Barbecue, Baked Beans and Fun

Democratic-Endorsed Candidate Wins School Board Election

Come Check Out All these Wheels

Fairfax Connection
August 31 - September 6, 2017

Nick Galloway having fun with daughters (from left) Ella and Elsa at the American Legion Post 177 annual family picnic Sunday, Aug. 20, in Fairfax. (Not pictured are mom Lilly, plus son Brayden – completing the couple’s 3-1/2-year-old triplets).
Body Recovered From Lake After Canoe Capsizes at Burke Lake Park

Around 2:20 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25, police and fire units responded to Burke Lake Park after a canoe tipped over with three people on board. One adult and one child were rescued by staff before the fire department arrived, but the third occupant, 70-year-old James Peith, of Clifton, was no longer in sight, according to FCPD Media Relations Bureau. The officers, along with members of the fire department, helicopter, Underwater Search and Recovery, and Marine Patrol searched for several hours before his body was found around 6 p.m. using sonar equipment. Peith’s body is being taken to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to determine the cause of death.

City of Fairfax Cemetery Monument Vandalized

In the early hours of Thursday, Aug. 24, there was an act of minor vandalism to the Confederate graves monument at the City of Fairfax Cemetery. The damage consisted of splashed white paint on the base of the monument. The paint has now been removed.

After visiting the site where the vandalism occurred, Fairfax City Mayor David Meyer stated, “While the recent events in Charlottesville are abhorrent and inconsistent with the democratic principles of our republic, vandalizing graves also does not reflect the values of our community, our commonwealth, and our nation.”

The City of Fairfax Police Department is currently investigating the vandalism.

Area Roundups

Body Recovered From Lake After Canoe Capsizes at Burke Lake Park

City of Fairfax Cemetery Monument Vandalized

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.
Come Check Out All these Wheels

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

The City of Fairfax offers entertaining events for the whole family, all year round. And last year’s Labor Day Car Show proved such a huge success that it’s returning for a second year. The fun also includes music provided by a deejay, a noon time ceremony, food, awards – and an appearance by the coach of the Washington Capitals.

Put on jointly by the City and the Clifton Lions Club, it will be held Monday, Sept. 4, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., on University Drive between Stellaris and Sager Avenue, and in the SunTrust Bank parking lot at 4020 University Drive. University Drive in that area will be closed to traffic that day.

It’s the Lions Club’s 18th annual car show, and it always draws large crowds. This free event features nearly every kind of vehicle imaginable, including antique cars from the 1920s and ’30s, classic and custom cars, hot rods from the 1940s and ’50s, muscle cars like Corvettes and Mustangs, foreign cars such as Bentleys, and even trucks and motorcycles. Register vehicles for the show at www.labordaycarshow.org or at Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive, the day of the show, from 6 a.m.-noon.

Furthermore, the car show also raises money for two, worthy causes. While entry and parking are free, donations are accepted – and proceeds will benefit the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program and Inova Hospital System’s Life with Cancer.

“We hope to raise $30,000,” said event organizer Jim Chesley, of the Clifton Lions Club. “That’s because, in the past 17 years, we’ve raised and given $370,000 to local charities – so I’m hoping to hit $400,000 this year. The only year we donated to something nonlocal was when we gave $30,000 to the [Hurricane] Katrina victims.”

IN THE PAST eight or nine years, the bulk of the show’s proceeds have gone to Life with Cancer and the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program. “We’ve been able to give them a minimum of $10,000 each, and I’m hoping to up it this year,” said Chesley. “We’re all volunteers, so every cent raised goes to charity.”

Proceeds also benefit the Fairfax County Police Family Trust Fund for families of slain officers, plus American Legion Post 177, Fire Station 3, Renas Shriners, Masonic Lodge of Clifton, and Marine Technology, which trains future auto mechanics.

More than 300 cars were on display during last year’s show, but there’s room for 475 vehicles. “It all depends on the weather,” said Chesley. “If it’s like last year, we’re expecting 400 cars, trucks and motorcycles. We also had 5,000 spectators and, if the weather cooperates, I expect that number to increase, too. But the show goes on, rain or shine.

