



# Fairfax CONNECTION

## CONNECTION FAMILIES

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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).

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

# Barbecue, Baked Beans and Fun

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## Democratic-Endorsed Candidate Wins School Board Election

NEWS, PAGE 8

## Come Check Out All these Wheels

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Remodeled Home Tour in Arlington!

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BEFORE

## AREA ROUNDUPS

### 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.

#### FAITH NOTES

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

**Burke Presbyterian Church,** 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 6 p.m. [www.BurkePresChurch.org](http://www.BurkePresChurch.org).

## Get a First Look at Our Upcoming Community

Join us for a tour of our upcoming community in Burke VA that is taking shape on the historic grounds of Silas Burke House. See our newly decorated model suites and, while you're here, meet our friendly team and enjoy light refreshments.



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#### At Sunrise at Silas Burke House, we'll offer:

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[SunriseSilasBurkeHouse.com/Fairfax](http://SunriseSilasBurkeHouse.com/Fairfax)



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Thousands thronged to the Labor Day Car Show in the City of Fairfax, last year.



Glen Wright checks out this spiffy, 1934 Ford at the 2016 Labor Day Car Show in Fairfax.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

# Come Check Out All these Wheels Labor Day Car Show returns to Fairfax.

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 noontime 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 Armstrong Street 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 from 6 a.m.-4 p.m.

It's the Lions Club's 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 lo-

cal 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, Kena 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 good 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, noontime 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 Old Town Fairfax will be open, and discount coupons for some of them will be available via [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov), at the car-



Map of the upcoming Labor Day Car Show.

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](http://www.labordaycarshow.org). We expect more City of Fairfax business 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 Man-

ager Bob Sisson and Cultural Arts and Marketing Director Jo 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 NASCAR 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 Morrisette 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."

COURTESY OF KELLY O'BRIEN



Members of the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce play a game looking for clues in The White House Room at Room Escape Fairfax.



Egor Bond and his wife Anna of Room Escape Fairfax.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

# Room Escape Fairfax Debuts

## Central Fairfax Chamber holds mixer for grand-opening ceremony.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**D**ozens 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 Central Fairfax Chamber's ribbon-cutting ceremony for grand opening of the Room Escape Fairfax, which specializes in mind-challenging games, was held on Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017, at its location at 3949A University Drive, Fairfax.

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

SEE ESCAPE ROOM, PAGE 9



Jeff White, commander of American Legion Post 177, fills his plate with a hamburger, ribs, pulled pork and corn.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

# Barbecue, Baked Beans and Fun

American Legion Post 177 held its annual family picnic Sunday, Aug. 20, in Fairfax.



The American Legion's Luke Munson slices up long pork ribs to serve.



Stella Kesner, 2, explores a fire engine while Firefighter/Paramedic Kathryn Schmidt looks on.



From left: Firefighter/Paramedics Louis Glazer and Kathryn Schmidt and Firefighter Chris Butters, of Fire Station 3, pose beside their fire engine before rushing off on a call.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**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

### Details

Sunday, Sept. 10, Janet Folkerts, curator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection, will present "The 35th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial," sharing stories of the artifacts left at the Memorial and the soldiers they honor and memorialize. Vietnam Memorial Lecture, 2 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Free. Call 703-385- 8414 for more.

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 Inskip 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.



## Join us for coffee & conversation. Fairfax Divorce Workshop.

### Support. Information. Hope.

**Date:** Saturday, September 9, 2017  
Saturday, October 14, 2017  
Saturday, November 11, 2017

**Time:** 9:00-9:30 a.m. – Registration  
9:30-1:00 p.m. – Workshop

**Place:** Duff Kronfeld & Marquardt P.C.  
Fair Oaks Commerce Center 11320  
Random Hills Road/Suite 630 Fairfax, VA 22030

Please join us for coffee at our Second Saturday Divorce Workshop and get the information and support from professionals: a family law attorney, a financial advisor, a family therapist, a private investigator, an estate planning attorney and other professionals who will help guide you through the divorce process. Speakers vary for each workshop.

Registration at the door; however, pre-registration is recommended as space is limited.

