

Boutique bonanza

Specialty shops thrive despite competition

BY DERRICK PERKINS

Old Town's plethora of small specialty shops is well known, but the bevy of potential competitors didn't deter Gale Curcio and Cuddy Eyre from opening Bucket List Boutique just off of King Street in the fall.

"No [I wasn't worried about the competition], because I think we have something really special," Curcio said after opening the shop in September. "That's what people have been telling us: We have a blend of old and new, and nobody else really has that. Either it's all antiques or all shabby chic, and we really have a blend."

And finding a special-

ity is pretty much the trick, said Jay Palermينو of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. Focusing on a niche market helps boutique owners stand out from the crowd. It's a proven path to success for many of Old Town's specialty shops, he said.

"I think that we have seen a lot of very, very unique concepts come in where — in the beginning — people come in and say, 'I don't know how it can survive' and then like Olio it takes off," Palermينو said, holding up King Street's olive oil-themed shop as a success story. "[Bishop Boutique] is a good example of that ... and even fibre space. Walk into any of those [shops], and all you see are shoes or all you see is yarn."

Curcio and Eyre's shop,

overflowing with goods on several cramped levels, is a mix of knick-knacks, toys and home decor accessories. And they also are Alexandria's sole retailers of several product lines, including Casart's removable wallpaper.

The pair regularly changes up their product lines, hoping to entice new customers by reinventing the store every few weeks. They plan to begin selling an exclusive line of chalk and clay paint this month and offer how-to classes for customers in February.

The duo is betting the tactic will make their store a destination for shoppers.

"It's very time consuming, but it's actually very worth it [to change] up the inventory and making the

SEE BOUTIQUES | 6



PHOTO/VERENA RADULOVIC

HAPPY NEW YEAR Onlookers crowded Alexandria's waterfront Monday night to help ring in 2013 with fireworks, music and dance. More than 100 bands played across the city during the annual bash. **MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 12.**

Roving medical clinic slated for West End schools

ACPS snags federal grant for mobile doctor's office

BY MELISSA QUINN

Forget the traditional nurse's office, Alexandria City Public Schools officials hope to unveil a mobile doctor's office by the end of next year.

The district recently received a grant for \$380,771

from the Health Resources and Services Administration, a division of the Department of Health and Human Services. Officials plan to use the dollars to build an RV-like vehicle, which will travel between three of Alexandria's elementary schools to provide primary health, basic dental and mental health care to students.

"What we're seeing in Al-

exandria is a rising number of students from low-income families," said Robin Wellin, the health services coordinator for ACPS. "And more of those students have health problems."

More than half the district's students are eligible for free- and reduced-price lunch. In several schools, as much as 80 percent of the stu-

dent population is eligible for the helping hand.

Ensuring student access to medical care will result in better academic performance, said Superintendent Morton Sherman.

"We know that children whose physical, social and emotional needs are met are much better learners and per-

SEE HEALTH | 5

“We know that children whose physical, social and emotional needs are met are much better learners and perform better throughout their educational careers.”

**-Morton Sherman
ACPS Superintendent**



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THE WEEKLY BRIEFING

Wallner takes over as Torpedo Factory Art Center CEO

The Torpedo Factory Art Center welcomed Eric Wallner as its new chief executive officer Wednesday.

Wallner, who succeeds Harry Mahon, will assist in strategic planning and resource development, among other initiatives.

"I'm delighted to be working with the artists and board of the Torpedo Factory Art Center and returning to this area," said Wallner in a statement. "I know how much [the Torpedo Factory] means to Alexandria, and it is well-known and respected in the larger arts

world. This is an outstanding opportunity at a great time in [its] history."

Wallner holds a bachelor's degree in art and semiotics from Brown University and a master's degree in arts policy from The Ohio State University.

He previously worked with community-based organizations and local arts agencies, such as Learning Through Education in the Arts, Painted Bride Art Center and Queens Council on the Arts. Wallner also has collaborated with Ohio Alliance for Arts Educa-

tion, NEA, OPERA America and Urban Institute.

"The Torpedo Factory Art Center board is fortunate that Eric Wallner is bringing his talents and experience to Alexandria at this crucial time," board President Susan Corrigan said. "We are working to expand access to the visual arts by strengthening the Torpedo Factory's operations, programming and position as the crown jewel of Alexandria's waterfront."

- Ana Rampy

Changing of the guard at City Hall

Alexandria's newest slate of city councilors officially took City Hall's reins during a ceremony at T.C. Williams on Wednesday.

Incumbents Del Pepper and Paul Smedberg joined newcomers Allison Silberberg and John Chapman as well as former city councilors Tim Lovain and Justin Wilson to open the three-year term. All six won their bids in a Democratic sweep of local elections in November.

Mayor Bill Euille was like-

wise reinstated for a fourth term.

School board members also were sworn in during the ceremony. Stephanie Kapsis, Karen Graf and Bill Campbell represent District A; Kelly Carmichael Booz, Justin Keating and Marc Williams serve District B; and Christopher Lewis, Pat Hennig and Ronnie Campbell hail from District C.

Outgoing elected officials include Republican City Councilors Frank Fannon and Alicia Hughes as well as Vice

Mayor Kerry Donley (D), who retired, and David Speck (D), who was appointed to fill Delegate Rob Krupicka's (D-45) seat at City Hall.

Departing school board members include chairwoman Sheryl Gorsuch, vice chairwoman Helen Morris, Mimi Carter, Yvonne Folkerts, Arthur Peabody, Blanche Miness and Charles Wilson.

- Derrick Perkins

Alleged fire starter lights up Old Town

Authorities arrested a city woman last month for allegedly trying to burn down an Old Town apartment building.

Beatrice Thompson, 20, was charged with burning an occupied house after fire officials received a call about an individual setting small fires at a 900 block Gibbon St. building at 12:56 a.m. December 21. Firefighters found "light" smoke emanating from underneath the front door of one of

the garden-style apartments when they arrived, officials said.

Investigators determined several fires had been set in the building, and the police stopped and arrested Thompson nearby, according to authorities.

"They saw her leaving the scene and stopped her, and through the course of the investigation, they were able to connect her back to where the

fires were set," said Chief Fire Marshal Bob Rodriguez.

The fires caused about \$15,000 in damages, but no one was injured. A single tenant was relocated because of the damages, officials said.

Authorities continue to look into the incident. What Thompson allegedly used to set the fires likewise remains under investigation.

- Derrick Perkins



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Residents who receive refuse collection services from the City, should set trees at the curb on their regular refuse collection day, starting January 7 - January 18.

Trees collected during this time will be ground into mulch and available to residents in the spring. (Remember, remove stands, lights, and decorations)

Trees placed at the curb prior to January 7 will be collected as regular refuse, and there will be no alley pickup.

For more information visit: alexandriava.gov/Recycling

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CRIME

U.S. senator arrested on DUI charges in Del Ray

Alexandria police charged U.S. Sen. Michael Dean Crapo (R-Idaho) with driving under the influence after he allegedly failed several field sobriety tests following a vehicle stop December 23.

Crapo, 61, was arrested after an officer spotted his vehicle running a red-light signal in Del Ray, officials said. The officer stopped Crapo near the intersection of Mount Vernon and Hume avenues about 12:45 a.m.



U.S. Sen. Michael Dean Crapo

After failing field sobriety tests, Crapo was arrested without incident. He was taken to the city jail before being released on \$1,000 bond. Police said his blood alcohol content was .110 at the time of his arrest.

The senator apologized for the incident after leaving police custody, according to multiple media accounts. Crapo accepted responsibility for the arrest and pledged to “deal with whatever penalty” he receives.

The senator was alone in the vehicle, according to police.

The arresting officer described Crapo as smelling of alcohol, having bloodshot eyes and slurred speech, according to the police report. Crap admitted drinking vodka “several hours” earlier, the report said.

“I will also undertake measures to ensure that this circumstance is never repeated,” Crapo told reporters.

The senator will appear in court Friday.

- Derrick Perkins

Roaming DWI enforcement nets five arrests

Police arrested two motorists on driving while intoxicated charges after beefing up patrols over the weekend, department officials announced Wednesday.

