Fairfax City Schools Superintendent Phyllis Pajardo at her desk. Desire to share knowledge led her to a career as a teacher, school administrator and, now, the new superintendent of Fairfax City Schools.

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Meet City of Fairfax's Schools Superintendent

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Music Lineup at the Epicure Café

Music aficionados don't have far to go to hear live music, right here in Fairfax. Each second, fourth and fifth Wednesday of the month, Music Showcases are held at the Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Hwy. They're presented by Ron Goad, mistergoad@gmail.com, and the nonprofit Songwriters' Association of Washington.

"You'll hear some of the best songs you've never heard," said Goad. "Each showcase act is an important part of a unique, intimate evening of mini-concerts." A \$10 donation for the featured act is suggested. Here's a sampling of what's on tap:

Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. – Piano prelude by Wendy Silk and Ron Goldberg, followed by Nancy Truax, Jim Fowler, Laurence Baer, Kowtow Popof and featured performer Janna Audey

♦ Wednesday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m. – Piano prelude by Anna Keller, followed by Betty Morrell, Michael Kelly, Kevin Artz, Frank Hogans and featured performers The Crooked Angels – Amy J. Sullivan Potter and Jamie Potter.

• Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m. – Special Event: Brazilian guitarist Rick Udler in concert, plus Cristian Perez of Argentina, Daniel Lee of Louisiana, and Bill Burke of Centreville.

Faith Notes -

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism.

The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit www.guhyasamaja.org for more information.

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Week in Fairfax

Del. David Bulova (D-37) will

continue his tradition of meeting

informally with constituents, this

Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9-11 a.m.,

at Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main St., Fairfax. Constituents may dis-

cuss issues of interest and ask

questions about legislation affect-

Coffee with

Del. Bulova

ing the community.

News



Republican Ed Gillespie speaks at Tuesday's debate.

Rorschach Politics

By Michael Lee Pope The Connection

he campaign for governor is a bit like a Rorschach test as the candidates close in on the final stretch toward Election Day. Democrat Ralph Northam and Republican Ed Gillespie are presenting a series of inkblots to voters about everything from the health of the economy to the value of Confederate statues

How voters feel about President Donald Trump and the Affordable Care Act may end up playing more of a role deciding the fate of the election than all the carefully crafted policy proposals and press releases.

"The critiques that one is leveling at the other that aren't policy oriented are designed to undermine the opponent's base but also energize their own base," said Quentin Kidd, professor at Christopher Newport University. "But while they do have to play politics and critique each other, they've got to talk about policy, and they've got to talk about the things they would do to solve problems and make life better for Virginians."

Polls show Northam holding a steady but slight lead since March, the last time Gillespie was leading in a statewide poll of voters. One of the most recent polls was conducted by the University of Mary Washington earlier this month, which shows Northam edging out a 5 percent win over his rival — a lead that's so slight it was within the margin of error. Polls have Northam crushing Gillespie in vote-rich Northern Virginia. But they also show Gillespie leading among independent voters and holding strong in conservative parts of the state.

"You see a lot of undecided voters, which means both campaigns have a lot of work to do between now and November," said Stephen Farnsworth, professor at the University of Mary Washington. "When you

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At the end of Tuesday's debate Gillespie and Northam share a handshake. The debate was notable for its civility on all sides.

take out the portions of the electorate who will reflexively vote for a Democrat or a Republican, you are left with people who are going to be motivated by communitylevel issues."

THE DEBATE, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and moderated by Chuck Todd of NBC's "Meet the Press," was held at Capital One headquarters in McLean on Tuesday, Sept. 19. Panelists included Julie Carey, NBC4; Aaron Gilchrist, NBC4; and Mark J. Rozell, George Mason University. The debate was notable for its civility on all sides.

Gillespie rattled off a series of data points about sluggish job growth and stories of people leaving Virginia to move to other states. His solution to the perceived weakness is a 10 percent reduction in the individual income tax rate, a proposal that would cost more than \$1 billion over the next five years.

"We have tended to put a lot of focus on what I call whale hunting — trying to get a Fortune 100 company to move lock stock and barrel into Virginia," said Gillespie after the debate. "And I'm all for it. We need to make a run at Amazon, and we're going to. But that can't be the singular focus of our economic development agenda and vision."

Northam criticized Gillespie's plan as a tax cut for the wealthy, a proposal that would blow a billion-dollar size hole in the budget and crowd out spending for roads and schools. Instead, he said he would like to continue on the path of current Gov. Terry McAuliffe's "New Virginia Economy," emphasizing lowering the unemployment rate

Democrat Ralph Northam (right) speaks at Tuesday's debate. Candidates for governor present inkblots on issues from health of the economy to the value of Confederate statues.

> and a series of corporations that have moved their headquarters to the commonwealth. During one point in the debate, Northam turned to Gillespie and said all his trash-talking about the Virginia economy could prevent Amazon from setting up shop in Virginia.

> "Right now, Ed, we are having negotiations with Amazon - 50,000 jobs," Northam said to Gillespie. "Amazon doesn't want to hear from people like you, especially if you want to be the next governor, that we are doing poorly in Virginia."

> **CONFEDERATE STATUES** are creating an emotional flashpoint in the campaign, a disagreement between the candidates highlighted by the violent clashes that erupted in Charlottesville after white supremacists marched across the campus of the University of Virginia chanting Nazi slogans and holding tiki torches. Gillespie said the statues should stay in place with some added context, and he called for adding a statue of Virginia's first black governor to the state Capitol. Northam said local communities should be able to determine what they want to do with their statues, although he added he wants to see them in a museum.