A special, noon time ceremony at the fire station will feature the American Legion Post 177 Color Guard. Angela Knight – who sings at The Kennedy Center and at Washington Nationals baseball games – will sing the National Anthem.

And when attendees get hungry or thirsty, they’ll have several options. Lions Club members will be cooking and selling grilled hot dogs, hamburger, and Hard Times Café will host an outside beer garden. In addition, restaurants in Clifton will be open, and discount coupons for some of them will be available via www.fairfaxva.gov. At the car-show website, at the show’s information desk (at the fire station) and in the event program.

The car show moved last year from its previous location in Clifton to the City of Fairfax so it could grow in both participants and spectators. And that’s important, said Chesley, because “the more money we raise, the more money we can give to the kids helped by the charities.”

“We were received warmly by the City of Fairfax, which worked quite well with us,” he continued. “I couldn’t have asked for better help; and this year, they’re doing even more. They produced an event map and we put it up on our website www.labordaycarshow.org. We expect more City of Fairfax participation this year, too, and some of the auto dealerships will bring new cars to the show.” He’s also met regularly throughout the summer, with City Councilman Jeff Greenfield, City Manager Chesley Ormesher to work out all the show details.

There’s even a big surprise for Caps hockey fans. Six months ago, Chesley met Coach Barry Trotz at a Therapeutic Riding event, told him about the car show and invited him to come. Trotz recently told Chesley he’ll be there and hopes to bring some of his players, too. So car-show attendees will be able to meet them at a table in front of the fire station. And there may possibly be a silent auction of NASA and Washington Redskins memorabilia.

A TOTAL OF 30 TROPHIES will be awarded, with judging done in front of the fire station. The participants will vote on the top 20 cars, plus Best of Show. There’ll also be Mayor’s and Ladies’ Choice trophies, one for Best Motorcycle and a Buddy Morissette Memorial Trophy chosen by his family.

“Buddy helped me with this show for years – financially, too,” said Chesley. “He died in December 2016. He supported good causes everywhere and was a great guy.”

The nearest Labor Day car show is 150 miles away, so Chesley hopes for a good turnout. He also wants to help as many children as possible.

“My passion in life has always been cars,” he explained. “And the fact that this show can help people who need it is wonderful. It’s a great thing, and that’s why I do it each year.”

He said attendees “will see the beautiful cars that people bring, meet the coach of the Capitals and have a fun day – and it’s free. And it’s not just an antique car or hot rod show. Ours has vehicles of all kinds, so there’s something for everybody – and I guarantee they’ll have a good time.”
Room Escape Fairfax Debuts

Central Fairfax Chamber holds mixer for grand-opening ceremony.

By Steve Hibbard The Connection

Dozens of people attended the Central Fairfax Chamber’s network mixer to christen the grand-opening of the Room Escape Fairfax, which specializes in mind-challenging games where players work together to successfully escape from rooms, on Tuesday, Aug. 15, at its location at 3949A University Drive, Fairfax.

The business is run by Egor Bond, 30, its founder and CEO who is originally from Siberia, Russia, and now resides in Falls Church with his wife Anna. The Fairfax location, which has been open since Oct. 8, 2015, employs a staff of 13 people, half of whom are GMU students.

Room Escape has six brightly decorated escape rooms with names like The Cure, The Frightful Feast, The Joker’s Trap, Save the White House, Horror Room: Midnight Molly, and Escape from Venus: Game for Two. The concept is simple: groups of players will be trapped in a room filled with a variety of puzzles, hidden items, and surprises with one hour to solve the mystery of the game.

Bond said he has an in-house team that created the unique games that you won’t find anywhere else. “The quality of the games is way higher than the average game on the market,” he said. “We created an entirely new product which merges the science of psychology with escape rooms.”

He continued, “These are mind-challenging games. We make you think outside the box. That means you have to pay attention; you have to communicate… the more efficient you play, the higher your chances to succeed.”

THE ADVANTAGES of the games are that they improve communication and cooperation between groups, help with problem-solving and creative thinking, and build leadership.