Officers stopped 45 vehicles for various traffic violations during the roaming enforcement effort between 8 p.m. Saturday and 6 a.m. Sunday. Along with the two DWI arrests, authorities

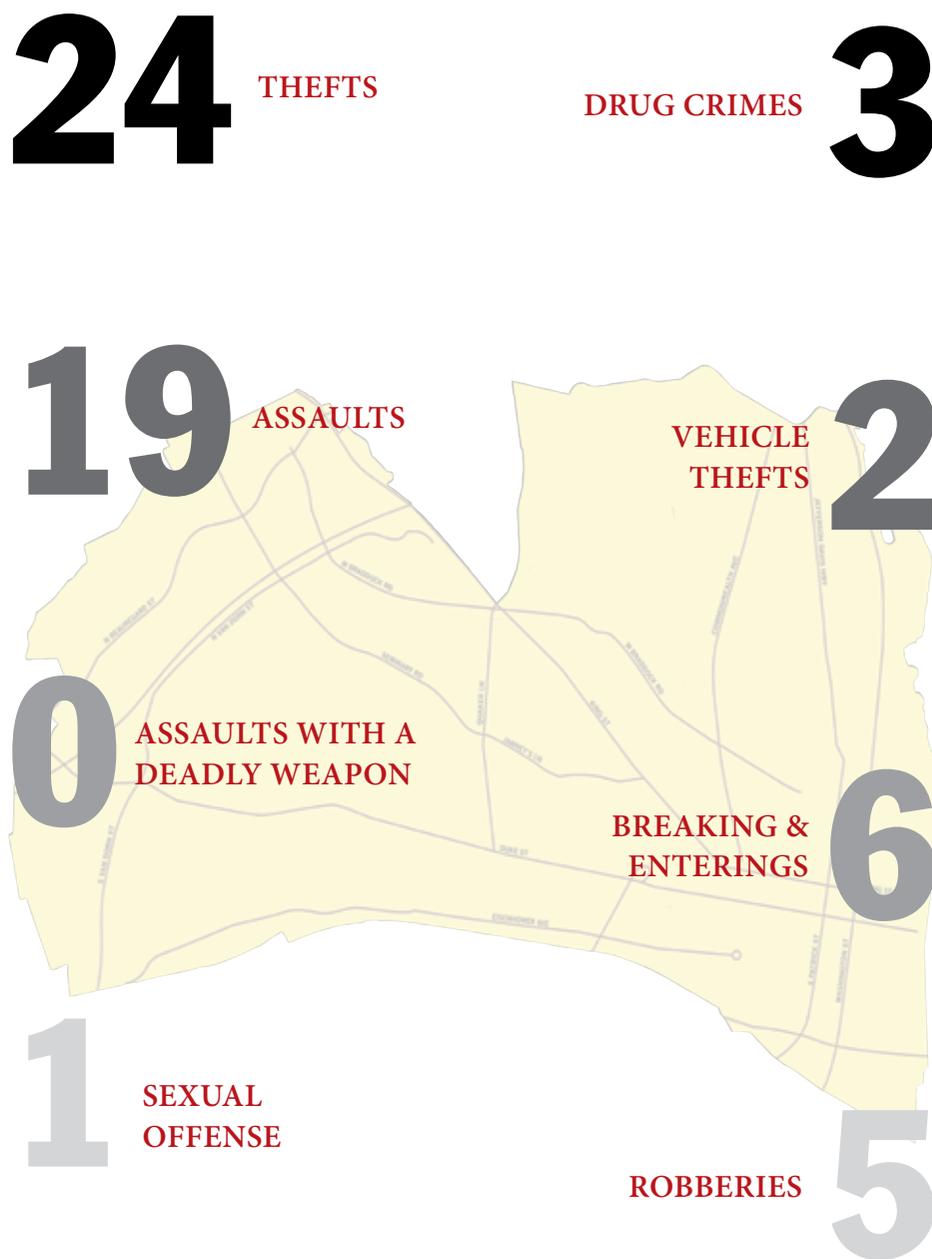
charged two people with possession of marijuana and another for an open container of alcohol.

Police handed out 50 summonses for other traffic violations, officials said. Six officers and an emergency communications technician teamed up for the overnight effort.

- Derrick Perkins

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents occurred between December 26 and January 2.



Source: crimereports.com

alextimes.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.

Extra care for students

HEALTH

FROM | 1

form better throughout their educational careers," he said in a statement. "We are committed to adding resources to this grant to ensure that it accomplishes its goals."

The mobile health unit would make the rounds between William Ramsey, Patrick Henry and John Adams elementary schools, though ACPS hopes to expand the service to more schools in the future.

ACPS was one of two districts in the commonwealth to receive the grant. When finished, the RV-sized vehicle will feature a waiting and reception area as well as two treatment rooms — one for physical care and one for dental care. Wellin especially hopes students will

take advantage of the oral hygiene services.

"An enormous number of students had oral health problems, and many had Medicaid to cover dental services," she said. "We realized making that care available is really important."

With the new year in full swing, school officials plan to meet with potential contractors to run the unit. While ACPS will supply the facility, Wellin hopes to find outside health providers to handle the dental and physical care. Students' insurance would then be billed as they visit the unit.

"What I envision is that there would be a provider who could provide those services and bill insurance and Medicaid so they would be able to sustain delivery of service," Wellin said.

Still, availability of service depends on the care providers that ultimately team with ACPS. It's not yet clear whether uninsured students could receive free medical attention, but officials remain hopeful that all children would be able to receive care from the roving doctor's office.

"Some students are uninsured, and our hope is to increase the availability and access to care so kids are getting the care they need," Wellin said. "That's why we care about it."

While officials kept quiet on the possibility of a mobile health unit until receiving the grant, Wellin wants to bring residents into the planning process and hopes to form a committee. Administrators are fielding offers from businesses looking to outfit the van.

Local man sets high jump record at Episcopal

A Loudoun County man raised the bar 1 centimeter higher at the ITS Open Indoor Track and Field Meet at Episcopal High School on December 22, breaking the high jump record for men older than 55.

Bruce McBarnette, an attorney, jumped approximately 5 feet 10 inches, breaking the previous record by a mere centimeter. His success in the high jump has led him to nine World Masters Championships and 26 USA Masters Championships throughout his career. He will represent the United States this year at the World Masters Championship in Brazil.

A member of the Potomac Valley Track Club, McBarnette set his personal record

at the Rutgers Relay in 1984, when he jumped 7 feet 1 inch.

In addition to his career as an attorney, he also serves as the president of Summit Connection and had roles on television shows such as the "The West Wing" and "Law and Order." McBarnette also graced the silver screen in "Rendition," "Along Came the Spider" and "Deep Impact," among others.

A graduate of Princeton University and New York University Law School, he served as former legal counsel to the U.S. Senate and Fannie Mae and was a former judge advocate attorney for the Army.

- Melissa Quinn



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BOUTIQUES

FROM | 1

shop look like new every single month,” Eyre said. “That’s our goal: make it brand new. ... The motto is look up, look

down and look twice around. There is so much for people to see.”

If they’re on the same wavelength as their potential patrons, the effort should prove fruitful. Finding a niche has translated into success for Old

Town’s boutique owners, but they also need to know their market inside and out, said Bill Reagan, executive director of the Alexandria Small Business Development Center.

“As a boutique they really want to be distinctive — that’s

the nature of a boutique, it’s a unique type of store,” he said. “Focus on that target market and thoroughly understand who that target market is, what they want, how they want to reach them, what that brand is that they want to be known for. And once they have that brand defined then that drives the look and the feel of their establishment.”

And to keep the ratio healthy, city officials provide plenty of support. The Alexandria Small Business Development Center offers help for navigating Old Town’s planning and zoning restrictions, securing loans, and other funding. It also teams boutique owners up with lawyers and market analysts.

“The city is really very interested in making sure its businesses are successful,” Reagan said. “All of our city departments are very sensitive to what they can do to really give the business an edge, to give them help.”

BETTING ON BOUTIQUES

City officials have rolled out the red carpet for Old Town’s small business owners, especially those trying to get off the ground. When Curcio and Eyre were looking for a location to open their shop — after renting space at the Mount Vernon Antique Center for years — they turned to the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership’s staff for help.

Not long after, they selected the former home of Mint Condition, which had expanded to a new location in Old Town, on South Royal Street and opened up shop.

Though it may seem like the neighborhood is inundated with boutiques, it wasn’t always the case, said AEDP’s Christina Mindrup. As recently as 2009, when Mindrup started with the partnership, the area was known for quick turnover and a high vacancy rate.

With the success of boutiques in recent years, national retailers have taken another look at Old Town. Large chains, like H&M and Anthropologie, and mom-and-pop shops play off one another to bring new customers to the neighborhood, Mindrup said,

“It is our opinion that having a select amount of national retailers helps boutiques do better,” she said. “That boutique store has something the national retailer does not have. The perception is that national retailers draw people to the neighborhood and help smaller boutiques. The perception is you need to offer something different than larger retailers. That’s the trick to boutiques.”

DESTINATION SHOPPING

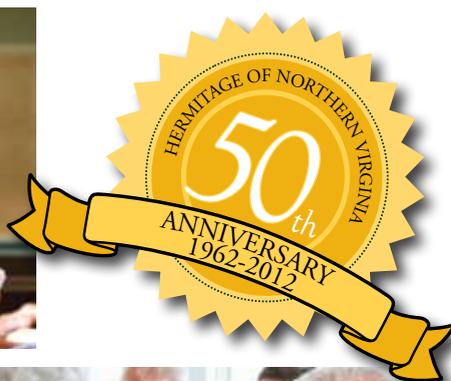
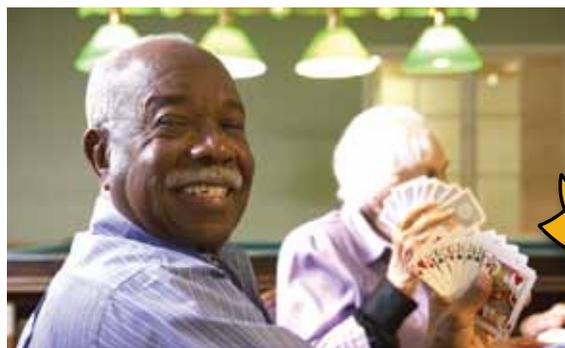
While local boutiques may compete with one another for shoppers’ dollars, they end up supporting each other by turning Old Town into a one-stop shopping experience.