> "I think what is important is to talk about some of the statues that aren't built of bronze, the inequities that we still have in our society," said Northam during the debate. "Inequities in access to health care. Inequities in access to voting rights. Inequities that we have in education."

> Views of the Affordable Care Act are also expected to play an important dividing line in the election. Northam has been consistent in his support for expanding Medicaid, criticizing Republicans for undermining a system that has expanded health insurance to millions of Americans who previously had

See Debate. Page 15

News

Meet City of Fairfax's Schools Superintendent

"I have a sense of pride and hopefulness."

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

orn and raised in Newport News, Va., Phyllis Pajardo knew early on she wanted to teach. And that desire to share knowledge eventually led her to a career as a teacher, school administrator and, now, the new superintendent of Fairfax City Schools.

"I had a love of learning and loved books," she said. "My sisters taught and supported other kids in the neighborhood, and I thought, 'Oh, that looks like fun.' I also liked the helping piece – which is a teacher's role – igniting a passion in a child in something they're good at and developing it further."

In middle school, Pajardo tutored younger friends in her neighborhood; and in high school, she mentored elementary-school students. In 1981, she obtained a Bachelor's in early childhood education from UVA and was hired by FCPS. That fall, she began teaching second grade at Vienna Elementary for two years.

Then came eight years at Lake Anne Elementary teaching second- and third-graders. In the early 1990s, she became a consulting teacher, observing other educators to determine whether they should get merit pay.

"This was a defining role for me because it got me out of my own classroom to see what other teachers were doing and help them grow in their

"Here, you'll see people

at school, at a football

game and then at local

businesses, enjoying

themselves, laughing

of the Fairfax City

family."

together and being part

- Fairfax City Schools Superinten-

dent Phyllis Pajardo

restaurants and

craft," said Pajardo. "I'd suggest things and recommend books, etc., that could help them, so I read a lot about great instruction in all areas. And I understood that - just like I liked igniting learning in kids – I could do that for teachers. So I decided to pursue my Master's in education leadership."

AS A TEACHER, her favorite subject was language arts. "I loved reading, lit-

eracy and writing, and seeing the process of kids getting their thoughts down on paper," she explained. "I'd bring in different authors and genres and find books they liked about their interests. And I was one of the early adopters of integrated language arts, where kids could choose the books they wanted to read – on their level – and figure out how to make it fit with their curriculum."

Pajardo obtained her Master's in admin- ta

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istration and supervision in 1993, served briefly as acting assistant principal at Virginia Run Elementary and later as assistant principal at Centre Ridge and Brookfield elementaries.

She also coordinated elementary-school programs at the Area IV office, planned leadership-development programs for new administrators and became second in charge of the Cluster VIII office, helping

select principals and manage community concerns for 28 schools.

And for five years, she was project manager for LEAD Fairfax, examining how leadership impacts student achievement especially for students in poverty. Meanwhile, she worked on her doctorate in education, obtaining it from UVA in 2009. She also spent five vears as Cluster II assistant superintendent.

Pajardo was then promoted to assistant

superintendent of human resources and, for four years, dealt with the recruitment, selection, development, evaluation and discipline of all 40,000 FCPS employees. "It was the hardest work I ever did because – when you're talking about people's pay, medical benefits and how they do their jobs – it is ripe for interpretation," she said.

She retired from FCPS after 34 years, coming to the City in August 2015 as assistant superintendent of schools. She coordi-

nated student and staff recognition programs, the release of instructional grants to the four City schools, and a panel letting Lanier Middle and Fairfax High students talk to School Board members about their schools.

"I loved working with [former Superintendent] Peter Noonan, [schools spokeswoman] Carrie Dorsey, [School Board clerk] Susan Wiczalkowski and the City School Board – folks deeply committed to sustaining and enhancing the great work happening in the City schools," said Pajardo. "And I liked the small-town feel of the City, where people know each other."

"Here, you'll see people at school, at a football game and then at local restaurants and businesses, enjoying themselves, laughing together and being part of the Fairfax City family," she explained. "And in the schools, I see parents who work together. It's how I grew up – knowing you weren't alone and people looked after each other's kids."

When Noonan said he was leaving, Pajardo applied for his job. "I thought about the work Peter and I had started, bringing advanced academics into the City, bringing Chinese exchange students here, etc.," she said.

"And I wanted to continue those things and lead them to total fruition. For example, we'll begin community discussions about Lanier becoming an AAP [Advanced Academics Program] center." Similarly, the student and staff exchange was done on a small scale, but larger exchanges with China are envisioned.

She also has plans for the school buildings. "At Fairfax High, we'd like to fill in the orchestra pit and extend the stage about six feet," she said. "The actors would be closer to people and, for fashion shows, kids would From left: Fairfax City Schools spokeswoman Carrie Dorsey, Superintendent Phyllis Pajardo and School Board clerk Susan Wiczalkowski outside the School Board office.

> Photo by Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

have a better runway, so it would be more real-world for them."

PAJARDO HOPES similar improvements in other schools will give students and teachers more opportunities, support instruction and learning, and encourage the community to use the buildings even more. Furthermore, she said, "I want to make sure our principals are exceptional leaders and our teachers are able to innovate and do some things differently – such as more hands-on projects – but that takes time and money. And promoting early childhood education is also a focus."

