

EDITORS' PICKS

tions at your tableside jukebox. If tilings go really well, you can walk down to the Bottom and continue the evening's activities. Conversely, if your date's a bust, at least you got a good meal out of it and now you can head to the Bottom and find a new date.

Best Thai Tara Thai

Short Pimp Town Center, 360-0001

This export from the Washington, D.C.-based mini-chain has quickly won our hearts with its spicy offerings, from the larb gai (minced chicken, red onions, scallions and cilantro sprinkled with lime juice and spices) to the aptly named kappow (your choice of beef, chicken, pork or seafood sautéed with chili, garlic and fresh basil leaves). And the "underwater" décor? It's a bit trippy, from the jellyfish lights to the murals featuring various denizens of the deep.

Shopping/Services

Niftiest Locally Owned Gift Shop

TIE: Frillseekers

5812 Grove Ave., 613-5225

Confetti

2005 Huguenot Road, 560-9012

Check out Frill seekers for picture frames

(wide celebrity snapshots inside for fun), monogrammed totes, jewelry and clogs, and serving pieces. And don't miss Confetti, where you'll find reasonably priced jewelry by local artists including Monkey Egg Studios, handcrafted purses and map-covered stools, and a large selection of items for children.

Best Shop for Pretty Lingerie Kiss & Make-Up

5432 1/2 Patterson Ave., 285-0326

Wacoal, Felina and Jezebel are among the brands of frilly bras, panties and slips that shoppers will find at this tiny, tucked-away shop. Whether you're looking for racy red lace or flowing floral nightgowns, the selection here can't be beat. There's even a corner of silk boxers.

Best Lampshade Selection Shades of Light

4924 W. Broad St., 288-6515

With an entire wall of shades in everything from silk dupioni to pheasant feeders — and that's just the chandelier shades; the store has 13 more tall, overflowing racks full of regular-sized shades

— this is the place to go for a wide selection of shades in a wide range of styles and colors.

Best Bargain Lampshade Selection Target

visit drwww.target.com for locations

The prices alone make Target's lampshades worth a look — a white, 16-inch silk dupioni shade for \$12.99 or a 13-inch cream shade with hanging amber beads for \$19.99, for example. One note of caution: Unless you're buying one of Target's lamps, be sure to grab the "replacement" lampshades; the others only work with Target's own lamps.

Best Killer Handbag Selection Saks Fifth Avenue

Stony Point Fashion Park, 320-6960

The latest styles in oh-so-sophisticated display cases from Marc Jacobs, Chanel, Gucci, Kate Spade, Longchamp, Dolce & Gabbana, Bottega Veneta, Isabella Fiore and Jimmy Choo — in sizes ranging from carry-alls to clutches — put Saks at the top of our list. Handbags come in every size, shape and color, and Saks has them all.

"EXTREME MAKEOVER, RICHMONDHOME EDITION": Our Ty Pennington calls on the services of C.S. Flournoy, the readers' pick for Best Tree Service, see Page 126, and Mr. Handyman, the readers' pick for Best Home-Repair Company, see Page 120, to complete the show's next project.

