to suit your taste and budget. One thing about candlelight — it never will go out of style.

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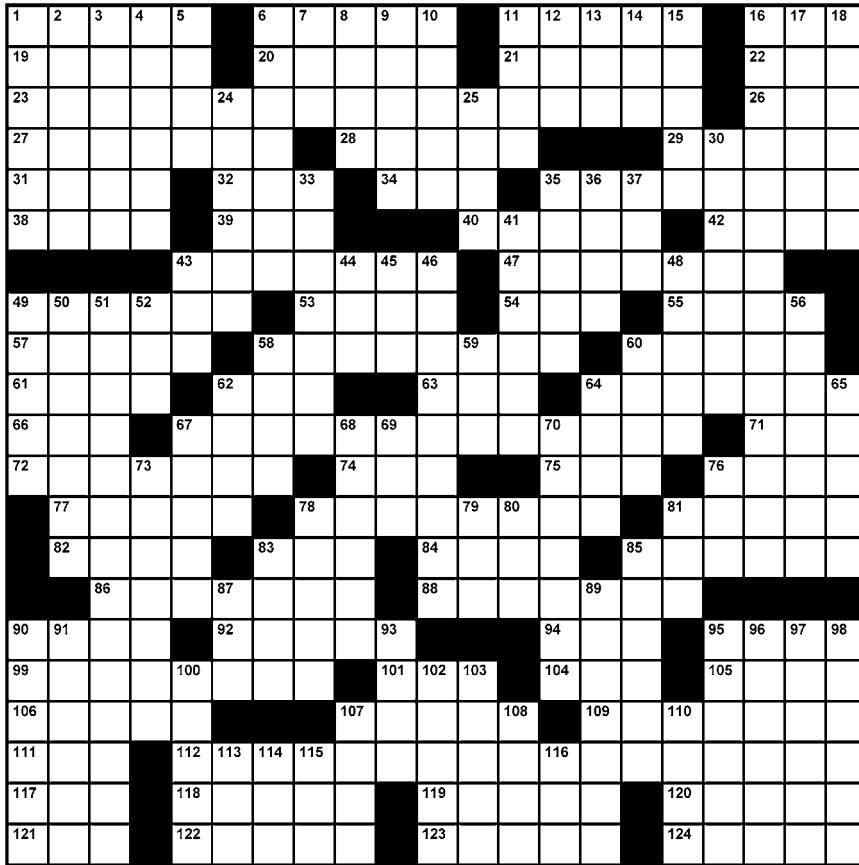
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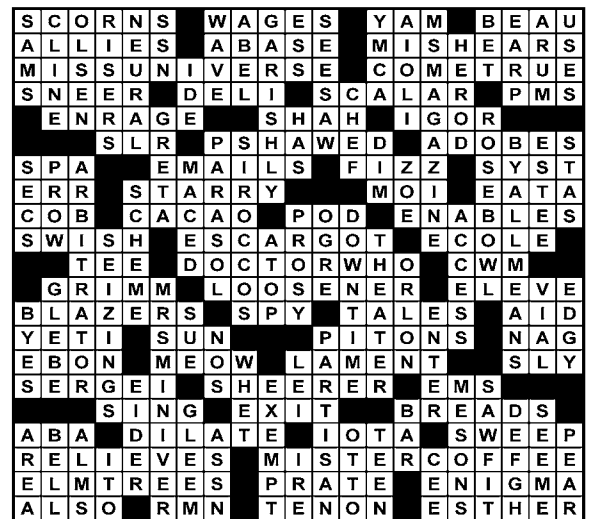
- 1 Big cat hybrid
- 6 Freezing cold
- 11 Inclination
- 16 The peacock network
- 19 A sister of Clio
- 20 Eat at the beach?
- 21 Bullfighters' entrance march
- 22 "___ the ramparts ..."
- 23 Unconditionally
- 26 Actress Charlotte of "The Facts of Life"
- 27 Not intentional
- 28 Linen sale purchase
- 29 Garbage emanations
- 31 The last one brings it up
- 32 Yodeler's mountain
- 34 Rock for miners
- 35 Liquidation sale
- 38 Sea eagles
- 39 Prefix meaning "new"
- 40 Journalist Shriver
- 42 Little troublemakers
- 43 ___ Beach, Calif.
- 47 Powerful canine
- 49 Barry of Green Beret ballad fame
- 53 Tylenol target
- 54 Make a decision