Online Registration: [www.secondsaturdaynova.com](http://www.secondsaturdaynova.com)  
Email: [nancy@secondsaturdaynova.com](mailto:nancy@secondsaturdaynova.com)  
Phone: (703) 591-7475

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The Clifton Lions Club and the City of Fairfax present the

# 18th Annual LABOR DAY CAR SHOW

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Jim Chesley | 703-830-2129  
Go to [www.labordaycarshow.org](http://www.labordaycarshow.org) or email [jchesley@aol.com](mailto:jchesley@aol.com)

# OPINION

## Helping After Harvey

### Give locally in Texas; give money not stuff.

**T**he 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

#### EDITORIAL

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.homelesshouston.org)  
2000 Crawford Street, Suite 700  
Houston, TX 77002  
713-739-7514  
[www.homelesshouston.org/take-action/donate/](http://www.homelesshouston.org/take-action/donate/)

#### Houston Humane Society

Donate online at [www.houstonhumane.org](http://www.houstonhumane.org)  
[www.houstonhumane.org/\(Give\)/giving/general-donation](http://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](http://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 their shelter and are expecting hundreds more.

Donate online [www.austinpetsalive.org/donate/donate-now/](http://www.austinpetsalive.org/donate/donate-now/) or visit [austinpetsalive.org/hurricane-harvey-evacuations/](http://austinpetsalive.org/hurricane-harvey-evacuations/)

## #CallTextLive — A Hashtag to Remember

BY WENDY GRADISON  
CEO, PRS, INC.

**I**t's been a tough year in Northern Virginia as youth and young adult suicides bereaved families, 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.

#### COMMENTARY

Suicide, a serious issue locally and nationally that claims the lives of 44,000 people annually, is the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### 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 reaction 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 dis

using #CallTextLive. We have t-shirts available for purchase for PRS Selfie Day. We also encourage the community to join the PRS team (with #CallTextLive t-shirts) for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Fairfax Walk on Sept. 16 and the NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) NOVA and Loudoun Walks, which are both taking place Sept. 23.

For every death, 278 people manage to move past thoughts of suicide and survive. PRS supports this through its CrisisLink program, which handled nearly 34,000 crisis calls and exchanged over 33,000 crisis text messages from the Northern Virginia region last year. Any time of the day or night, the PRS CrisisLink Hotline can be reached at 800-273-TALK [8255] and the textline by texting "CONNECT" to 85511.

Making a call or sending a text to PRS CrisisLink saves lives. Removing the stigma around reaching out, discussing issues that contribute to suicide and encouraging people to get help is key. By participating in #CallTextLive, we can turn up the volume, and make it OK to have a conversation, make a call or send a text.

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Fairfax  
**CONNECTION**

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## CONNECTION FAMILIES

# Time for School

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."

"It's useful to revisit points of struggle and perhaps more importantly, triumphs from the previous year. Reminding a student how they successfully managed a difficult issue is helpful," said Best.

Gone are the days of staying up late and sleeping in the next day. A healthy bedtime routine must be re-established gradually, advises Sean Aiken, head of school, BASIS Independent McLean.

"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 bedtimes 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, con-



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

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

tact 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.

Focusing 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 new classroom will look like," said Thomas. "Older

students may enjoy writing a list of what they hope to accomplish in the school year that the family opens together in January."

Start with an organized workspace and shared family calendar to keep the family organized from day one, advises Aiken. "Folders and binders for home organizational systems are just as important as those your child will bring to school," he said. "Post a large calendar in a common area of the home so early due dates, back to 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, too," said Aiken. "You've worked hard all summer arranging camps, play dates, and other great activities. Maybe it's time to take a long lunch break together or catch a cheap matinee once you're safely assured that you children are off and running in their new learning adventures."

### Pender Hill Preschool 2017-2018 School Year

Openings are still available for 3's, 4's and Pre-k

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**Karen Keys-Gamarra celebrates at her victory party at the Elks Lodge in Pine Ridge.**



PHOTO BY  
MICHAEL LEE POPE

# Democratic-Endorsed School Board Candidate Wins

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

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**G**uardian 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 became the narrative, and it's what people were talking about."

After it was clear that she had won more than 60 percent of the vote, Keys-Gamarra arrived to a raucous crowd of campaign volunteers and party faithful assembled at the Elks Lodge in Pine Ridge. Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam introduced the victorious Democrat with a speech that some in the crowd compared to the kind of delivery popularized by professional wrestlers, a newfound sense of ebullience for the typically buttoned-down candidate for governor. Keys-Gamarra thanked those who worked on her campaign without the benefit of a list, which she said she said she had been too busy to write.