Her leadership philosophy is, first, to serve. "The work I do is more about what's done through me by making it safe for principals to share ideas with me, and me to figure out a way to help them," she said. "I'm really here to support them." She's also pleased that Diego Wilson is her interim assistant, saying, "As a former Fairfax Academy administrator and former Fairfax High and Frost Middle assistant principal, he brings a solid administrative perspective to our team."

After a nationwide search for the new superintendent, Pajardo learned in late July that she was it. "I screamed with joy," she said. "I was hopeful and believed I was the best candidate, but you never know. I was over-the-moon ecstatic when School Board Chairman Jon Buttram told me I was a finalist."

Now, said Pajordo, "I feel highly responsible for the continued success of our students and responsible to the Board members so they'll know they made a great decision. I also have a sense of pride and hopefulness because this is a great community and I'm thrilled to be the new superintendent."



News



Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) signing **Charlottesville Joint Resolution.**

House, Senate Condemn Hate-filled Violence

.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) signed the joint resolution condemning the violence from hate groups in Charlottesville.

Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine authored the Senate companion. The legislation now heads to President Donald Trump's desk.

"I am pleased the House of Representatives

spoke in one unified voice to unequivocally condemn the shameful and hate-filled acts of violence carried out by the Ku Klux Klan, white nationalists, white supremacists and neo-Nazis in Charlottesville. I hope this bipartisan action will help heal the wounds left in the aftermath of this tragedy and send a clear message to those that seek to divide our country that there is no place for hate and violence," Connolly said.







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OPINION Voting Every Year, But Always Critical

League of Women Voters provides forums to learn about the candidates.

very year is Election Year in Virginia, and each year the election matters. This year, all the members of the Virginia House of Delegates are up for reelection, along with statewide races for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

So many things are at stake. The deadline to register to vote in the General Election on Nov. 7, or update an existing registration, is Monday, Oct. 16.

Of the 30 incumbents in the Virginia House

EDITORIAL

of Delegates who are running unopposed, 11 are in Northern Virginia: Mark Keam (D-35); Ken Plum (D-36); David Bulova (D-37); Vivian Watts (D-39);

Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41); Mark Sickles (D-43); Paul Krizek (D-44); Mark Levine (D-45); Charniele Herring (D-46); Patrick Hope (D-47); and Rip Sullivan (D-48).

Marcus Simon (D-53) faces no Republican challenger, but will face Mike Casey, an Independent.

In Northern Virginia, there is only one open seat, the 42nd, vacated by Dave Albo (R) who says he can't afford to continue dedicate so much time to the legislature at the expense of his law practice. Kathy Tran (D) faces Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R).

Other contested races: Kathleen Murphy (D-34) faces Cheryl Buford (R). Kaye Kory (D-38) faces Paul Haring (R). Tim Hugo (R-40) faces Donte Turner (D). Alfonso Lopez (D-49) faces Adam Roosevelt (R). Jim LeMunyon (R-67) faces Karrie Delaney (D). Jennifer Boysko (D-86) faces Linda Schulz (R).

The local Connection newspaper to each of these races has covered or will write about each contested race; you can find the stories on our website.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold both in-person and televised forums for the public to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates.

Thursday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. at Providence Community Center: 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Invited candidates: Mark L. Keam (D), David L. Bulova (D), Eileen Filler-Corn (D), Kathy K.L. Tran (D), Lolita I. Mancheno-Smoak (R), Marcus B. Simon (D), and Mike S. Casey (I).

Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, Lecture Hall: 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Invited candidates: L. Kaye Kory (D), Paul B. Haring (R), Vivian E. Watts (D), Mark D. Sickles (D), Paul E. Krizek (D), Mark H. Levine (D), Alfonso H. Lopez (D), and Adam Roosevelt (R).

Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Invited candidates: Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D), David L. Bulova (D), Donte T. Tanner (D), Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), Karrie K. Delaney (D), James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R), Jennifer R. Boysko (D), and Linda C. Schulz

(R).

The remaining televised forum at Fairfax County Public Access are on Channel 10 or livestreamed on YouTube "Inside Scoop Livestream." The public can submit questions by email to theinsidescooptv@gmail.com or call 571-749-1142 between 7-8:30 p.m. Tune in on:

Monday, Oct. 2 at 8 p.m.: Invited candidates: Kathleen J. Murphy (D), Cheryl A. Buford (R), Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D), Donte T. Tanner (D), Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), R.C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. (D), Karrie K. Delaney (D), James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R), Jennifer R. Boysko (D), and Linda C. Schulz (R).

Killing the Poor to Pay Millionaires, **Current Attempt**

Because the current effort in the Senate to vote on "repeal and replace" for the Affordable Care Act is, if anything, worse than the previous attempts in substance, I hope that you will read my previous editorial from June. http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/ news/2017/jun/27/opinion-editorial-killingpoor-pay-millionaires/

> — Mary Kimm MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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BY LIZ BARNES PRS CrisisLink Volunteer

eginning as a volunteer at PRS CrisisLink started for simple, altruistic reasons. I wanted to make a difference and show myself and my family the importance of giving back to others. The experience at Northern Virginia's hotline and textline was something far

COMMENTARY more than I imagined would be.

Training taught me that before you can help, you must listen. You must listen to understand, not listen to solve a problem. This is easier said than done because when someone is suffering, all anyone wants to do is fix it for them.