“Overall, we do care about your overall experience, not really whether you escaped or not. We want you to have fun here,” said Bond.

Junior Manager Donna Quintanilla said the goal is to promote teamwork and have everyone communicate throughout the challenge. “The end goal for the people who are playing is to escape from the room. Now, they have to solve a variety of puzzles, riddles, find clues, keys, codes, whatever it may be in order to find that goal and be able to exit the room.”

She added, “What we find is that a lot of groups do really well when they all communicate and work together. So a lot of people say the teamwork is what makes the dream work and that is really what hap
A hat and photos from a South Vietnamese soldier left behind at the Vietnam Memorial.

Presentation to Commemorate 35th Anniversary of ‘The Wall’

Curator of items left at the Vietnam War Memorial will speak.

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

When the Vietnam War Memorial was opened in 1982, emotions and opinions about the war were still flowing, and this started a steady stream of artifacts left behind at “the wall,” as it became known, to provide closure for some, or commemorate lives lost in that war for others.

The artifacts were collected through the years, stored in a park service warehouse, and were cataloged by then-intern Janet Folkerts, who is now a park service curator that uses the items as a backdrop for her presentation celebrating the 35th anniversary of the wall.

Her first presentation will be in the City of Fairfax on Sept. 10, where she’ll talk about the history of the memorial and the history of the collection.

The items are “a catharsis, leave behind the past and move on,” she said.

And leave behind they did. There are medals, hats, clothing, pictures, and stranger things like a suede bikini or a full motorcycle. The motorcycle was from a veteran’s group in Wisconsin, commemorating the 35 missing in action soldiers from that state, and the bikini had a medal pinned to it. “No explanation or anything,” Folkerts said. There is also a beret from a South Vietnamese soldier, known as an ARVN, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, with two pictures of the soldier but nothing else.

Throwing the artifacts in a glass enclosed shelf and moving on was not an option for the park service, especially the motorcycle. “We had to make a storage container that rolls,” Folkerts said. There are boxes of other things that she cataloged and stored.

Folkerts is a graduate from the University of Maryland with a degree in archeology, so this collection is part of that realm, but has a few strings attached. Copyright law and the condition of some materials that were “left outside at a memorial,” presented obstacles, especially when things were “personally identifiable,” she said.

The Vietnam War was just one of the elements that made the 1960s such a turbulent decade, and many of the stirred up feelings about the war still continue today.

Folkerts says there are “different opinions,” out there, but makes sure that she and the park service stand clear of any controversies, especially when working with veteran’s groups. “Let the veterans speak for themselves,” she said.

The presentation is part of the “Second Sunday” Program Series held at the museum. According to Susan Inskeep Gray, curator and visitor services manager at the museum. It will be the third Vietnam War-related program the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center has hosted. One dealt with a traveling exhibition of reproduction art works commissioned by the U.S. Army to illustrate the war, and another was the memorial curator at the time. In previous years, attendees shared their experiences and memories of the Vietnam-era at the conclusion of the program.
Helping After Harvey

Give locally in Texas; give money not stuff.

The scenes of devastation from Hurricane Harvey in Texas will prompt many generous people to contribute to immediate relief efforts. First, a reminder to give money, not stuff. The organizations on the ground need money now to address particular needs.

As a local paper, it fair to say that if we had a similar disaster here in Northern Virginia, we would want donated money to go to local organizations that understand local needs, rules, supply chains, etc. Give locally.

Houston Food Bank
Displaced families and individuals will need to be fed for a long time.
Donate online www.houstonfoodbank.org 535 Portwall St.
Houston, TX 77029
713-223-3700

Greater Houston Community Foundation
Will coordinate the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund to accept tax deductible flood relief donations for victims that have been affected by the recent floods.
Donate online ghcf.org
5120 Woodway Dr.
Suite 6000
Houston, TX 77056
713-333-2200

The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County
Tens of thousands of people in and around Houston will be newly homeless as the floods recede.
Donate online www.homelesshouston.org
2000 Crawford Street, Suite 700
Houston, TX 77002
713-739-7514
www.homelesshouston.org/take-action/donate/

Houston Humane Society
Donate online at www.houstonhumane.org www.houstonhumane.org/(Give)/giving/general-donation
14700 Almeda Road
Houston, TX 77053
713-433-6421

San Antonio Humane Society
Is housing pets of people displaced by Harvey who are taking shelter at the AT&T Center or other places in San Antonio.
Donate online at sahumane.org
4804 Fredericksburg Road
San Antonio, TX 78229
210-226-7461 or 210-518-9742.