“They feed off of one another,” Mindrup said. “They feed off of the woman who is single or married looking to go to the Shoe Hive and might be having lunch at Fontaine.”

That symbiotic relationship is not lost on the neighborhood’s small business owners, many of who have banded together as part of the Old Town Boutique District. The group hosts joint events, like November’s Black Friday effort, which saw dozens of small stores open up extra early and offer once-a-year deals.

For potential boutique owners, Alexandria’s bevy of specialty shops acts as more of an allure than a deterrent, said Palermino.

“I would imagine a boutique coming into Alexandria does this as strategic positioning for their business growth. They’re coming into an environment that they believe is healthy, wealthy and wise,” he said. “Boutiques together become a destination. The more we have, the more folks will come into to Alexandria to shop, and I think there’s nothing wrong with that.”



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BY JOHN BYRD

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Welcome to @home Real Estate Lounge and Design Center, a residential real estate brokerage and home remodeling showroom that recently opened on the 100 block of S. Alfred St.

"Our core mission is to help

buyers and sellers access the unique advantages that come from timely information," said principal broker Karen Hall, who has been active in local residential real estate for nearly 10 years

"With very few new homes on the market, we find that a lot of people today want to know as quickly as possible what certain improvements will cost," Hall said. "This is a business model that provides accurate real-time property improvement cost information through the resources of one of the area's most experienced remodelers."

The upshot, Hall noted, is considerable convenience for buyers and sellers in every phase of a typical real estate transaction.

Buyers recognize their options when they can see beyond the few things that just aren't right about a house. Sellers stimulate a dialogue that gets all parties talking realistically.

The brainchild of Hall, 37, and David Foster, president of

Foster Home Remodeling Solutions, the Real Estate Lounge and Design Center is configured so that interested parties can research buying, selling and remodeling considerations in one location.

On the first floor, a Microsoft Surface table as well as laptops and flat-screen monitors let shoppers look at homes for sale throughout the Washington metropolitan area. A level above, visitors can research the costs of a long list of home improvement options using Foster's do-it-yourself estimator program.

The 350-square-foot design center also functions as a home improvement showroom. Designers can be brought into the conversation by telephone. Foster's headquarters — which includes staff architects, design CAD systems and a still larger showroom — is about 15 miles away in Lorton.

"It's a pretty logical alliance



PHOTO/JOHN BYRD

The recently opened @home Real Estate Lounge and Design Center lets visitors research home listings and price improvement costs.

SEE REALTY | 10

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SPORTS

Improvement is Titans' New Year's resolution

T.C. hopes to overcome early-season struggles

BY MELISSA QUINN

As the T.C. Williams Titans enter the season's second half, the basketball team faces their share of tough competitors — including Patriot District heavyweights W.T. Woodson and West Potomac.

The Titans (4-4) struggled as 2012 came to a close, losing to Woodson and West Potomac by fewer than 10 points. And the team split their annual holiday tournament, beating William Tennent and losing to

Milford Mill.

"I don't think we've been playing up to our potential," said head coach Julian King. "We need to do a little soul-searching and get a chance to bond a little better so everyone can find their roles."

Though King described their last two games as disappointing, the Titans' performance against William Tennent left him hopeful. All of his players gave their best effort, King said, and players Landon Moss and Malik Carney were named MVP of each game.

But the team — which lost

three starters to graduation last year — faces an uphill battle before the district tournament. The season boils down to what happens on the court in February, King said, and the Titans hope to reclaim the district title.

"The goals for the season are still the same," he said, "but the approach has changed."

In the past, King and the team often relied on the leadership and skill of six or seven players. This season, every player has the responsibility of taking charge and filling those shoes.

"It's whoever is getting the job done," he said.

And to emerge from the Patriot District tournament victorious, the Titans are focusing on improving their rebounding, communication on defense and turnover ratio.

The team still has the ability to become an above-.500 squad, though it won't be easy.

The Titans face West Springfield on Friday, and in mid-January, they play W.T. Woodson and West Potomac for the second time. T.C. closes out the season with Lake Braddock and Annandale — the final games before the dis-

trict tournament.

"With the schedule we have, we get everybody's best game," King said. "It's going to be a struggle the rest of the season. Win or lose we want to accomplish certain things to prepare for the playoffs."

He hopes fans — and his coaching staff — understand the challenges ahead of the young squad.

"Parents, coaches, they all need to be patient and allow us to work through the kinks," he said. "We have a lot of promise to turn the season around and have a good year."

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LAST WEEK

Won 56-49 at Pope John Paul II
Lost 69-60 to Brother Martin High
Won 55-49 at St. Pius X

UPCOMING

At St. Mary's Ryken on January 4
At Flint Hill on January 5
DeMatha on January 8

T.C. WILLIAMS

Overall Record: 4-4
Conference Record: 1-2

LAST WEEK:

Won 52-33 versus William Tennent
Lost 59-51 to Milford Mill

UPCOMING

At West Springfield on January 4
At Maury on January 5
South County on January 8

EPISCOPAL

Overall Record: 4-4
Conference Record: 0-0

LAST WEEK

Won 58-40 at John Paul the Great

UPCOMING:

Landon on January 8
Bullis on January 11

**ST. STEPHEN'S
& ST. AGNES**

Overall Record: 8-1
Conference Record: 0-0

LAST WEEK:

No Games

UPCOMING:

Landon on January 5
At Georgetown Prep on January 8

Party foul

Dear Hobie & Monk,

Our neighborhood has monthly potluck parties, and it was my turn to host last month. I just happened to get a glimpse of a neighbor accidentally spilling his red wine on my sofa pillow. I saw him look around (he didn't see me in the hallway) and then quickly turn the pillow over! I know it's a party and these things happen, but I can't believe that's how he handled it. What would you do as the host?

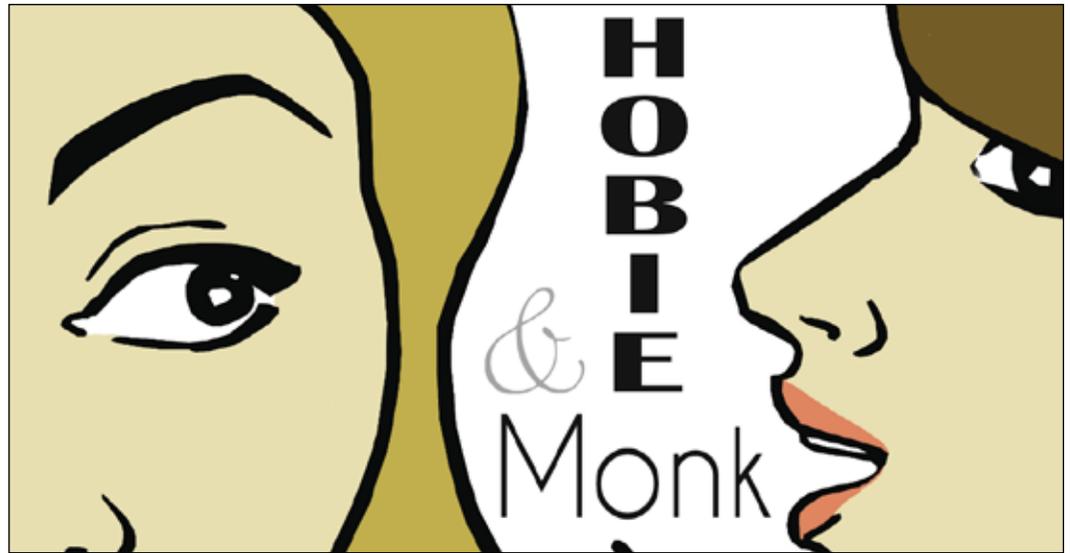
- Seeing Red

Monk: He knows he did it.

You know he did it. But he doesn't know that you know he did it.

I suggest you surprise him with your shared knowledge — in a warm and friendly manner. Your goal is to subtly prompt him to do the right thing: apologize and offer to repair the damage.

Look for the opportunity to have a one-to-one neighborly chat and mention how much you and your husband enjoyed the neighborhood get-together at your house. Make good eye contact. Wait for it ... and if you hear crickets chirping after three seconds (not a second more as he may be ready to sprint), say, "We're looking



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.

forward to having everyone over again, but next time you'll all be drinking chardonnay out of sippy cups because we never could get those red wine stains

out of the sofa pillow."

Hobie: If you had caught him in the moment, it would have been perfectly fine to swoop

in and say, "Oh, George, don't worry. It's the sign of a great party!" And then whisk away

SEE PARTY FOUL | 10

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FULL EA. PC. \$480	\$259	FULL EA. PC. \$670	\$369	FULL EA. PC. \$850	\$469	FULL EA. PC. \$1970	\$1149	\$1119	FULL SET	\$4970	\$2899	\$2809
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REALTY

FROM | 7

for today's market," Hall said. "Our clients are pleased at how easily they can answer questions that used to take weeks of research and entail a lot of second-guessing. This is a huge asset when you're trying to find the right cost balance between a home's location and its physical attributes."