I learned people have incredible strength which turns into resilience and despite how much I love to give advice, people are already experts in their own lives. I also learned how many people feel lonely even when they are surrounded by others mostly because of the shame and isolation their experiences bring them. Above all, important it is to maintain a community connection through volunteering. If

we can give back, we must; the need is never going away.

Taking calls on the hotline has changed my life and all my experiences at PRS CrisisLink have made me a better human being. The passion I have for helping others has only intensified the more I listen. So many people have said to me "Oh, I could never work on a crisis hotline. It's too scary." Sometimes I would laugh and reply gently about how helping is important.

Now, after five years, I am a little bolder. Yes, it can be anxiety provoking to answer calls in which people are concretely thinking about ending their lives. Yes, having to make life-saving decisions on a phone line is stressful. However, it is an extreme privilege to witness the courage and vulnerability each person must have to 6 ♦ Fairfax Connection ♦ September 21-27, 2017



Volunteers at the PRS CrisisLink call center.

reach out when they are in that much pain. Furthermore, I am honored to be the person to listen in the moments where someone is lonely and hurting with no one else to call.

The honor I felt in these moments left me desiring to train other volunteers. I joined CrisisLink's training team. Through this, I have learned what it takes to be successful in this kind of work. Empathy, a desire to learn consistently, distress-tolerance, life-experience and a sincere desire to help others is the make-up of every one of our team members. Our volunteers include lawyers, teachers, stay-at-home parents, veterans, human service workers, architects, nurses, students, clergy,

law enforcement, and more each offering 3-4 hours a week for an entire year to our life-saving services. Mental illness impacts more than the one person experiencing the crisis. It impacts our families, friends and community at large. This September, PRS is supporting National Suicide Prevention Month through the #CallTextLive Campaign, which has a number of ways to get involved that encourage dialogue about suicide. Talking about suicide will help more people feel comfortable to call or text a hotline. When they do, I stand ready to listen.

To volunteer, contact PRS at 703-531-6351.



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NEWS DEPARTMENT: south@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic Editor * 703-778-9414 kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs Community Reporter 💠 703-778-9438 south@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker Reporter aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon Editorial Assistant south@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING: For advertising information e-mail: sales@connectionnewspapers.com 703-778-9431

Debbie Funk Display Advertising/National Sales 703-778-9444 debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431 dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher Mary Kimm mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

Executive Vice President Jerry Vernon 703-549-0004 jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

> **Editor in Chief** Steven Mauren **Managing Editor** Kemal Kurspahic Art/Design: Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh **Production Manager:** Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher Jeanne Theismann itheismann@connectionnewspapers.com @TheismannMedia



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PEOPLE



Senior Olympics Win

Cyclist Paula Harris, of Fairfax, celebrates her gold medal win in a Northern Virginia Senior Olympics 20K race, Sunday, Sept. 10, at Vint Hill near Warrenton, Va.



INFORMATIONAL OPEN HOUSES FOR THE IDYLWOOD SUBSTATION TO TYSONS SUBSTATION PROJECT

Dominion Energy proposes new electric transmission line to serve McLean, Tysons region

At Dominion Energy, we are committed to keeping our neighbors informed about energy needs where they live and work. In response to a forecasted capacity issue in Fairfax County, we are in the early planning stages of proposing a new electric transmission line between our existing Idylwood Substation at Shreve Road and our Tysons Substation on Tyco Road.

We invite the community to one of our two open house events to learn about the project and provide local feedback on the potential routes currently under review.

There will not be a formal presentation at either open house, so please drop in at your convenience to speak with our subject matter experts.

OPEN HOUSES

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017 Shrevewood Elem. School 7525 Shreve Road Falls Church

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017 Kilmer Middle School 8100 Wolftrap Road Vienna

> 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (drop by anytime during these hours)

Preliminary conceptual information on this project is available on our website at **DominionEnergy.com/tysons**. If you have questions on this project or the open house events, please send an email to **powerline@DominionEnergy.com**. Or, you can call toll-free **888-291-0190** to speak with one of our representatives Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wére hosting an Open House at The Kensington Falls Church, and you're invited

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 from 1pm-3pm 700 West Broad Street

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re've been open since February, and our community is buzzing with the happy sounds of residents, staff and our beloved four-legged friends. The good times have only just begun, so please come share them with us!

The mood here is upbeat. The environment makes you feel good as soon as you cross the threshold. Expertly prepared meals tempt your palate all day long. And comprehensive programs of care promote wellness and joy. When you get here, our team is ready to greet you with a smile and a hug, and maybe even a two-step and a song. Better yet, they'll show you assisted living suites that are still available.

Join us to explore your options and mingle with guests at our upcoming open house.



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New Year, New Teacher

How to identify effective teachers.

By Marilyn Campbell

s a new school year got underway this month, Sebla Tobin, a family therapist in Rockville, Md., noticed an uptick in the number of her patients who are parents, expressing concern about the teachers their children had been assigned.

"So many parents are leery of new teachers or teachers who are young," she said. "I encourage them to give the teacher a chance before passing judgment and marching into the principal's office to ask for a different teacher. Just because a teacher graduated from college last spring doesn't mean that they won't effective. And a teacher who's been in the classroom for 20 years may be jaded and grumpy."

Teacher effectiveness is a concern among parents as the school year gets underway, says Tobin, and she points to research which shows how teachers can affect student achievement. A 2011 study from Harvard and Columbia universities showed a link between effective teachers and students who were more likely to attend college, have lower teenage pregnancy rates and other positive outcomes. So what qualities constitute an effective teacher?