Austin Pets Alive!
This rescue group partners with local rescues. Austin Pets Alive! has been helping shelters in the direct line of Hurricane Harvey. They’ve transported more than 330 animals to shelters here in Texas.
Donate online www.austinpetalive.org/donate/donate-now/ or visit austinpetalive.org/hurricane-harvey-evacuations/

#CallTextLive A Hashtag to Remember

By Wendy Gradison
CEO, PRS, Inc.

It’s been a tough year in Northern Virginia as youth and young adult suicides reared their heads, communities and schools. Many adult family members, friends, neighbors and colleagues were lost to suicide as well. In the aftermath, lives were cut short and so much promise left unrealized.

Suicide, a serious issue locally and nationally that claims the lives of 44,000 people annually, is the 10th leading cause of death nationwide and second leading cause for people aged 15-24.

At PRS, Inc., a nonprofit that runs Northern Virginia’s crisis hotline and textline, we are marking September’s Suicide Prevention Month by launching the #CallTextLive Campaign. We’ve teamed up with Connection Newspapers for this third annual campaign to engage the community in discussing suicide and encouraging people to get help by calling or texting a hotline.

Commentary

American Values

To the Editor:
The following open letter was addressed to Republican gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie.

On Aug. 11 and 12, we saw violence and hate we hoped we would never again witness on American soil. In Charlottesville, Neo-Nazis and white supremacists took to the streets, marched with torches, gave Nazi salutes, shouted that Jews “will not replace them,” chanted the Fascist slogan “Blood and Soil,” proclaimed white supremacy, and murdered a woman who was brave enough to stand up to them. Then, instead of clearly rejecting this evil, the President of the United States twice defended those marching with the very Neo-Nazis who unleashed this deadly violence on one of Virginia’s greatest cities.

After President Trump’s press conferences, we were left shocked and then deeply saddened. Let’s be clear. “Very fine people” don’t march with people who are holding Nazi flags and chanting anti-Semitic slogans. We were heartened to see, in the wake of Donald Trump’s horrifying comments, that leaders in both parties came together to reject hate and renew our nation’s founding principles of equality and inclusiveness. But instead of joining these leaders — including many prominent Republicans — we understand you have refused to speak out against the President’s re-action to Charlottesville.

As Jewish members of the Virginia General Assembly, we write you because, as Virginians and Jews, we find your failure to denounce the President’s reaction to Nazism deeply disheartening. As Virginians and Jews for whom the nation’s founding principles are not only a matter of faith, but a matter of survival, we urge you to condemn his remarks.

Virginia is for Lovers!
Virginia is for lovers of peace, equality and inclusiveness. But instead of joining these leaders — including many prominent Republicans — we understand you have refused to speak out against the President’s reaction to Charlottesville.

We urge you to condemn his remarks.

Letters to the Editor

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Making the transition from summer to the classroom.

By Marilyn Campbell

As children savor the last days of summer, many families are gearing up for the start of a new school year. From first day anxiety to new bedtime routines, local educators offer suggestions for a seamless transition to the classroom.

“I have always loved the rhythms of the school calendar because of the beginnings and endings and the possibilities for reflection and a chance to refresh and renew...” said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University. “I think the ritual of back-to-school shopping, whether that means a new binder and notebook, a new backpack, or a pair of new sneakers ... remains important for us because it offers opportunity to think about school anew.”

The start of a new school year is an ideal time to help children set reasonable expectations, an important concept for high school students who begin to manage an increasing amount of responsibility and must learn to create a balance in their lives, says Best. “Put things in perspective,” she said. “Sometimes the goals [that are] focused on personal growth, like learning how to advocate for yourself with a teacher, or navigating the halls, are as important as identifying academic milestones.”