- 55 Sing Sing disorder
- 57 St. ___ (largest U.S. Virgin Island)
- 58 Samurai, e.g.
- 60 Bridge supports
- 61 Unpopular spots
- 62 Tenth anniversary gift
- 63 Deg. for an executive
- 64 He'll rub you the right way
- 66 Greek letter after pi
- 67 Warning from the postal service
- 71 Genes material
- 72 Confession receivers
- 74 Jed Clampett's find

- 75 Crumb runner
- 76 Letterman's house?
- 77 The golden calf and others
- 78 Cut in thin strips, as carrots
- 81 Ecological community
- 82 Remove flawed ones
- 83 Sales ___ (company agent, for short)
- 84 Buttonhole, e.g.
- 85 Intensely hot
- 86 Old word for 75-Across
- 88 Confused
- 90 ___ in comparison
- 92 Posed a question
- 94 Hallow ending?
- 95 Window frame
- 99 New Testament section
- 101 Plus additional things
- 104 Beatty in "Network"
- 105 Spread in a tub
- 106 Odd-numbered page, often
- 107 Asian goatlike animal
- 109 Design in advance
- 111 Nest egg option, briefly
- 112 Warning from a TV announcer
- 117 Qtr. starter
- 118 "Bye!"
- 119 Legendary McQueen
- 120 Credits as a source
- 121 "With all ___ respect ..."
- 122 Middle Eastern country on the Red Sea
- 123 Country crooner Tucker
- 124 ___ a clue (is naive)

- 15 Big fusses
- 16 Accuracy required
- 17 Face hardship bravely
- 18 Family emblems
- 24 Twice as dumb
- 25 Rain in buckets
- 30 More than exalts
- 33 ___ Beach, Fla.
- 35 Vegas game featuring shooters
- 36 What Santa checks twice
- 37 Horse's nibble
- 41 Indifferent to right and wrong
- 43 Evil spell
- 44 Sculling need
- 45 What to call an elderly gentleman
- 46 Philosophy in an Orwell novel
- 48 From Dublin
- 49 Kind of neckwear
- 50 Way out of date
- 51 Warning on some keys
- 52 Tell a tall tale
- 56 Enormous, destructive wave
- 58 Takes first place
- 59 Band of geishas?
- 60 Time you can't relive
- 62 Rocky crags
- 64 Male lion's distinction
- 65 Put on a scale of 1 to 10
- 67 Secluded valleys
- 68 Rogaine alternative
- 69 Wire measure
- 70 Camper's water flask
- 73 Height of sanctity
- 76 Evergreen tree
- 78 Yanks
- 79 Yale collegian
- 80 Vote down
- 81 Jazz genre
- 83 "All ___!" (court phrase)
- 85 Icy wasteland
- 87 Prefix for "content"
- 89 Like some divers
- 90 "End of story!"
- 91 Quick impression
- 93 Big bucks?
- 95 "Houseboat" actress Loren
- 96 Metes out
- 97 Mariners
- 98 "I'm telling you the truth!"
- 100 "Without delay," facetiously
- 102 Lovers' engagement
- 103 Terra ___
- 107 "Star Trek" phaser setting
- 108 Timely question?
- 110 ___-A-Sketch
- 113 Poetic form
- 114 Game played with counters
- 115 It props up a golf ball
- 116 League of 79-Down

Last Week's Solution:



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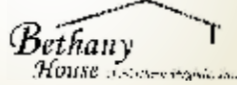
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The Nonprofit Directory will run until the end of the year.

MAROON

FROM | 16

about our team and learning about each other," Fitzpatrick said. "That's part of the process of building a strong team."

The Maroon fell to Bishop Ireton last week in their first game of the season, 72-53, but the team takes it one step at a time.

"We want to keep the mentality of one game at a time," McCann said. "We're rebuilding, and we're not the same team as last year."



**Alexandria Board of Architectural Review
Old & Historic
Alexandria District**

**LEGAL NOTICE
OF A PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, December 19, 2012 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR 2012-0364

Request for alterations at **516 N Columbus St.**
APPLICANT: Charles Kohler by Doug Bibb

CASE BAR2012-0382

Request for alterations at **315 Queen St.**
APPLICANT: Jana McKeag by Robert Gooch Sr., Renewal by Anderson

CASE BAR2012-0383

Request to partially demolish & capslate at **424 Queen St.**
APPLICANT: Erick & Margaret Chiang by Patrick Camus

CASE BAR2012-0384

Request for an addition & alterations at **424 Queen St.**
APPLICANT: Erick & Margaret Chiang by Patrick Camus

CASE BAR2012-0386

Request for revisions to previously approved plans at **412 S Fairfax St.**
APPLICANT: Alice Reid by G. Ray Lewis, Lewis & Associates

Information about the above item(s) may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4666.