"Today is so much bigger than me," said Keys-Gamarra. "This sends a message that every student, every citizen, deserves a voice."

**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

## ELECTION RESULTS

- ❖ Karen Keys-Gamarra: 41,436 votes, 64 percent
- ❖ Chris Grisafe: 21,315 votes, 33 percent
- ❖ Michael Owens: 1,408 votes, 2 percent
- ❖ Sandra 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 parts 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.E.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 precincts 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 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 he 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."

## ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnews.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnews.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday.

Virginia. Call 703-403-5360 or visit [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us).

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 10

**Community Welcome Picnic.** noon-2 p.m. at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield. Everyone is invited to a community welcome picnic with burgers and hotdogs with 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 703-451-8223 or visit [sydenstrickerumc.org](http://sydenstrickerumc.org).

**Vietnam Memorial Lecture.** 2 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "The 35 th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial," Janet Folkerts, curator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection, will share stories of the artifacts left at the Memorial and the soldiers they honor and memorialize. Free. Call 703-385-8414.

**Tech Babies Storytelling Show.** 5 p.m. at Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Jessica Piscitelli Robinson presents an hour long story about experiences trying to make a baby, when the tried and true method failed. \$10. Visit [www.bettersaidhandone.com/](http://www.bettersaidhandone.com/).

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 13

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

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 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 703-385-7858.

**Artist Reception.** 7-9 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Art League will be having a reception at the Old Town Hall Gallery, meet the featured artist. Call 703-587-9481 or visit [www.fairfaxartleague.net](http://www.fairfaxartleague.net).

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 15

**Music on the Plaza.** 7-8 p.m. at Old Town Plaza, 3955 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 [fairfaxvfd.com](http://fairfaxvfd.com), or call 703-273-3638.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

**Outdoor Yoga.** 8-9 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Yoga by Pure Om. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat and water bottle. Free. Call 703-385-7858.

**Oktoberfest, Walks, Bike Ride.** 8 a.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church (AUUC), 10125 Lakehaven Court. German food and drinks will be available for purchase while enjoying traditional German music. Free. Visit [scenicroutes.us/nvv/events](http://scenicroutes.us/nvv/events) or email [nicebrowns@verizon.net](mailto:nicebrowns@verizon.net).

**Bikes for the World.** 9 a.m.-noon at Saint Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Bring usable/repairable bikes and spare parts for shipment to poverty stricken areas of the world. Contact Cathy at 703-307-5512, [cat.gaiser@gmail.com](mailto:cat.gaiser@gmail.com) or Brian at 703-764-3845, [LBBAKEITH@gmail.com](mailto:LBBAKEITH@gmail.com).

### 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/SEPT. 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, supply and support operations behind the lines, and the Paris Peace Conference, open through Oct. 20. Group guided tours available by reservation, \$25. Call 703-385-8414.

**DJ Music and Golf.** 7-10 p.m. at Top Golf, 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Music by Sway DJ. Call 703-924-2600.

**Music on the Plaza.** 7 p.m. at Old Town Plaza, 3955 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.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or 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 Module Crew members will have HO Scale and others will have a LEGO Model Train Show. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.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/SEPT. 8

**Movie Under the Moon.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Featuring "The Sandlot," starts at 7:30. Free. Visit [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov).

### SEPT. 9-10

**Burke Centre Festival.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Burke Conservancy, 6060 Burke Centre Parkway. Arts and crafts, live shows, rides, face painting, and festival foods. Visit [www.burkecentreweb.com](http://www.burkecentreweb.com).

### SEPT. 9-20

**Northern Virginia Senior Olympics.** Various times and locations, more than 50 different events taking place at more than 25 venues across Northern

# NEWS

## Escape Room Opens

FROM PAGE 4

pens here.”  
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 KGB-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](http://www.RoomEscapeDC.com).