“The ritual of back-to-school shopping offers an opportunity to think about school anew,” says Amy Best of George Mason University.

“Consider easing into the early morning routine by adjusting your sleep schedules several days before school starts with progressively earlier wake up times,” said Aiken. “Building the routine before the first day of school will help the adjustment on day one.”

“In the week before the school year begins, families should revisit the expectations for bedtime and morning routines and choose an evening and following morning to practice the routines,” said Jalene Spain Thomas, Lower School Director St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School in Alexandria. “Children will appreciate knowing that the new routine for this school year includes a slightly later bedtime or more time for independent reading or shared reading with a parent.”

For younger students, separation anxiety may become an issue as they move into a parent-free environment each day, says Aiken. “In these cases, contact the school and establish a go-to adult for your child to talk to in the event they miss you too much during the day,” he said.

Focus on the positives about a child’s school environment can help ease anxiety. “Younger students may want to draw a picture of what they think their school nights, and extracurricular activities can be seen by everyone in the family.”

“Parents, remember to take some time for yourselves in those early days,” said Aiken. “If you’re feeling overwhelmed, it’s okay to take some time to decompress.”

“For reflection and a chance to refresh and renew...” said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University.
Democratic-Endorsed School Board Candidate Wins

Keys-Gamarra overcomes Republican-advantage in low-turnout August.

By Michael Lee Pope
The Connection

guardian ad litem and Fairfax County Planning Commission member Karen Keys-Gamarra swamped Republican Chris Grisafe and two other candidates in a special election this week, one that Democrats say is a sign of strength for their party heading into the fall. The seat was vacated by Republican-endorsed former School Board member Jeanette Hough in May, days before the deadline for the race to be on the ballot in November. Democrats cried foul, attacking the Republicans throughout the campaign for trying to rig the vote by engineering an August special election so the voters would be older and whiter and ostensibly more inclined to vote Republican than the much larger pool of voters in November.

“It backfired,” said at-large School Board member Ryan McElveen, adding that the cost to taxpayers was about $300,000 for the special election. “That was a message that voters in Virginia’s most populous county, which has pockets of poverty scattered around some of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the county. Supporters say that was the right message for an at-large seat on the School Board, which represents all of the county.

“Karen was really focused on this issue of equity,” said Tamara Derenak Kaufax, who represents the Lee District on the School Board. “She understands that poverty brings challenges, and that was something she talked about at every campaign appearance.”

Some Democrats were worried that the controversy surrounding the recent vote on renaming J.R.B. Stuart High School might undermine Keys-Gamarra, who agreed with those wanting to change the name. But as the precinct numbers rolled in Tuesday night, it became clear that issue might not have been the flashpoint some had feared. Democrats were closely watching precints like Belvedere and Barcroft for a sense that voters there might be pushing back against the move to strip the high school of its controversial Confederate name.

“If there was going to be a backlash, that’s where you would have seen it,” said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). “But she won those precincts.”

Campaign manager Peter Dougherty acknowledged that turnout for the August special election was low compared to November. But he said the numbers in this week exceeded his expectations, which he assumed would be maybe 6 percent or 7 percent of registered voters. Instead turnout was closer to 10 percent. Keys-Gamarra ended up with more than 41,000 votes — 64 percent, almost doubling the turnout of her Republican-endorsed opponent. Dougherty said she was surprised to see his candidate win in precincts like Fairfax Station, which is traditionally GOP territory.

“I think this shows that Democrats are really excited right now,” said Dougherty. “Voters wanted someone who would stand up to what we saw in Charlottesville, and I think Karen’s message was the antidote to that.”

ELECTION RESULTS

Karen Keys-Gamarra: 41,436 votes, 64 percent
Chris Grisafe: 21,315 votes, 33 percent
Michael Devon: 1,408 votes, 2 percent
Sandria Allen: 787 votes, 1 percent

students deserve the same opportunities no matter what ZIP code they live in. That was a message that resonated with voters in Virginia’s most populous county, which has pockets of poverty scattered around some of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the county. Supporters say that was the right message for an at-large seat on the School Board, which represents all of the county.