Alexandria Times' Cause of the Month

The Alexandria Times will donate a portion of every paid display ad in December to our Cause of the Month. Please join us in contributing to this worthy cause.

December's cause:



The Alexandria School for the Performing Arts offers quality arts lessons with experienced and certified teachers. These lessons are offered to the community at very low program service fees to benefit low income families and at risk children in Alexandria. Six disciplines of arts lessons are available: Piano Lab, Guitar Lab, Brass Techniques, Dance, Vocal Pedagogy and Percussion Techniques. Classes are offered during fall, winter, and spring terms, nine weeks each, and the program fees are \$70.00 per term. A recital is held at the end of each term to highlight the achievements of each student.

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**Alexandria Board of Architectural Review
Parker-Gray District**

**LEGAL NOTICE
OF A PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, December 12, 2012 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

DESIGN GUIDELINES AMENDMENT - Public hearing and consideration of request for approval of amendments to the Design Guidelines for the Parker-Gray Historic District.

Information about the above item(s) may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4666

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

MERRIMACK, SS

SUPERIOR COURT

Docket No. 08-E-0053

In the Matter of the Liquidation of Noble Trust Company

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on April 17, 2012, Ronald A. Wilbur, Bank Commissioner for the State of New Hampshire, in his capacity as Liquidator of Noble Trust Company (the "Liquidator" and "Noble Trust," respectively), filed the Liquidator's Motion for Approval of Settlement and Release Agreement with PHL Variable Insurance Company (the "Phoenix Settlement Motion"), and that on or before December 28, 2012, the Liquidator anticipates filing motions to approve certain separate settlement and release agreements with American National Insurance Company, AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company, Credit Suisse AG, Credit Suisse Lending Trust (USA) 2, Credit Suisse Lending Trust (USA) 3, The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Upon executing settlement and release agreements with any of these parties, the Liquidator intends to file motions to approve those agreements (together with the Phoenix Settlement Motion, the "Settlement Motions"). Copies of the Settlement Motions and the related agreements will be available for review during regular office hours at the Office of the Clerk, Merrimack County Superior Court, 163 North Main Street, Concord, New Hampshire, 03302, or may be obtained upon request of The Office of Noble Liquidation, Attn: Abigail Shaine (Tel.: (603) 625-6733), or viewed on the New Hampshire Banking Department's web site (www.nh.gov/banking/noble-trust). IF GRANTED, THE SETTLEMENT MOTIONS WILL RESULT IN THE SURRENDER, CANCELLATION, OR OTHER TERMINATION OF CERTAIN LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES ISSUED TO OR FOR THE BENEFIT OF NOBLE TRUST CLIENTS, AND A RELEASE OF THE SETTLING PARTIES FROM ALL CLAIMS RELATING TO THOSE POLICIES. YOU ARE URGED TO CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY REVIEW THE SETTLEMENT MOTIONS, THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS AND ALL OTHER RELATED PLEADINGS, AND CONSULT WITH YOUR OWN LEGAL ADVISORS AS YOU SEE FIT.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that on January 24, 2013 at 1:30 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, a hearing will be held at the Merrimack County Superior Court, 163 North Main Street, Concord, New Hampshire, 03302, on the Settlement Motions.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that objections to the Settlement Motions, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of Court at the above address, and served upon counsel for the Liquidator at their respective addresses shown below, counsel identified in the particular Settlement Motion to which the objection pertains (as set forth in the Settlement Motion), and upon all other counsel of record (whose names and addresses may be obtained from the Clerk's Office), so as to be actually received by all such parties on or before January 10, 2013.

Christopher M. Candon, Sheehan Phinney Bass + Green, PA, 1000 Elm Street, P.O. Box 3701, Manchester, NH 03105-3701, ccandon@sheehan.com, Fax: (603) 627-8121

Peter C.L. Roth, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, 33 Capitol Street, Concord, NH 03301-6397, peter.roth@doj.nh.gov, Fax: (603) 271-2110

Dated: November 28, 2012

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**Bonnie Baxley, Executive Director
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