Moreover, Hall sees the future of her profession in helping clients solve problems that were once off the table.

"We are fundamentally a service business," she said. "Today, anyone can get a look at homes for sale without leaving their workstation. What's valuable is information that can help you assess the feasibility of adapting an existing house to your use requirements and your budget."

The brokerage is licensed in Virginia, Maryland and the District. Hall said her services allow a buyer to specify detailed improvements that can be executed even before moving in to the new house.

"You can select materials,

colors, finishes from out of town if you want, and you know what the whole package costs," she said. "This is not only efficient, but saves thousands of dollars."

Hall recalled having trouble selling a rather plain vacant

“Our clients are pleased at how easily they can answer questions that used to take weeks of research and entail a lot of second-guessing ...”

-Karen Hall

Principal broker at @home Real Estate Lounge and Design Center

house recently, so she had the Foster team mock up a drawing for remodeling the kitchen and posted it online along with the home photos.

Within two days, the home's listing agent began receiving new offers.

St(r)ained relationship

PARTY FOUL

FROM | 9

the pillow to be saved or not. In that scenario, he likely would have apologized and offered to pay for the damage (and you could have thanked him and turned him down).

But after the fact, take Monk's advice only if you can carry it off without sounding

petty or suspicious. After all, he may have failed the etiquette test in the moment, but in the greater scheme of neighborhood life, hosts assume the risk of (minor) damages and don't make their guests feel guilty or unwelcome, even after the fact.

To submit questions to Hobie & Monk, email hobieandmonk@alextimes.com.

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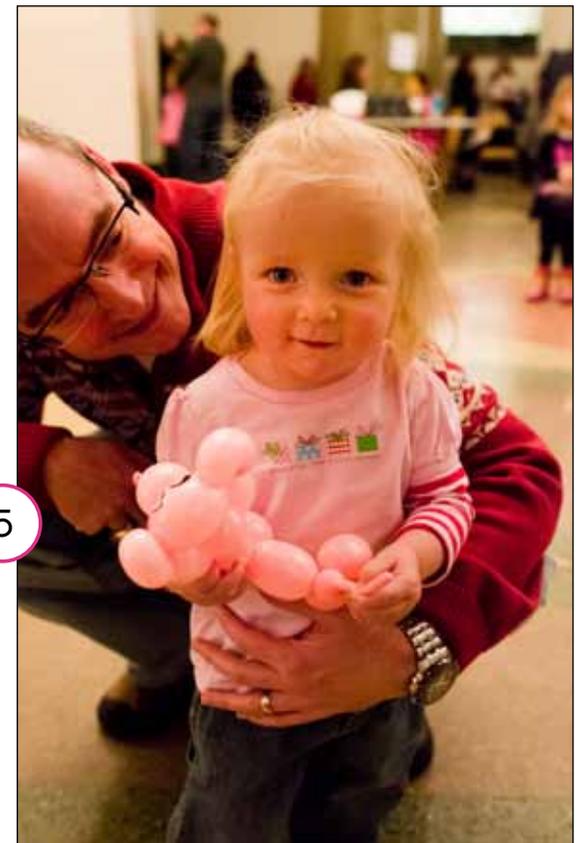
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SCENE AROUND TOWN

FIRST NIGHT ALEXANDRIA

PHOTOS BY VERENA RADULOVIC

1. Revelers dance to the Janine Wilson Band at the Theatre at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.
2. Fireworks ring in the new year. (View is from behind the Torpedo Factory)
3. DJ Ray Casiano spins tunes for the crowd just before the fireworks near the foot of King Street.
4. Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun perform rockin' rhythm and twang at the Torpedo Factory.
5. Children enjoy face painting and clowns making balloon sculptures at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.



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 through January 24

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

Now through September 30

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

Location: The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

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

Now through 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

January 3

CLASSIC FILM SERIES Come watch "A Star is Born."

Time: 5 to 7 p.m.

Location: Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road

Information: 703-746-1704

January 4 - 5

PAT MCGEE BAND The rock band from Richmond comes to Alexandria to perform live for two nights at the Birchmere. Tickets are \$29.50.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.

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

January 4

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

OPENING RECEPTION:

SHADES OF WHITE Chill out after the holiday madness with this art exhibit. White isn't "just white." It has tones and hues ranging from blues to beiges to yellows and more. In addition, some white pigments chemically interact with others to create beautiful blues and grays. Shades of White runs through January 27.

Time: 7 to 10 p.m.

Location: Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

Information: www.thedelrayartisans.org

January 5

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

PINEWOOD DERBY WORKSHOP

Old Town Ace Hardware invites Cub Scouts to bring their Pinewood Derby cars to the store so local craftsman Jesse Cathell can rough cut their designs. Electric sanders, sand paper and hand tools will be available for the Cub Scouts. In addition, Old Town Ace Hardware will donate 5 percent of all sales of Pinewood-related products — such as spray paint and sandpaper — to the Children's Miracle Network and the Boy Scouts of America Colonial District.

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Old Town Ace Hardware, 809 S. Washington St.

Information: 703-879-0475

MEDITATION Learn how to feel centered and peaceful in the new year. Come to this free workshop, which teaches guided meditation and breath-

ing techniques.

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Location: Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road

Information: 703-746-1704

CABIN FEVER AROMATHERAPY WORKSHOP

Learn to create tea, make a sinus inhaler, stitch a lavender sachet and stir up a unique lotion in this four-project workshop.

Time: 2 to 3 p.m.

Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.

Information: 703-746-1743

January 6

CIVIL WAR SUNDAY Explore the Civil War in Alexandria with Civil War Sundays, a showcase of an original May 26, 1861, edition New York Tribune detailing Col. Elmer Ellsworth's death in Alexandria; a Peeps diorama illustrating Ellsworth's death; a TimeTravelers Passport exhibit featuring the Civil War drummer boy; a diorama of a heating system constructed in Alexandria to warm Civil War hospital tents during the winter of 1861; a cocked-and-loaded Wickham musket discarded in a privy during the 1860s; and an exhibit on the Lee Street site during the Civil War. The event is free.

Time: 1 to 5 p.m.

Location: Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St.

Information: 703-746-4399

January 7

PARTNERS IN ART GROUP

Looking for a chance to get together with creative people to discuss art and exchange ideas? Join a meeting of the Del Ray Artisans' cooperatively led Partners in Art group. You may find the group engaged in a creativity exercise, enjoying a short demonstration or in a lively art-related discussion. Free and open to the public.

Time: 2 to 4 p.m.

Location: Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

Information: Contact Millie Mateu at globealeducationsolutions@gmail.com or Katherine Rand at katherine@katherinerand.com

January 10

MOVIE MATINEE Come watch "The Odd Life of Timothy Green."

Time: 4 to 6 p.m.

Location: Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road

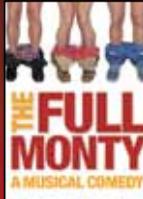
Information: 703-746-1704

RECEPTION — BETWEEN THE LINES: CONTEMPORARY DRAWING NOW

Target Gallery will present Between the Lines: Contemporary Drawing Now, an all-media exhibition focusing on current trends in drawing today. At the reception, meet some of the artists and listen to a gallery talk by juror Linn Meyers.

Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

THE LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA PRESENTS



The Full Monty

1/12 - 2/2

Come see this Tony award-winning musical that celebrates devotion and camaraderie, as well as family and friends. Six unemployed steelworkers, low on both cash and prospects, decide to tackle their financial woes and regain their self-esteem by baring their best assets. The Full Monty reveals more than just flesh when these blue collar men strip away their insecurities to forge hilarious and unique bonds around love, communication, and acceptance. (Show contains adult content and possible nudity.)

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Information: 703-838-4565 or www.torpedofactory.org

SECOND THURSDAY ART NIGHT

Come browse open studios and galleries, interact with artists, and enjoy refreshments at this free event.

Time: 6 to 9 p.m.

Location: Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St.

Information: 703-838-4565 or www.torpedofactory.org

LIBRARY SPEED DATING Come share the love of books and find that literary better half at this event. There will be prizes as well as refreshments.

Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.

Information: 703-746-1751

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

Finding fresh Mexican fare in Alexandria

Rain, sleet, snow and chilly temperatures make Mexico sound better and better this time of year. But hopping on a plane and going south of the border isn't possible for everyone. So do the next best thing and warm up with some fresh Mexican cuisine at Bittersweet Cafe and Baja Fresh Mexican Grill.

Bittersweet boasts another culinary success with its authentic Mexican dinners, which are available after 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Customers rave about the delicious dishes. Not only are many of the options healthy, but also the presentation is appealing.

The impressive selection includes Napa cabbage salad, grilled yellow tuna steak, fish tacos, mushroom quesadillas and jicama. And to complement the meals, Bittersweet serves red or white sangrias, wine and micheladas — a cross between a beer and bloody Mary. Needless to say, Mexican food lovers

are in heaven at the 823 King St. restaurant, which takes the authentic fare to a whole new level.