Effective teachers are knowledgeable of the subjects they are teaching, says Pamela Garner, Ph.D. professor of Childhood Studies at George Mason University. "Effective teachers are able to transfer that knowledge to students who have different comprehension levels," she said.

Creating a classroom environment that is safe for student learning is also important, adds Garner. "Overall, effective teachers work hard to create a positive classroom climate which is characterized by providing opportunities for student input in de-

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cision making and support for individual differences," she said.

Setting high expectations for all students, but realizing that students have a variety of abilities, is an important factor, believes Jessica Lewis, Ed.D., professor of education at Marymount University. "For some students getting a C is like a medal of honor A positive classroom helps welcome students back to school is an important factor in student learning, says Pamela Garner, Ph.D. of George Mason University.

and that's OK," said Lewis. "Students want to do well and be pushed, but pushed with support. Knowing that a teacher understands the student and their abilities sends a positive message that the teacher is on their side when it comes to learning."

A teacher who is able to demonstrate genuine concern for students is necessary to create an effective learning environment, adds Lewis. "Parents often say 'I want a teacher who knows their content,' but I always go back to 'does the teacher care?' If a teacher doesn't care, then they're not going to be effective. An effective teacher motivates students to want to learn."

An ability to form a strong relationship with students is another characteristic that Lewis believes is important. "The more rapidly the teachers can get

to know the individual students and things they enjoy like their hobbies, the sports they like, the sooner that teacher can see that students are real little people behind those names," she said. "As a teacher you have to put the heart first and policy second. What factors are going on at

want to learn." are real those na — Jessica Lewis, Ed.D., Marymount University

"An effective teacher

motivates students to

home that can throw the student for a loop. If you have a caring adult to say, 'Hey do you want to talk about it?' that can make a big difference."

An effective teacher accepts students for and where they are, adds Lewis. "Students can learn more from a teacher when the teacher shows that they care," she said.



Volunteers needed for adoption events, fostering, transportation, adoption center caretaking and more.



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Schools

Send notes to the Connection at south@ connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday.

The following students from the Fairfax area are in the James Madison class of 2021: Miryeng Song plans to major in psychology - BS; Brandon Metzler plans to major in biotechnology - BS; Shoshana Warshavsky plans to major in psychology - BA; Noah Koellisch plans to major in public policy and admin. - BS; Alexandra Cranston plans to major in biology - BS; Haley McAllister whose major is undeclared; Katlyn Checkosky plans to major in finance - BBA; Aidan Malekolkalami plans to major in ac counting - BBA; Caroline Fisher plans to major in marketing - BBA; and Kyle Giuseppe plans to major in finance - BBA.

The following students from the Fairfax area are in the James Madison class of 2021: **Zachary Strasberg** plans to major in Geology - BS; **John Cyckowski** plans to major in computer science -BS; **Jordan Van Parys** plans to major in nursing - BSN; **Anna Ober** plans to major in finance - BBA; **Emily Gross** plans to major in biology - BS; **Sanjiv Jayamohan** plans to major in biology -BS; **Margaret Hollander** plans to major in psychology - BS; **Emma Sisk** plans to major in media arts and design - BA; **Kiley Eichinger** plans to major in communication sciences and disorders -BS; and **Lindsey Parker** plans to major in political science - BA.

The following students from the Fairfax area are in the James Madison class of 2021: **William Dickison** plans to major in computer information systems - BBA; **Gabrielle Gonzalez** plans to major in anthropology - BS; **Thao Nguyen** plans to major in management - BBA; **Nicholas Issing**

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plans to major in English - BA; **Anthony Cautilli** plans to major in architectural design - BFA; **Garrett Christian** plans to major in computer science - BS; **Niki Harizi** plans to major in international affairs - BA; **Andi Harizi** plans to major in international business - BBA; **Brooke Ryan** plans to major in biology - BS; and **Chelsea Dyer** plans to major in biology - BS.

The following students from the Fairfax area are in the James Madison class of 2021: Nicholas Rodriguez plans to major in kinesiology - BS; Alaina Weir-Alfaro plans to major in social work - BSW; Taylor Phan whose major is undeclared; Nicholas Koldys plans to major in computer science - BS; Evelyn Kurtz plans to major in biology - BS; Matthew Hoang whose major is undeclared; April Hale plans to major in kinesiology - BS; Ngongbo Foncha whose major is undeclared; Marlena Stone plans to major in international business - BBA; and Clara Mittnight plans to major in sociology - BA.

The following students from the Fairfax area are in the James Madison class of 2021: **Rayaan Khan** plans to major in media arts and design - BA; **Joseph Walker** plans to major in theatre - BA; **Kyra Martin** plans to major in nursing - BSN; **Andrew Meyers** plans to major in nursing - BSN; **Deanna Sterling** plans to major in communication sciences and disorders - BS; **Apurva Shrestha** plans to major in international affairs -BA; **Carter Insley** plans to major in media arts and design - BS; and **William Drenta** plans to major in computer science - BS.

Fairfax resident **Kaisa Hickman** graduated from Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minn. Hickman earned a Bachelor of Science in social work.



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Fairfax Connection & September 21-27, 2017 🔹 9

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Personal Property tax bills have been mailed and are due

October 5, 2017

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid a 10% late payment penalty and interest charges, payment must be made in full in person or postmarked by close of business on

October 5, 2017

Taxes may be paid in person Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Treasurer's Office, Room 234, City Hall

IMPORTANT

Even if you do not receive a bill, You are responsible for paying personal property taxes on time.

