

THE DUPONT CURRENT

Battle heats up in at-large council race

By **DEIRDRE BANNON**
Current Staff Writer

With campaign watchers expecting Democratic incumbent Vincent Orange to garner the most votes for the at-large D.C. Council seat on Election Day, many say the real battle on Nov. 6 will be for the second seat.

Orange is the sole Democrat campaigning for the at-large post; the law prohibits any political party from fielding candidates for both seats up for election. Incumbent Michael A. Brown, an independent, in effect faces four challengers for the second spot: independents David Grosso and A.J. Cooper, Republican Mary Brooks Beatty and D.C. Statehood Green candidate Ann Wilcox.

Brown says he's confident about his re-election bid.

"A lot of people talk about what they're going to do, but I can tell voters what I have done," he said in an interview. "I've restored almost \$40 million to affordable-housing initiatives, I co-wrote the largest jobs bill in the city's history, I helped

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AIRMAN OF NOTE

Bill Petros/The Current

Dahlak Restaurant in Adams Morgan hosted a jazz jam session on Sunday featuring Todd Baker, lead saxophonist for the U.S. Air Force Band's Airmen of Note ensemble.

Developer and school chosen for Stevens site

■ **Education: Ivymount** picked for autism programs

By **BRADY HOLT**
Current Staff Writer

Developers Akridge and Argos will build a 10-story office building behind the West End's Stevens School and renovate the historic building for the Ivymount special needs school, the District announced Thursday.

Officials' selection of the partnership between Akridge/Argos and Ivymount follows months of community discussions on how to use the property, which includes the 21st Street school building and its L

Street playground.

Four development teams proposed to build a large office building on the playground site and to fund Stevens' rehabilitation for an educational use. At the same time, five schools — three public charter schools and a private school, in addition to Ivymount — were vying to be selected as the next Stevens tenant.

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education, the Department of General Services and the Office of Planning collaborated to select the developer and school for the project. The D.C. Council

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DDOT kicks off road work on New Hampshire Avenue

■ **Transportation: Work** will affect Washington Circle

By **BRADY HOLT**
Current Staff Writer

The D.C. Department of Transportation yesterday kicked off an 18-month project to overhaul nearly a mile of New Hampshire Avenue NW between H Street and Dupont Circle, a \$10.5 million initiative that will also include upgrades to Washington Circle.

This week, workers are installing warning signs and tree protections in advance of the work, which will include full demolition and reconstruction of the roadway from M Street to Dupont Circle and milling and paving farther south. Rebuilt sidewalks, new street lights, some new and replacement trees, and 5-foot bicycle lanes are also planned throughout the project area, and a water main replacement will take place concurrently.

On Washington Circle, the biggest change will be relocating crosswalks from small pedestrian islands



Bill Petros/The Current

The 18-month project includes pedestrian safety upgrades.

to the corners of intersecting streets, giving people more room to stand and requiring one fewer step. The improved crossings — and a new small fence that will enclose the interior of the circle except at the crosswalk locations — are intended to curb jaywalking.

Also as part of the project, the section of New Hampshire Avenue between M Street and Washington Circle will be converted from one-way to two-way; the rest of the street in the project area already has two-way traffic.

At last month's Foggy Bottom/ See **Traffic**/Page 4

GWU tries to evict non-student from dorm

By **BRADY HOLT**
Current Staff Writer

Scip Barnhart never set out to spend his golden years in a college dormitory.

When he moved into The West End at 2124 I St. in 1981, it was just one of many apartment buildings convenient to his workplace at George Washington University.

But he and several dozen of his fellow residents stuck around even after the university purchased the building for student housing stock in 1999. Rent control was keeping Barnhart's one-bedroom unit affordable — he pays \$709 per month — and he worried about his ability to afford another apartment in a pricey



Bill Petros/The Current

The school bought the I street building in 1999.

neighborhood.

Depending on a judge's decision today, however, Barnhart may need to vacate his apartment. Because he is the last remaining non-student in his building, the university believes

it has the right to evict him — and, on June 28, officials posted a notice on his door saying they intend to do so.

The dispute was first reported last week in the GW Hatchet, the university student newspaper. University spokesperson Michelle Sherrard said the school can't comment publicly on any aspect of the situation because of pending litigation.

Barnhart, 66, taught printmaking at George Washington until his position was eliminated several years ago; he now teaches at American and Georgetown universities.

According to Barnhart, the university last year asked him and two other older residents of The West

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