To learn more about Bittersweet's authentic Mexican cuisine, call 703-549-1028 or visit www.bittersweetcatering.com. The restaurant is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday; 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Baja Fresh Mexican Grill — in the Alexandria Commons Shopping Center — serves flavorful Mexican food with fast service, upbeat music and lots of fun. The friendly wait staff quickly prepares each order — such as fish, shrimp, steak or chicken — according to the customer's preferences and right before their eyes. The restaurant doesn't even use microwaves or electronic can-openers to fix the meals. And throughout the day, guacamole is

whipped up from ripe avocados.

Popular menu items include quesadillas, fajitas, nachos and the fire-grilled chicken tortilla soup, which has quite the following. Families love the restaurant's kids' menu, with its smaller portion sizes. Children choose from favorites like chicken taquitos, minicheese quesadillas, and minibeans and cheese burritos. The 3231 Duke St. establishment also offers a healthy 500-calorie menu.

With fresh ingredients and a friendly staff, Baja Fresh is a staple in Alexandria. And don't forget the convenience factor: just order a meal online or from a smartphone.

For more information about Baja Fresh, call 703-

823-2888 or check out www.bajafresh.com. The restaurant is open from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday.



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PET MATTERS

An unexpected crash course in caring for newborn pups

I fostered a mama dog and her eight puppies over the holidays — an unforgettable experience.

The family was pulled from a shelter in rural Virginia. The shelter, considered high kill because of the amount of strays it takes in, could no longer care for them. A local rescue organization that I regularly volunteer with reached out to me in the hopes I could take them for a week while their long-term foster parent was out of town.

I was happy to help. In retrospect, maybe too happy considering how busy I was with holiday business demands. But, the hound puppies looked like little piggies in the pictures. I just couldn't resist.

I picked them up five days after they were born, oblivious to what their care would entail. I had never before managed a litter or been around such young puppies, not to mention a new canine mom.

I was apprehensive but excited. I felt confident that I could learn the ropes rather quickly. What I learned was heartwarming and enlightening. Some of it also was pretty gross.

Mama, whom I named Maya — she was rescued on the last day of the Mayan calendar — was a sweetheart. She was very concerned for the well-being of her puppies. She hesitated to leave them and was very much aware of who was in their presence. It is natural for a mother of any species to be protective, and Maya was no exception.

She never showed aggression but clearly communicated her disapproval of my handling the puppies when she felt as

though they had had enough. All it took was a sniff of my hand to know that it was time to return the baby to its pen. I respected Maya's boundaries and, at first, did a lot of watching from the sidelines. Maya was skin and bones when she arrived. I fed her at least 12 times per day, even overnight, and she still appeared famished.

Eight puppies nursing is a sight to see. And it's a never-ending feeding frenzy. It seemed every time I looked over at their pen, Maya had at least two puppies attached, and it was only a matter of time before the majority went back for more. One hundred meals a day could not have kept her satiated, poor thing.

The puppies were too cute for words. They had not yet opened their eyes. Mostly white with random brown and black spots, they awkwardly dragged themselves all over the pen and made the sweetest

baby noises I have ever heard.

It sometimes got loud. Screeching was an indication that milk supply was below par, and Maya had to be fed. High-pitched yelps were the result of mama stepping on her offspring, which made my heart stop. Maya was completely undaunted. Apparently newborn puppies are really pliable. Thank goodness!

Sounds of utter delight filled the air when bellies were full and hearts were happy, but then there were sounds of struggle as the puppies screamed bloody murder when, entirely disoriented, they begged to be directed back to the pack.

Maya was a trooper. She did not have the luxury of diapers. She kept the pen clean by ingesting the puppies' waste. Licking them encouraged them to eliminate, and she did so often. I quickly realized that human moms have it way easy comparatively. Yuck!

Maya barely wanted to go for walks. She would hold it for hours and hours to ensure that the puppies were constant-



By Isabel Alvarez

Why Not Start the New Year Right?

Henry is a mellow boy who was abandoned at a pet store in April and is still looking for his forever home. He is up to date on his shots, neutered, and ready to go to his forever home. For more information contact King Street Cats.



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Binji has already mastered the art of the Sit, the Stay, the Shake-Hands as well as the Lie-Down. His developmental signs are excellent; he will do well as he grows and attends Puppy Head Start.

2013 may be the year of Puppy Training at your home. This young fellow will be a fabulous and loyal Dog for many years to come.

TO VISIT BINJI'S ADOPTABLE FRIENDS AT THE SHELTER, PLEASE VISIT
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Our View

Changes ring in with the new year

Each year, January 1 simultaneously offers the opportunity to reflect on what has happened before and to anticipate what's next. It's a time to take stock, set goals and move forward. As we step into 2013, the Times has significant changes to announce.

Our successful and beloved publisher, Patrice Culligan, has decided to step down and spend more time at her Florida home. It's no exaggeration to say the Times would not exist today without Culligan.

When she took the reins in May 2010, the Times was at its nadir. In her two-and-a-half years at the helm, she has increased sales by more than 40 percent and put the paper on firm footing for the future.

Fortunately, Culligan is not leaving us entirely: She will remain our lead sales representative and assume a new role as publisher emeritus. Under this title, Culligan will continue to assist the Times' leadership through an advisory board that she will chair.

We have decided to move forward with a slightly restructured leadership team. Denise Dunbar, managing partner and former editorial page editor at the Times, will assume the role of publisher. A 27-year resident of Alexandria, Dunbar has deep roots in the community and has been increasingly involved in the newspaper's operations during the past four years.

Derrick Perkins, formerly executive editor and managing editor, becomes the editor-in-chief. Perkins has proven during the past few months that he is as adept at handling former editorial duties as he was as the paper's lead reporter.

Finally, we are pleased to announce the addition of Kristen Essex as director of sales and marketing. Essex, a city resident, has strong sales experience and many good ideas for the future.

While we are sorry to see Culligan step down as publisher, we are glad for the chance to say a heartfelt thanks for her service. We also look to the future with excitement. The Times remains committed to being Alexandria's best community newspaper, with first-rate coverage of news, sports and interesting people in our midst.

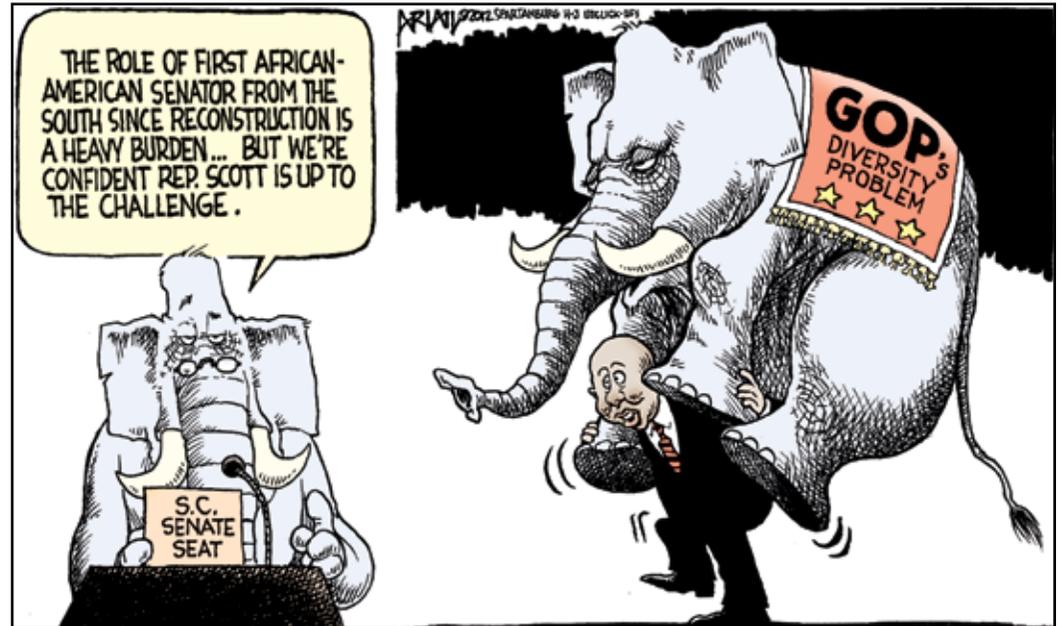
Our opinion pages will continue to be a forum for discussion on local issues, and we will not shy away from taking stands on difficult issues. And we will continue to bring our readers information on local restaurants, shops and real estate through our advertisements. Keep an eye out for tweaks the new team may make in the coming months.

Change itself is a neutral concept — neither good nor bad. How we handle change is what makes it either positive or negative. As we move into the new year, we would love to hear from you, our readers, on what you would like to see more of in the paper. After all Alexandria, this is your Times.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson



Your Views

Education will ease tensions between motorists, cyclists

To the editor:

I am writing in response to a letter, “Cyclists fail to respect the rules of the road” (December 13), that appeared in the Alexandria Times. In his rather insulting letter (he refers to cyclists as “pigs”), Steve Froggett repeats a number of myths about bicycling, raises the issue of bicycle-pedestrian conflicts and implies a need for the better education of cyclists. It is my hope that the useful message — that we need to educate all road users about safe bicycling practices — will not be lost amid the anger.

It is important to realize that cyclists are residents, most of whom also are licensed drivers. The near-universality of driver licens-

ing gives drivers and cyclists common ground and an educational opportunity.