For Additional Information, please call 703-385-7900

Entertainment



The Boyle School of Irish Dance outside the Sherwood Center.

Photo by Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

Irish Festival in Fairfax, Sept. 23

The sounds and sights of Irish singers, dancers and musicians will fill the air during the 22nd Annual CCÉ Irish Folk Festival in the City of Fairfax. Set for Saturday, Sept. 23, from noon-7:30 p.m., music performances and cultural displays will be held at the Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, and at the Auld Shebeen Irish Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road.

Dublin-based Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCÉ) is the largest, nonprofit group involved in the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional music and culture This family-friendly event is presented in cooperation with the City of Fairfax and the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts. It takes place rain or shine, parking is free and venues are handicap-accessible. Cost is \$10/person, with a \$20/family maximum.

Irish music and dance will be performed by both world-class artists and regional all-stars. Headline performers include Kieran O'Hare, Liz Knowles and Pat Broaders, Open the Door for 3, National Heritage Fellow and accordion maestro Billy McComiskey, Sean Clohessy, Sean McComiskey, Matt Mulqueen, Josh Dukes and Kieran Jordan, Cover the Buckle, and Aoife Scott and Band

Tunes will be played on the fiddle, banjo, pipes, flute, accordion and drum. Attendees will also experience the vibrancy and riches of Irish traditional songs, dances, culture and community through step dancing, social dancing, plus seannósdance performances including Shannon Dunne Dance. For a detailed schedule of the music sessions, performances and instructional workshops, go to www.CCEirishfest.org.

Calendar

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Mosby Bus Tour. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The bus will leave from the Truro Parish, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. The tour will visit Mosby sites in Prince William, Fauquier and Loudoun Counties. Call 703-971-4984 or email dhakenson@verizon.net. Irish Folk Festival. noon-7:30 p.m. at Sherwood Center at Van Dyck Park, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, or The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. \$10 per person; \$20 family maximum admission. Call 703-385-7858.

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "Lincoln's Generals' Wives: Four Women Who Influenced the Civil War - For Better and for Worse" Author Candace Shy Hooper will discuss how Julia Grant, Ellen Sherman, Nelly McClellan, and Jessie Fremont influenced their husband's careers. Free. Call 703-385- 8414. **Meet the Author.** 4 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Kristin Cashore reviews her new book "Tu Reviens," about an island mansion. Viet

about an island mansion. Visit stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/ 2937 or call 703-278-0300. The 12th Annual "ARTS by George!" 5 p.m. at deLaski



Entertainment

Performing Arts Building, Harris Theatre, and Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Gala performance by Broadway star Kelli O'Hara plus student showcases, buffets and wine bars, and silent and live auctions. Visit artsbygeorge.gmu.edu.

SEPT. 23-24

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Visit whitehall.farm.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 24

Building a Train Set. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Activities include making a sample train layout as well as involvement in demonstrations of railroad artifacts. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Craft supplies included in admission. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/SEPT. 25

Tai Chi Easy. 2-3 p.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kingsway, Fairfax. Pauline Reid, teaches Tai Chi, a form of the Chinese self-care practices known as Qigong. This class is suitable for beginners through advanced practitioners. \$90 for Monday nights through Nov. 6. Email Pauline at reidpr@hotmail.com or contact the church office 703-378-7272, ext. 221.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 27

- Tai Chi. 6:30-7:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Class will take place in Old Town Square at the pergola. Call 703-385-7858.
- Meet the Civil War Author. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Local historian, lecturer and author, Arthur Candenquist will look at a Confederate military railroad that ran between Centreville and Manassas Junction. Free, open to public. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

Visiting Filmmakers. 4:30 p.m. at the Johnson Center Cinema, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. GMU Visiting Filmmakers Series presents: "Cameraperson," free screening and Q&A with Kirsten Johnson. Visit favs.gmu.edu.

Mars Rodeo Concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Hometown Thursdays series hosts local bands. Free. Call 703-385-7858.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 29

- Wine Tasting. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. This event features wine tasting and a silent auction of goods and services. Free. Visit www.historicfairfax.org for more or call 703-385-7858.
- Pilates Open House. 6:30-8 p.m. at Studio BE Pilates, 4211 Fairfax Corner Ave., East, #200, Fairfax. Meet and greet with pilates guru Kevin Bowen and see Pilates demonstrations. Bowen will give a talk about the importance of a Pilates practice as we age. Call 703-222-0122.
- Music on the Plaza. 7 p.m. at Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Call 703-385-7858.
 Bingo. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Smoke free Bingo, free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere,
- \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit fairfaxvfd.com, or call 703-273-3638.
 Comedy on Stage, 7:30 p.m. at the
- **Comedy on Stage.** 7:30 p.m. at the Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Hwy, Fairfax. Show by Krish Mohan, a nationally touring stand up comedian. Visit ramannoodlescomedy.com/press/.

SEPT. 29-OCT. 8

Disney on Ice. Various times at Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. "Dare To Dream," show featuring an expedition across seas and mountains with characters from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," "Frozen," "Tangled" and "Cinderella." \$20 and up. Call 1-800-745-3000, via www.ticketmaster.com, or visit DisnevOnIce.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

- **Kidz Korner.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment. Call 703-385-7858.
- **Bingo.** 1-3 p.m. at Parish Center Gym, St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. \$10 for two cards, proceeds benefit the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. Call 703-426-2824.