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ON THE CAMPAIGN trail, Keys-Gamarra focused on a theme of leveling the playing field for students across the county. She would frequently say that all

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday.

THURSDAY/AUG. 31
Hometown Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Jojo Bayless Band performs. Hometown Thursdays is an opportunity to meet up with friends, grab dinner at one of the many restaurants in downtown, and listen to great music. Free. Family-friendly event for all ages.

FRIDAY/SEP. 1
Photo Exhibition, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. “Over There: Americans in World War I” a traveling exhibition from the National Archives and Records Administration showcases photographs from the battle fronts in France, Italy, and Russia, and supply and support operations behind the lines, and the Paris Peace Conference, open through Oct. 20. Group guided tours available upon request, $25. Call 703-385-8414.

DJ Music and Golf, 7-10 p.m. at Top Golf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Music by DJ Sway. Call 703-924-2609.

Music on the Plaza, 7 p.m. at Town Plaza, 9553 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Main Street Clarinet Quartet performs. Performances are free. Call 703-385-7858.

Bingo, 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department hosts smoke-free Bingo (with breaks for our smoking friends). Visit www.fairfaxvd.org or call 703-273-3638.

SEPT. 3-4
Model Train Shows, noon-5 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Labor Day Weekend, The Potomac Model Crew members will have HO Scale and others will have a LEGO Model Train Show. Museum members, free; adults over 16 and over, $4; children 5-15, $2, under 4, free. Visit www.fairfaxstation.org or call 703-425-9225.

SEPT. 6-30
The Trawick Prize Art Exhibit. Burke artist Michele Montalbano named as one of the finalists for the Trawick Prize. Various times at at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Finalists artwork is on display Sept. 6-30. Call 301-215-7990.

FRIDAY/SEP. 8

SEPT. 9-10
Burke Centre Festival, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Burke Conservancy, 5060 Burke Center Parkway. Arts and crafts, live shows, rides, face painting, and festival foods. Visit www.burkecentreweb.com.

SEPT. 9-20
Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Various times and locations, more than 50 different events take place at more than 20 venues across Northern Virginia. Call 703-403-5360 or visit www.nvso.us.

SUNDAY/SEP. 10
Community Welcome Picnic, noon-2 p.m. in front of United Methodist Church, 8508 Hoes Road, Springfield. Everyone is invited to a community welcome picnic with burgers, hot dogs, and all kinds of side dishes, along with live music by Bob Perilla’s Big Hillbilly Bluegrass Band and fun activities for children of all ages. Free. Call 703-453-8223 or visit sydenstrickerumc.org.

Tech Babies Storytelling Show, 5 p.m. at Episcycle Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Jessica Piscitelli Robinson presents a fun, 45-minute story about experiences trying to make a baby, when the tried and true method failed. $10. Visit www.bettersaidthandone.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEP. 13
Shawna Caspi in Concert, 7:30 p.m. at the Episcycle Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Performing in support of her fourth album Forest Fire, which is being released on Sept. 1.

THURSDAY/SEP. 14
Acoustic Soul Concert, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive. Part of Hometown Thursdays with local bands from the Fairfax Area. Call 703-385-7888.

Artist Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Art League Artwalk will be having a reception at the Old Town Hall. Meet the featured artist. Call 703-587-0481 or visit www.fairfaxartleague.net.

FRIDAY/SEP. 15
Music on the Plaza, 7.8 p.m. at Town Plaza, 9553 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Live music and dance to relax by, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7858.

Bingo, 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Smoke-free Bingo. Visit fairfaxvd.org, or call 703-273-3638.

SATURDAY/SEP. 16
Outdoor Yoga, 8-9 a.m. at Old Town Plaza, 3-6 S. Beauregard Street. Free. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat and water bottle. Call 703-385-7858.

Oktobefest, Walks, Bike Ride. 8 a.m. at Acolith Unitarian Universalist Church (AUUC), 10125 Lakehaven Court. German food and drinks will be available for purchase while enjoying traditional German music. Free. Visit www.auuc.org or email nicolebrowns@verizon.net.