**Egor Bond chats with Yoko Yau, Gauri Chandak, and Ravann Sowa of the CPA firm of Homes, Lowry, Horn and Johnson Ltd. of Fairfax.**



**From left: Doug Church, President of the Central Fairfax Chamber; Jeff Greenfield, Fairfax City Councilman; and Egor Bond, CEO of Room Escape Fairfax.**

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**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 been honored to be the highest collecting municipality in the United States and Canada for eight of the last 10 years. We also could not do this without the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Retirement As-

sociation and Fairfax County Police Department who provide important support behind the scenes.

Greater Washington MDA uses these donations to help fund such items as:

- ❖ The annual week long MDA Children's Summer Camp where children from 6 to 17 years old can have a "typical" camp experience with their peers. They enjoy swimming, boating, zip line, crafts, a talent show and many other activities all tailored to their specific disability. 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 their 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.

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Gladieux LLC trading as Board & Brush Fairfax, 11215 Lee Highway, Suite J, Fairfax, VA 22030-5660. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Art Instruction Studio License to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Raquel Gladieux, owner authorizing advertisement. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

**Legals**

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Freal Image Inc. trading as The Salsa Room, 1524 Spring Hill Rd. Ste ME, McLean, Fairfax, VA 22102. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On Premises & Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Victor Villarreal, Corporate Secretary. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

# LETTER

FROM PAGE 6

turbing. 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 Neo-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 hateful 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.

Senate Democratic Leader **Dick Saslaw**, Sen. **Adam Ebbin**, Del. **Eileen Filler-Corn**, Del. **Marcus Simon**, and Del. **Mark Levine**

## BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://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](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. Visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.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 "Hearing Loss & Hearing Aids-Beware and Be Wise" by Bonnie O'Leary Outreach Manager, Northern Virginia Outreach Center. \$11. Call 703-280-2356 or email [rrharney2@gmail.com](mailto:rrharney2@gmail.com).

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

**ESOL classes.** noon-7:30 p.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Day and evening English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes open to those who wish to improve their English skills. Call 703-323-5400 for more.

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## Bathroom Humor



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I write this column in all sincerity, 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 earlier this morning by one of the home-improvement tradesman working on my upstairs bathroom. Having made significant progress on the bathroom in the five weeks or so since I published "And So It Begins," a column detailing the few facts I retained about the demolition/renovation and the anxiety I felt about it, today's task was waterproofing the shower enclosure/bathroom floor in preparation for the tile, if I understand correctly. Now, as further context, I know very little about home improvement (car repairs, computer technology, lawn and garden; shall I go on?). Moreover, I know very little 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/motioned for 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 pointing to the walls (front, back and sides), ceiling, niche and planned-for bench within the enclosure, to ask for - so far as I could understand, what needed to be waterproofed (I'll spare you any details about the process since I'm unlikely to do so accurately). Now, other than asking the project manager Simple-Simon-type questions about what is going on, what has gone on (literally and figuratively) and what is planned to be going on, I am out of any kind of loop. The workmen come in. I point them upstairs. Then I go into my office and mind my own business. I rarely 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 as 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-bit helpful.

The man working today is new to me/the project. He's not been here before. But I did open the door to let him in and I did direct him to the upstairs bathroom. For all he knows/has experienced so far, I seem to be somewhat helpful. Ergo, after a bit, rather than calling his boss, he came back downstairs to solicit my help. Limited though I knew it would be, I was happy to try. As the conversation began, it became clear to me that not only did I not know what he was talking about (job wise), I couldn't even understand what it was that he was saying. I was lost in translation and lost in intention. As I attempted to answer/explain/guess what he was asking while we were both pointing/gesturing/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 I went.

Sitting on the couch, I began to feel uncomfortable about the instructions I think I had just given/agreed to. As a result, I considered calling my project manager at home on a Saturday morning to get some clarity/confirmation about what I think had just transpired upstairs. Not at all bothered 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 outliving my lung cancer prognosis by six-plus years was a miracle.

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

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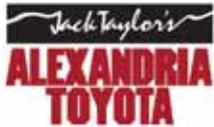
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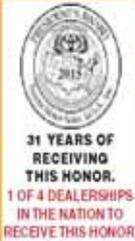
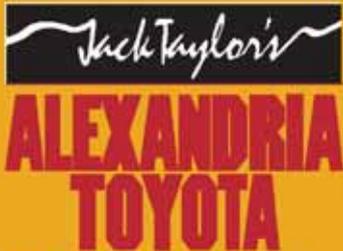
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