Recognizing this, I and the other members of the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee continue to call for universal education on safe bicycling practices in our schools and as an element of driver training and licensing in Virginia. We also call for more bike lanes in Old Town, where bicycle-pedestrian conflicts are most often reported. Bike lanes leading away from Union Street — north and south of King Street — would invite cyclists to avoid the busy intersection at the foot of King Street.

In his letter, Froggett repeats several common myths.

Leaving aside that people who are exercising often wear sportswear (Froggett does not approve), let us begin with the myth that cyclists are “dangerous and irresponsible” scofflaws. Studies show that all road users break the rules to a similar degree and for a similar reason.

People travel in a manner that they themselves consider safe and effective. While motorist law-breaking — commonly speeding or rolling through stop signs and right-on-reds — is considered normal, lack of universal bicycle education means that bicycle riding (and lawbreaking) is less consistent and more upsetting to others.

Cyclists have run rampant on city's roads

To the editor:

I'd like to thank the two concerned residents who have commented on the topic of aggressive cyclists in the opinion pages of the Alexandria Times. I'd like to share a few of my experiences.

Early on a Saturday morning while crossing Union Street on foot — no vehicle traffic present — a charging cyclist hit me. The man discharged a stream of obscenities and told me it was my fault, I should have gotten out of his way.

While traveling westbound on Bashford Lane during peak traffic hours,

I witnessed a man on a bicycle in the middle of the street pushing a child in a stroller with one hand. When he reached Abingdon Drive, the cyclist blew through the red light. He paused briefly at the George Washington Memorial Parkway until there was a break in traffic, then ran that light as well.

While traveling northbound on Fairfax Street, a cyclist charging up the center of the street — on the driver's side of my vehicle — made a sharp right-hand turn approximately 3 feet in front of my vehicle. I had to slam on the brakes to avoid hit-

ting him.

A few days later I related this experience to a law enforcement official. He told me all vehicles in the street are subject to traffic laws and had I hit the man that the accident would have been his fault. Cold comfort considering I still would have to live with injuring someone else with my vehicle.

The city needs to enforce traffic laws regarding cyclists.

- William D. Whalen
Alexandria

CYCLISTS

FROM | 16

Further, practices that raise Froggett's ire — such as passing stopped cars, riding outside of bike lanes or shifting from the road to the sidewalk when the road becomes too dangerous — are almost universally legal. Indeed, well-designed bike lanes become striped instead of solid near intersections, where cyclists are expected to move from the bike lane to the center of the correct through lane or turning lane. On roads where traffic speeds make this maneuver dangerous, protected bike lanes are becoming the norm.

Another myth is that bicycling is more dangerous than driving. A recent article in the journal PLOS ONE found that the danger levels were similar, except for men, ages 17 to 20. For them, driving is much more dangerous. The real-

ity is that drivers kill about 5,000 pedestrians per year, while cyclists kill perhaps one or two.

In other words, foolish cyclists mainly are a danger to themselves while dangerous drivers pose a

“ In other words, foolish cyclists mainly are a danger to themselves while dangerous drivers pose a threat to everyone.”

threat to everyone. Our bicycle committee would certainly support an enforcement campaign focused on right-of-way violations by all road users, as that would be an effective way to improve behavior at intersections.

Finally, Froggett calls for universal education, registration and licensing of bicyclists. Bicycle

registration schemes have been tried and abandoned in the past because they are not cost-effective. As for education and licensing, I hope Froggett will join with the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advi-

sory Committee in our call for universal education on safe bicycling practices in our schools and as part of driver training and driver licensing in Virginia.

- Jonathan Krall
Chair, Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

A new role for a new year

Almost three years ago I arrived in the Washington metropolitan area from New York City and found myself in the Port City with the task of running the Alexandria Times. At the time it seemed like a huge undertaking, and I was a stranger here.

After getting involved with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, the Alexandria Small Business Development Center, the Old Town Business and Professional Association, and various other networking groups, I felt that I had made lifelong friends. I was at home in Alexandria.

Along with a small and dedicated team, I set out to make the Alexandria Times the best-written newspaper in the Port City with the largest circulation. Full responsibility for the content went to David Sachs, then the editor-in-chief, and he rose to the task. We later switched printers to improve the newspaper's visual quality and hired an in-house art director to take graphic art to a new and improved level. Denise Dunbar, the managing partner, and a hard-working sales team rounded out the foundation of a strong newspaper.

Most important to me was producing a newspaper and website that residents of Alexandria wanted to read. Along with the weekly news, politics, sports, business and event coverage, the Alexandria Times introduced a pet column, health column and the Hobie & Monk advice column during the past three years. In addition to the print version, the Times offers daily updates and breaking news at www.alextimes.com and a free electronic edition on request.

I am happy to say that I think the Alexandria Times team has successfully provided our readers with an excellent newspaper and website. We are always open to new ideas and input from our readers, so keep us on our toes!

Advertising is an important part of publishing any newspaper. I have been thrilled to

work with many of the local real estate agents, small businesses, shops and restaurants and hope that their message has encouraged you to patronize their establishments. I also hope that these businesses will continue to

support the Alexandria Times in our ongoing effort to provide readers with this valuable service. This brings us to today with our new editor-in-chief, Derrick Perkins; new reporter, Melissa Quinn; and new art director, Ashleigh Carter. We also welcome Kristen Essex to our team. This devoted group of young, ambitious professionals, along with Dunbar at the helm, gives me the confidence to step down and take a different role at the Times. I will continue to consult and assist when needed, while maintaining my sales role at the same level.

Please join me in supporting this great team that dedicates their careers to providing you, our readers, with the best newspaper in Alexandria. Thank you all for your friendship, and I will continue to be just a phone call away.

The author is the publisher emeritus of the Alexandria Times.



MyView

Patrice Culligan

Quick Takes

THUMBS UP to the Washington Redskins. Woo-hoo, that game Sunday night was fun! Beating the hated Dallas Cowboys in a tight, emotional game for the league's final playoff spot — priceless. What great performances by rookie sensations Alfred Morris and Robert Griffin III, as well as by my favorite Redskin, defensive leader London Fletcher. Hail to the Redskins and bring on the Seahawks.

— Denise Dunbar

THUMBS DOWN to all sides in this fiscal cliff mess. How predictable that the real issue, runaway federal spending on entitlement programs, is being punted yet again by our leaders who lack the courage to put the country ahead of politics. Equally predictable was the tax increase on America's wealthiest households, a feel-good measure that hardly dents our debt problem. Where have all the statesmen gone?

— Denise Dunbar

OUT OF THE ATTIC

Storied home lost in 1960s urban renewal



PHOTO/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

On January 13, 1787, John Longden purchased several lots from William Young at King and South Royal streets. Just three months later he conveyed the southernmost section of one lot — which became 109 S. Royal St. — to Samuel Simmons.

Soon after Simmons built a Federal-style townhouse on the site, which he bequeathed to his daughter, Mary Ingle, and her daughter, Eliza, in 1809. At the time, Mary Ingle and her husband, Joseph, lived just across the street at 112 S. Royal St.

Joseph Ingle was a chair and cabinet-maker, though he also specialized in upholstery. Among his many accounts was a bill dated January 16, 1800, to the estate of Gen. George Washington, associated with the former president's funeral expenses. Specifically, the bill referenced a "coffin and engraved silver plate furnished with lace, handles as covered case with lifters.

Likely by 1815, the Ingles had moved across South Royal Street to Simmons' former home, leaving the cabinetry and

upholstery shop on the east side of the street. During the next two years the Ingles repeatedly advertised the home at 112 S. Royal St. for sale or rent. They finally sold it in 1817.

Not long after the sale, Joseph Ingle died, and his wife continued to live in her father's former home until 1839. Mary and Eliza then sold it to Cornelius Jacobs of Washington, D.C., for the sum of \$900. Jacobs sold the dwelling four years later to Edward Burchell for the same amount. In 1846, Burchell also acquired the property next door at 111 S. Royal St. from the heirs of John Longden.

After being remodeled repeatedly for commercial use in the 20th century, the Samuel Simmons house was finally demolished in 1968 as part of the Alexandria urban renewal project. It is now the site of the Hotel Monaco.

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send your comments to:
letters@alextimes.com

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.

Weekly Poll

This Week

Is ACPS' forthcoming mobile doctor's office a good use of federal dollars?

A. Yes. It will meet a need.

B. No. Washington has more pressing concerns.

Take the poll at alextimes.com

Last Week

Should Alexandria use the same process for all development projects that was used for the Jefferson-Houston School?

50% Yes. **50%** No. 20 votes

At Home

Showing off your true colors

BY BILL LAHAY

Colors are among the most easily changed elements in any decor, yet many homeowners feel intimidated when choosing them.

Part of that experience is just the sheer number of choices; after you whittle it down to the basic hue, other decisions await. What intensity? How light or dark? Warm or cool tones? How much surface area will that color get? Will it be in paint, fabric

or some other material?

While the decision shouldn't induce decorating paralysis, there's good reason to tread cautiously. Why? Because the impact of colors changes with their context, either in small, nuanced ways or with such drastic differences that you'll swear you chose something else entirely. Those changes shouldn't be equated with failure; they simply mean you should expect some trial-and-error lessons until you succeed.