SEPT. 30-OCT. 1

Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whitehall Farm, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Featuring a large corn maze in the shape of a chicken, pumpkin patch, farm animals, inflatable bounce houses, hay ride, and nature trail. \$12, active duty military and their families receive \$2 off per ticket. Visit whitehall.farm.

OCT. 2-NOV. 6

Adventures 'N Learning. 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The class starts with gentle exercise, followed by speakers on topics such as health, history, community, personal development, finance, and more. \$30 for six weeks. Call 703-426-2824, or visit www.scfbva.org.

MONDAY/OCT. 2

Funday Monday. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Mr. Skip: Fun & Songs for children. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

TUESDAY/OCT. 3

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Story Times at Old Town Square for children every Tuesday morning. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

FRIDAY/OCT. 6

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department hosts smoke free Bingo. Visit fairfaxvfd.com, or call 703-273-3638.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

- She Rocks the World. 9 a.m.-3:30
 p.m. at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 2017
 Virginia Girls' Summit, teenage girl forum. Visit sherockstheworld.org/.
 Walking Tour of Old Town Fairfax.
- 10-11:30 a.m. at Historic Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Tour includes include a short tour of the Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10386 Main St. \$10/adults; \$5/youth, ages 6-12, children 6 and under are free. Family rate (three or more) \$25. For reservations, call Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center at 703-385-8414.
- **Taste of Fall Feast**. 7 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. An evening filled with food, entertainment, and a live and silent auction to raise funds. \$50. Visit www.FACETSCares.org or call 703-554-3609.





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DINING



The ribbon-cutting with (from left) City Councilmen Jon Stehle, Michael DeMarco, Jeff Greenfield and Dan Drummond, Mayor David Meyer (with scissors), Bill and Susie Hamrock, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and Economic Development Authority Chairman Michael O'Brien.



Former Washington Redskins great, Rick "Doc" Walker, entertains the crowd on Hamrock's porch.

'A Destination for High-Quality Dining'

Hamrock's holds gala grand-opening celebration.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

hen Bill Hamrock bought the restaurant Choices by Shawn last summer, he initially kept its name. But as the chef/owner, he's proud of what his restaurant at 3950 Chain Bridge Road has to offer. So he changed its name to his and, on Sept. 7, held a gala grand opening and ribbon-cutting in celebration.

"This is a great event for the community and the City," said Fairfax Mayor David Meyer. "This is an iconic place in the City and represents a new evolution in our restaurant business. We're getting a reputation as a destination for high-quality dining, and this will up the game for everybody."

THE RESTAURANT offers new American cuisine. "We're open to anything because everybody in America emigrated from somewhere else," explained Hamrock. "Our menu changes seasonally, plus we have weekly specials for lunch and dinner. And we excel at small-group, private dinners for 10-30 people." What makes Hamrock's stand out, he said, are its many gluten-free items, including crab cakes and fried chicken. "Our appetizers are also special," he said. "We offer deviled eggs with candied bacon and chipotle cream, duck nachos with a hoisin barbecue glaze, and crispy Brussels sprouts with pork-belly croutons."

Many Southern specialties are on the menu, including shrimp and grits. Another popular dish is saffron risotto with crabstuffed shrimp and lobster-ginger sauce. And a new addition is a grilled, marinated pork chop with Dijon cream sauce. Entrees generally run from \$14-\$24.

Some vegetarian dishes are also on the deca 12 • FAIRFAX CONNECTION • SEPTEMBER 21-27, 2017



Chef/owner Bill Hamrock with the buffet meal at the restaurant's grand opening.



From left: Chris Bruno, David Meyer, Bill and Susie Hamrock, and Billy Reilly, whose Shamrock Solutions Group organized the event.

menu, including vegetable risotto and Moroccan chickpeas with crispy tofu and baby eggplant. For dessert, diners may enjoy decadent treats such as crème brulee, 2017

menu, including vegetable risotto and Moroccan chickpeas with crispy tofu and baby chocolate delight cake.

A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Hamrock honed his cooking skills

at a small, hotel restaurant outside Zurich, Switzerland for one-and-one-half years. And now, local residents get to benefit from his talent. "There are only a couple chef/ owner restaurants in this City, and I'm always in the kitchen cooking," he said.

The main dining room has a fireplace and seats 24, and the two private dining rooms – one of which also has a fireplace – seat 38 people total. And there's a bar, as well. Furthermore, said Hamrock, "We're unique – there's no restaurant like us in Fairfax City or County. We're in a house built in 1840 and it has a lot of history."

Indeed, the house was once home to R. Walton Moore, a congressman and State Department counselor under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. FDR was his friend and had either lunch or afternoon tea on the home's porch. President William Howard Taft came here, too, for a garden party after he left office.

City officials, residents, friends, local dignitaries and even former Washington Redskin Rick "Doc" Walker were among the 125 or so people attending the recent grand opening. A tight end, Walker played for the Redskins in the 1980s and contributed to the team's victory in Super Bowl XVII.

"It's great to be home again," said Walker to the group of well-wishers gathered on the restaurant's porch. "I lived here for a decade, and this community means a lot to me. I can't wait to come here to Hamrock's as often as possible. Hail to the Redskins!"

ALSO PLEASED with the restaurant's success is City Economic Development Director Chris Bruno. "This adds to our strong identity as a dining epicenter for the region," he said. "We know now that people are coming here from Arlington, Alexandria, Maryland and [Washington], D.C."