Birds for the World, 9 a.m. noon at Saint Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sibleton Road, Fairfax. Bring usable/repairable bikes and spare parts for shipment to poverty areas of the world. Contact Cathy at 703-307- 5512, cat.gainer@gmail.com or Brian at 703-745-7377, LBBAKEITH@gmail.com.
News

Escape Room Opens
FROM PAGE 4

To illustrate, in Save the White House, players search for a bomb, save the president and try to escape. In Survive the Joker’s Trap, the best game for team building, players literally start chained to chairs. In Escape from Venus, players restart their spaceship’s emergency power. It’s perfect for two people. There’s also a mobile game called Jail Bus where players avoid a life sentence by breaking out of the transfer bus. The bus actually drives to parties, work or events in the area.

THE ONE-HOUR GAMES can accommodate 6-10 people in one room or a 2.5 hour party of 33-50 guests in all of the rooms. Games are geared to all ages; and children as young as 6-12 can play versions of The Cure or Save the White House. Three more escape rooms will be added at the end of the year, including a Virtual Reality room, a RGB-themed room, and one theme still to be decided. The business is also expanding to include offices in Bethesda, Md., and Auckland, New Zealand by the end of the year.

Edward Bitzer, Managing Partner of Human Capital Works, which partners with Egor and his team, said “It’s just playing a game, but when you pair it with the right facilitation, the right sort of self-exploratory assessments, it really creates a powerful learning experience that we’re very confident will lead enhanced team productivity and organizational productivity.”

The Room Escape Fairfax is located at 3949A University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Call 703-865-4178. The website is www.RoomEscapeDC.com.

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AARFAX CONNECTION ❖ AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 ❖ 9
**News**

‘Fill the Boot’ with Area Firefighters

By Master Technician Joel Kobersteen
Fire Station 40, Fairfax Center

Labor Day Weekend is almost here which means that Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD) personnel will once again be conducting the Fill the Boot campaign benefiting the Greater Washington Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). This Friday, Sept. 1 through Monday, Sept. 4, watch out for uniformed firefighters with fire apparatus on display at controlled intersections all over Fairfax County and help us Fill the Boot! Last year we led the United States and Canada collecting $521,509!

Your Fairfax County Firefighters will be hosting an official campaign Kick Off on Thursday, Aug. 31 at 11 a.m. at Fire Station 5 -Franconia.

Every Labor Day Weekend for more than 35 years, firefighters have been at controlled intersections all over Fairfax County asking motorists and pedestrians to Fill the Boot — 100 percent of the donations collected go directly to the Greater Washington MDA that assist families in the Washington, D.C. area living with some of the 43 neuromuscular diseases. Thanks to the generous donations of the citizens and visitors, the personnel of FCFRD, Department of Public Safety Communications and IAFF Local 2068 have provided free of charge for the families. This week also provides a respite for the families from the sometimes 24 hour a day job of caring for a special needs child. This camp is provided free of charge for the families.

❖ The MDA clinic at Georgetown University Hospital and Children’s National Medical Center. This “one stop shop” allows those with neuromuscular disease to see all of their specialists, such as the cardiologist, neurologist, pulmonologist, occupational therapist and many others in one location. This alleviates the need to make appointments and travel throughout the Washington, D.C. area to the many medical professionals that they see on a regular basis.

❖ Research at the National Institutes of Health and Georgetown University, so, one day, we will not need to Fill the Boot again!

❖ Programs designed to help people with neuromuscular disease live, go to school and work independently.

Joel Kobersteen is Coordinator - Fairfax County Fill the Boot Campaign.
turbulent. The events in Charlottesville recall the darkest moments in both the history of this country and the Jewish people. What we saw on Friday and Saturday was an assault on our democratic society and the very values this country was founded upon. Yet the President of the United States, the leader of our country, has not once but twice defended those who would march with the Nazi Nazis and their ilk.

Our country at its best has been a beacon of hope and safety for all peoples. Hundreds of thousands gave their lives so that the forces that destroyed Europe would never set foot on American soil. President Trump’s reaction to Charlottesville represented a betrayal of that noble legacy and our core American values.