Let's start with the obvious. Assume you're picking paint from samples on small color chips and under in-store lighting. The personality and impact is likely to be substantially different than seeing an entire wall or room that enjoys abundant natural daylight and two different lamp sources at night. And instead of being next to a few close shades of the same hue on a sample card, the color will be seen amidst the flooring, ceiling and furnishings in a room

in your home. Its "true" look will appear there, and even that will change with varying light sources.

All this complexity isn't a reason to retreat to a safe palette of neutrals or off-whites. Even most design professionals don't get every color right on the first try, but they know how to get in the ballpark and then refine their choices from there, and that's what most people can do with the right coaching. Here, the coaching comes from the

Better Homes & Gardens publishing group in its new, simply titled book, "COLOR."

Ever hear the old expression, "I don't know a lot about art, but I know what I like"? This guidebook encourages you to start with that approach. That is, readers are encouraged first to indulge their gut-instinct preferences for color and then refine them with sound theory and practice — not the other

SEE **COLORS** | 21

— HOME OF THE WEEK —

The John Janney House is a crown jewel of Old Town

This rare piece of history, a crown jewel of Old Town, has been thoughtfully expanded and restored as well as painstakingly updated with today's modern conveniences without losing the grandeur of yesterday.

The original townhome served as the inspiration for the extensive moldings, gracious room sizes, sweeping staircase, and intricate doorways and flooring. The two additions to the home blend seamlessly, making the 6,700-square-foot residence — with eight fireplaces, five bedrooms, and six baths and two half-baths — complete.

The main level features gracious rooms for entertaining: a study, formal living room and banquet-sized formal dining room. The

modern professional kitchen is a chef's dream, with upgraded appliances, abundant work areas and storage, and a charming breakfast area. The newer family room provides additional storage and access to the new au-pair suite on the rear lower level.

The two upper levels boast excellent accommodations. The stunning master suite contains a sitting room with two fireplaces and luxurious master bath with a unique oval soaking tub, separate showers and double vanities. There also is a handsome guest suite with soaring ceilings and a private sitting area.

The front lower level is a vintage cellar with space for a wine collection, game room or other hobbies. Am-

ple storage and upgraded wiring add a modern touch to the brick room. And there also is an oversized laundry suite with additional storage.

But perhaps the most magnificent features are the manicured gardens that cover two additional unrestricted lots of 11,500 square feet. The recently redesigned area — replanted with boxwood shrubs and featuring a fountain, charming walks and Wisteria-arbor covered patios — is truly an oasis. Two off-street parking spaces offer additional convenience for city living.

This is Old Town living at its finest: a perfect blend of yesterday, today and the limitless possibilities for tomorrow.



PHOTOS/MCENEARNEY ASSOCIATES

(Left) This four-level end townhome features two off-street parking spaces.

(Below) The stunning master suite has a private sitting room, fireplace, intricate moldings and sumptuous master bath with a separate soaking tub.



At a Glance:

Location: 211 S. Saint Asaph St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Price: \$4,900,000

Year Built: 1760

Style: Four-level end townhouse

Exterior: Brick

Bedrooms: 5

Contact: Gordon Wood of McEneaney Associates Inc. at 703-447-6138 or www.glwbroker.com

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JOHN K. AITCHESON JR. (89), of Alexandria, December 26, 2012

CHARLES W. BAUER JR., of Alexandria, December 18, 2012

SYLVIA W. BUCK (96), of Alexandria, December 17, 2012

MICHAEL S.K. CHUNG (80), of Alexandria, December 26, 2012

CELIA P. DOLLARHIDE, of Alexandria, December 6, 2012

JANE E. DONNELLY, of Alexandria, December 28, 2012

PERRY T. FAULKNER (82), of Alexandria, December 17, 2012

CHARLOTTE F. HOMAN, of Alexandria, December 6, 2012

BARBARA J. KAYE, of Alexandria, December 23, 2012

EDWARD E. KOOS, of Alexandria, December 19, 2012

ADELINA P. LINNEMANN, of Alexandria, December 22, 2012

JOHN A. MANG JR. (72), of Alexandria, December 22, 2012

VIVIENNE B. MITCHELL (94), formerly of Alexandria, December 14, 2012

JEFFREY A. PAULUS, of Alexandria, December 15, 2012

MARY H. PENN, of Alexandria, December 23, 2012

PAULINE P. PORTER (90), of Alexandria, December 21, 2012

JOYCE A. RYLYK, of Alexandria, December 25, 2012

SANDRA C. SCHUMACHER (74), of Alexandria, December 29, 2012

WILLIAM H. SMITH (95), of Alexandria, December 23, 2012

ANDREA M. STUHLAK (56), of Alexandria, December 17, 2012

DAVID G. VIAR SR., formerly of Alexandria, December 30, 2012

ALEXANDER WEISS, of Alexandria, December 19, 2012

ALLAN S. WILEY (54), of Alexandria, December 21, 2012

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PUPPIES

FROM | 15

ly in her care. I begged her to go out to relieve herself. She put the brakes on more often than not.

There was a lot of negotiating. I quickly learned that new canine moms can ruthlessly resist the offer of treats, love and encouragement when it means leaving their children behind. When she finally gave in and went outside, she would quickly do her business and pull me back upstairs. "The puppies! The puppies!" I could imagine her saying.

I didn't get much sleep the first few nights. They

started to settle in around night three, but mama Maya's overnight feeding was nonnegotiable.

Maya was utterly grateful to me. She would repay me for my dedication in loving looks and the happiest of tail wags anytime our eyes met. Her gratitude and contentedness was palpable. I started to fear that she was getting too comfortable. I knew that their time with me would fly by. It went by too quickly for us all.

On our last day together, I sat in the pen with them and, much to my delight, watched as the puppies assembled themselves against my leg. Maya laid comfort-

ably by my side.

In just one week, I had earned the trust of the most responsible, nurturing and patient mother I have ever met. She was now the one watching from the sidelines, and I was more fulfilled and genuinely humbled in that moment than I could ever have dreamed.

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.

COLORS

FROM | 19

way around. The book's first chapter deals with discerning color preferences you already exhibit in your favorite clothing and furnishings, as well as those inherent in period architectural or decorating styles that you might like. Arts and crafts designs, for example, feature mostly muted earth tones of green, brown and yellow, whereas modernist styles tend to highlight crisp contrasts of black and white and the intensity of bold, bright colors.

From this personal exploration we get a primer on color "moods and meanings," where primary (blue, yellow, red), secondary (green, orange, purple), and neutral colors are considered individually for their abilities to impart emotional overtones. We also get a sense of color complexity here. For instance, a vivid blood red can convey brightness and energy, but as red tones move toward blue, they turn magenta or burgundy, taking on a more mature or formal personality. Likewise, lightening red to a pink softens it and subdues its energy. Some of these expla-

nations reflect common-sense observations, while others are subtle enough to have eluded the grasp of non-professionals. All, however, are accompanied by numerous photographs and paint samples that help drive the point home.

If there's an underlying lesson in all of this, it's about the aforementioned relationship of color to its context. Fittingly, the book turns here from the abstract and singular examples to how to use colors in actual room settings. A home's entry, for example, not only bridges the flow from outdoor spaces but also establishes some of the key color cues and moods to be found throughout the house. Some greens and earth tones, as well as a mix of textures, can make the transition more seamless while still allowing for other colors to be included in the mix. Similar strategies can be found for living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, bedrooms, kid's rooms, bathrooms and porches.

Before the book wraps up with the obligatory chapter on color wheel theory and nomenclature, it offers a great section on adding color in stages. A series of room makeovers reveal

the step-by-step progression of going from bland, neutral spaces to personalized festivals of color. It's a useful treatment that takes the learning from abstract to in-your-heart immediate, and it underscores the value of the book as a hands-on tool for readers who want their homes to reflect and inspire their lives.



**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, January 16, 2013 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2012-0364

Request for alterations at 516 N Columbus St.

APPLICANT: Charles Kohler by Doug Bibb

CASE BAR2012-0401

Request to partially demolish & capslate at 323 Duke St.

APPLICANT: 323 Duke St., LLC by Robert Bentley Adams & Associates, P.C.

CASE BAR2012-0402

Request for an addition & alterations at 323 Duke St.

APPLICANT: 323 Duke St., LLC by Robert Bentley Adams & Associates, P.C.

CASE BAR2012-0404

Request for alterations at 217 N Saint Asaph St.

APPLICANT: Michael A. Margiotta

CASE BAR2012-0405

Request to demolish at 1107 Duke St.

APPLICANT: Brandon & Alice Patty by Katie Moore, Olios Design, LLC.

CASE BAR2012-0406

Request for alterations at 1107 Duke St.

APPLICANT: Brandon & Alice Patty by Katie Moore, Olios Design, LLC.

OTHER BUSINESS

An informal work session with public testimony regarding the proposed development at 333 N Royal St.

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.



PHOTO/MEREDITH CORP./BETTER HOMES & GARDENS

Situated in the corner of a kitchen, this sitting area gets abundant natural light from large windows. The yellow walls are muted in tone to balance the intense daylight, and splashes of stronger color come from the cushions and pillows.