"And it's this type of business that helps us attract the dynamic vibrancy we're trying to build for the City," he continued. "This event is proof that there's interest in the City and in fun, quality, food establishments in the City of Fairfax."

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News Debate

From Page 3

no coverage. Gillespie has been consistently critical of the landmark achievement of former President Barack Obama, although he was noncommittal when asked about his view of the reform proposal currently working its way through Congress.

"I'm not endorsing or opposing any specific legislation that is being talked about right now. I haven't had a chance to read it," said Gillespie after the debate, adding that Virginia should not be punished for declining to expand Medicaid. "But as a principle I've been consistent in this regard, and that is where I am today."

PERHAPS NOTHING looms as large over this election as Donald Trump. The president has become a lightning rod of opposition and a rallying cry for people who feel marginalized. Virginia was the only Southern state Trump lost, and polls show that he remains unpopular here. Gillespie has been trying to distance himself from the president by opposing some of his budget proposals and declining to answer questions about whether he'll ask Trump to campaign for him in Virginia.

"Probably the biggest thing being hung around Ed's neck is the Trump administration," said Republican strategist Dan Scandling. "But depending where you are in the state determines how much of a weight that is. If you're downstate, that's not a problem. If you're up here in Northern Virginia, it's a potential problem."

Democrat Hillary Clinton won Virginia with 50 percent of the vote, with Trump at 44 percent. Many of those presidential year voters might not show up in an odd yearelection, when the electorate tends to be older and whiter. For Democrats, the goal heading into Election Day is to run up the numbers in Northern Virginia and overwhelm Republicans in parts of the state that still support Trump. For Republicans, the challenge is find some kind of way of embracing Trump voters without alienating independents who might feel conflicted about the president.

"I think what's really going to drive the election is President Trump," said Democratic strategist Ben Tribbett. "A lot of voters are going to vote either for or against Ed Gillespie based on how they feel about Donald Trump."

Bulletin Board

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Meet Your Sikh Neighbors. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Sikh Foundation of Virginia, located at 7250 Ox Road. This event is to spread awareness about Sikhs and Sikhism among our communities. U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock, state Sen. George Barker, Supervisor Pat Herrity, and Springfield District Representative School Board Member Elizabeth Schultz will be attending the event. Visit www.sfova.org/ or call 703-323-8849.



Talking the Walk



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Our long, local, overnight nightmare is almost over. By the date this column publishes: Sept. 20, 2017, I will, for the first time in nearly nine weeks, not had to have snaked down in the dark, our "turny-twisty" and narrow 150year-old staircase to walk from the upstairs master bedroom to the downstairs and only usable commode. Though the renovation of this upstairs bathroom is not entirely complete nor ready for primetime (it is mostly usable as the water is now running and flushing), the demolition/renovation process apparently must go on/adhere to a schedule so, on Tuesday, Sept. 19 the downstairs bathroom, with all its fully functioning amenities will come under the sledge hammer - among other tools, and provide no further use until on or about Oct. 24.

This heretofore ("Good Will Hunting") logistical challenge has not presented too many difficulties for my wife, Dina. But given that I'm a male of a certain age, quite the opposite has been true for me. Once or twice and occasionally even more per overnight depending upon how late and how much I've had to eat or drink before bedtime, I'll need to visit the bathroom to attend to some very personal business. To be clear, the 'challenge' to which I refer is getting to the bathroom, not starting and/or finishing what I intended once I get there. Moreover, when the task at hand has been

completed, of course I need to retrace my steps – usually in the dark, and walk back upstairs. Though not nearly as difficult as walking downstairs; nevertheless, at the time I am going down and back up, in the middle of the night, my vision might not so readily acclimate and my balance is, let's just say: inconsistent, especially when trying to avoid the miscellaneous bathroom-remodeling boxes staged in the living room on the very route I must travel.

Needless to say, having this nightly nonsense come to an end is most definitely a column worth writing. Not necessarily to self-indulge anymore than usual but more so to amuse you regular readers and possibly even prepare you for your own in-home renovation. And considering that this renovation is our first - and we have minimal experience with these matters, I thought it useful to write it forward and perhaps share a less-than-obvious impact of taking the one-and-only-on-the-same-floor bathroom out of service. Sinks, mirrors and shower/tub issues notwithstanding, all of which can be withstood and endured with the reorientation to the downstairs bathroom, the commode issue, considering its unpredictability, naturally trumps all other real or imagined difficulties.

Though the upstairs bathroom is incomplete and lacking multiple finishing elements, its transformation so far is incredible – to our eyes. I'll spare you any details because that really would be self-indulgent and not at all the point of this column. But the two months or so it will have taken for the upstairs bathroom to become operational again and the nightly effect it's had on me appears to have been worth the wait.

As concerns the downstairs bathroom, we are now ready, willing and able to integrate its destruction into our routine. Given that it is more of a powder room than a master-type bathroom – though it will include a showeronly enclosure, no longer will it be my twicenightly destination. In addition, I am looking forward to its transformation because the interim process will not prevent me from going anywhere I regularly go nor inconveniencing my wife, Dina, when she readies for work in the morning.

Monitoring its progress will be more of a curiosity than a calamity, since, in my mind, there will be no sense of urgency about the pace of this project as there had been with the upstairs bathroom because my bathroom access will not be affected in the least. And in the most, I am extraordinarily grateful – and relieved.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