Donald Trump is the leader of your party. Your refusal to speak out against him is a colossal failure of leadership, a moral abdication, and deeply troubling to Virginia’s Jewish community. We urge you to break your silence and immediately denounce Donald Trump’s harmful and inadequate response to the Charlottesville attack.

We are living through a moral reckoning, a time when all citizens of our great commonwealth and nation are called to defend the most fundamental values of our democracy. We ask you to immediately stand up, loudly and clearly, against those who would condone violence and hatred.

As Americans, Jews, and Virginians, we urge you to join us and immediately condemn the President’s dog-whistle defense of Nazism.


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.

SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. Visit www.rsvpova.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 12

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Lunch 11:30 a.m.-noon at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Presentation on “Healing Loss & Double Loss Survivors and Beyond” by Bonnie O’Keary Outreach Manager, Northern Virginia Outreach Center. $11. Call 703-280-2356 or email rrbarine2@gmail.com.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

ESOL classes. noon-3:30 p.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Day and evening English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes are offered to those who wish to improve their English skills. Call 703-322-5400 for more.

Bathroom Humor

By KENNETH R. LOURIE

I wrote this column in all uncertainty, but what are you asking me for? A rhetorical question if there ever was one. To what I refer is the question I was asked by a friend this morning by one of the home-improvement tradesman working on my upstairs bathroom. Having made significant progress on the upstairs bathroom in the five weeks or so since I published “And So It Begins,” a column detailing the few facts I relaxed about the demolition/remodeling process, I asked him about it. Today’s task was waterproofing the shower enclosure (not preparation of the tile, if I understand correctly. Now, as further context, I know very little about home improvement (car repairs included), but I do speak Spanish. Combine the two, as happened this morning, and you are asking (literally) for trouble.

The waterproofing man arrived at 8:45 a.m. The day before, his boss/presumably the owner, had stopped by for a walk-through and to drop off materials for the job. I thought I would see him again, I was wrong. The only person on the job is the person whose English is better than my Spanish and the only Spanish I know. I know from a cartoon character, “Speedy Gonzales, the fastest mouse in all of Mexico,” “I grew up watching on Saturday morning television. After directing him to the upstairs bathroom, within a few minutes, the man walked downstairs and asked me to follow him back upstairs. I figured there was likely a question that needed answering so immediately I got off the couch to assist.

Once we were both inside the bathroom, he started asking questions about (job wise), I couldn’t even understand what the conversation began, it became clear to me I am not in anybody’s way and I don’t serve any kind of resource other than answering the most basic questions: “Is that the basement door?” “Do you mind if we shut off the water?” “Is there a hardware store nearby?” And so on. I know very little about home improvement (car repairs included), but I do speak Spanish. I barely check their progress. Generally speaking, I only look to see what’s been done after they’ve left. I am not in anybody’s way and I don’t serve any kind of resource other than answering the most basic questions: “Is that the basement door?” “Do you mind if we shut off the water?” “Is there a hardware store nearby?” As such, I am the least-hindrance business.

The man working today is new to the project. He’s not been here before. But I did open the door to them in and did direct him to the upstairs bathroom. For all he knows I’ve experienced so far, I seem to be somewhat helpful. Ego, after a bit, rather than calling his boss, he came back downstairs to solicit my help. Limited though it knew it would be, I was happy to try. As the conversation began, it became clear to me that not only did I know what he was talking about (job wise), I didn’t even understand what it was that he was saying. I was lost in translation and lost in instruction. As I attempted to answer/explain what he was asking while we were both pointing/posturing/talking, I quickly realized that this was a language match not made in heaven. Nevertheless, we eventually came to some sort of an understanding of the task at hand and back downstairs we went.

Sitting on the couch, I began to feel uncomfortable about the instructions I think I had just given/explained. As a result, I considered calling my project manager at home on a Saturday morning to get some clarification/about what I think was just transpiring and it’s all better by my weekend intrusion, and after listening to a condensed version of this column, Stefan assured me that what seemed to be happening here was supposed to be happening. And here I thought outlining my lung cancer prognosis by six plus years was a miracle.

Karen Leavis is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
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