Alexandria Times' Cause of the Month

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

January's cause: theartleague

By nurturing the artist, we enrich the community. The Art League develops the artist through education, exhibition, and a stimulating, supportive environment, while sharing the experience of the visual arts with the community.

For nearly 60 years, The Art League has a profound and positive impact on the lives of Alexandrians by employing the visual arts as a catalyst for personal growth. It has demonstrated commitment to our creative and diverse community, and it is dedicated to the future success of local artists. Everyday, the Art League reaches and celebrates the creativity of at-risk youth through the award-winning SOHO program, injured military personnel through the IMPART program, and thousands of artists, students, and community members.

In order for The Art League to continue as a vital component of the arts in the coming years, it needs the support of our generous community through participation in League programs, volunteerism, and philanthropy.

For more information about the League and our upcoming activities, please contact:

Charlene Haskell - develop@theartleague.org - 105 North Union St., Alexandria, VA 22314 - 703 519-1741

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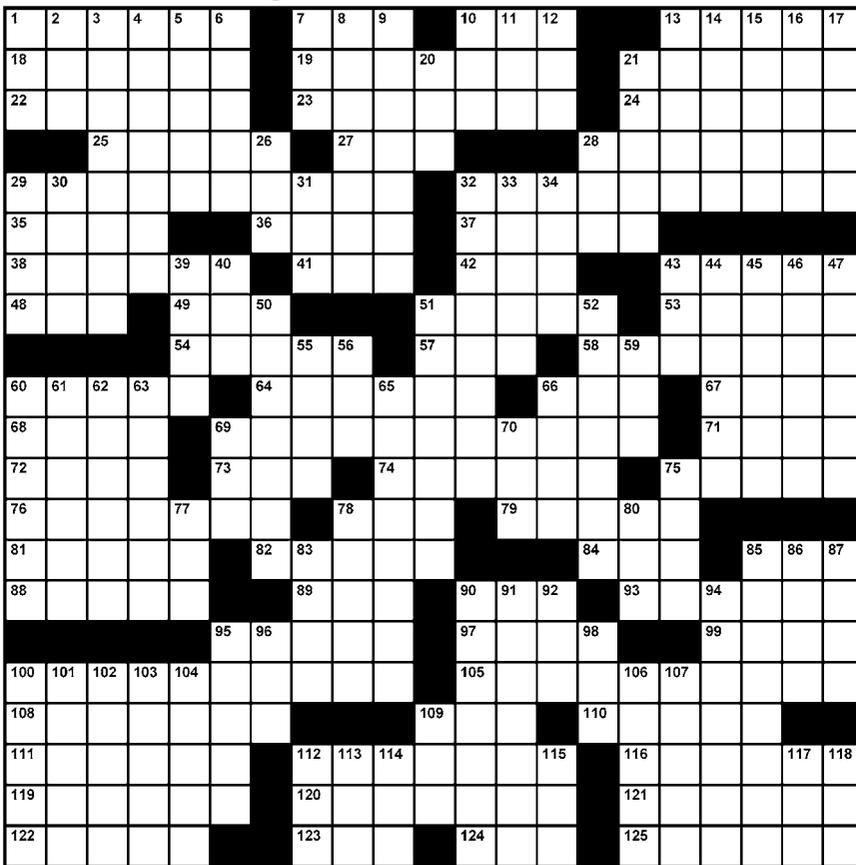
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Weekly Words



ACROSS

- 1 Balkan War country
- 7 ___ Butterworth's
- 10 Goombah
- 13 Legal wrongs
- 18 Sleeks with a beak
- 19 Cincinnati footballers
- 21 "... or else!" statement, e.g.
- 22 Nosy Parkers
- 23 Took up a Cessna
- 24 Bottom, slangily
- 25 It can barely give a hoot
- 27 "No ___, ands or butts!"
- 28 Mint's function

- 29 Felon who collects rocks?
- 32 Stealthy stealer
- 35 Coastal eagle
- 36 Distressed cry
- 37 Unfathomable chasm
- 38 Word with "free" or "travel"
- 41 Find a function for
- 42 "... ___ a lender be"
- 43 Waters gently
- 48 "Yes" gesture
- 49 Jabber
- 51 More black-and-blue
- 53 Ready to be drafted?
- 54 Gambler's loss, figuratively
- 57 Explosive palindrome

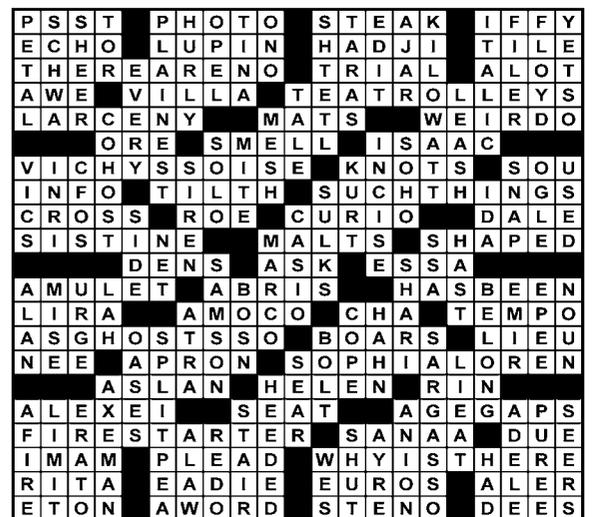
- 58 Perfect example
- 60 Like Mensa members
- 64 Creature in a pop song?
- 66 Metal-in-the-rough
- 67 Track shape
- 68 "To Sir, With Love" singer
- 69 Certain burglar
- 71 Show and ___
- 72 Calla lily's plant family
- 73 Brief response?
- 74 Centralized
- 75 Ethical codes
- 76 Concert instrument
- 78 Tall flightless bird
- 79 New Zealand native

- 81 Cause of many yawns
- 82 Theater curtain fabric
- 84 Mama's boy?
- 85 Ammo for a toy gun
- 88 Shaking of the earth
- 89 Universal workplace
- 90 PC linkup letters
- 93 Part of FDR
- 95 Native of Nigeria
- 97 Exile island for Napoleon
- 99 World Series mos.
- 100 Bonnie or Clyde, infamously
- 105 Lightfingered one
- 108 The A in DNA
- 109 "___ you with me?"
- 110 Perceived by the ear
- 111 Enzyme that breaks down fat
- 112 Approve tacitly
- 116 The first canonical hour
- 119 Fall fallers
- 120 Fast-food worker's equipment
- 121 Act of Contrition reciter
- 122 Carolers' seasons
- 123 Emotion of anger
- 124 Parliamentary vote
- 125 Fedorov of the NHL
- 31 Brief fiscal note
- 32 Vatican dogma
- 33 Call off, at Cape Canaveral
- 34 Capital of Phoenicia
- 39 Dermatological diagnosis
- 40 " Fargo" affirmative
- 43 Pronoun for Miss Piggy
- 44 All together
- 45 Candy company Russell ___
- 46 Tex-Mex snack
- 47 Merlin's incantations
- 50 Community group since 1915
- 51 Breastbone
- 52 Altar screen
- 55 Football officials, briefly
- 56 ___ kwon do (martial art)
- 59 A pop
- 60 Agendas
- 61 Eyedrops brand
- 62 College fundraising targets
- 63 Commotion or type of room
- 65 Curved sword
- 66 Gumbo pod
- 69 ___ Jose, Calif.
- 70 Moving machine part
- 75 Toddler's exclamation
- 77 Prepare for firing
- 78 Notched like a maple leaf
- 80 "Night Gallery" host Serling
- 83 Wood or iron
- 85 Emulating hens
- 86 Pre-deal chip
- 87 Starting gate at Pimlico
- 90 Reason to be shunned, in the Bible
- 91 Property recipient, in law
- 92 "30 Rock" network
- 94 GPS device, e.g.
- 95 Improves, as an edge
- 96 Vigoda of sitcoms
- 98 "Wanted" poster letters
- 100 Big name in fitness
- 101 Farewell, abroad
- 102 Katmandu's country
- 103 He stole the tarts of the Queen of Hearts
- 104 Climbs up the charts
- 106 Mountain carnivores
- 107 Practice public speaking
- 109 Say further
- 112 Greek X
- 113 Above, to Shakespeare
- 114 "No," in Dumbarton
- 115 Airport posting (Abbr.)
- 117 Word before a maiden name
- 118 ___ Lanka

DOWN

- 1 Mata Hari, for one
- 2 Preposition in poetry
- 3 Celebrated
- 4 In the middle of
- 5 Excluding nothing
- 6 Annual-report item
- 7 CEO degree, often
- 8 Critiques
- 9 Cold symptom
- 10 Butter unit
- 11 Yard of ___ (pub glass)
- 12 '60s psychedelic
- 13 "A League of ___ Own"
- 14 Certain gasket
- 15 Kidney-related
- 16 Northern evergreen forests
- 17 Beef animal
- 20 Fill-up filler
- 21 Biblical pronouns
- 26 "___ will be done"
- 28 A rival of ABC
- 29 ___-Claude Van Damme
- 30 Thus

Last Week's Solution:



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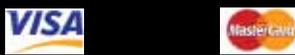
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