

city scene

JANUARY 2022

Happy New Year

2022



Councilmembers Tom Ross and Jon Stehle, Dale Lestina, Mayor David Meyer, Councilmembers Janice Miller and Joe Harmon.

Dale Lestina Recognized for Lifetime Service to City

At a ceremony in Fairfax City Hall on Dec. 5, 2021, Mayor David Meyer presented Dale Lloyd Lestina, 85, with the Fairfax Award, the city's highest recognition for public service. More than 50 friends, neighbors, colleagues, and family members celebrated Lestina's impactful accomplishments. Memories were

shared, stories were told, and Lestina was honored for his endless efforts to improve the quality of life for his neighbors in Mosby Woods and for people throughout the city.

"It's a very big honor," Lestina said of receiving the award. "Fairfax City is a wonderful place to live and raise a family."

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Village Advisory Board Members Sought

The Fairfax Village in the City steering committee will become an advisory board consisting of nine to 15 members serving three-year terms. The advisory board will include representatives from key stakeholder groups/organizations along with three at-large members appointed by the City Council.

The advisory board's responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- **Mission:** Support the mission of the Village and participate periodically in strategic planning to review purpose, programs, and priorities.
- **Program Oversight and Support:** Determine and coordinate all support services provided by

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CITY NEWS

Holiday Closure and Service Information

Saturday, Jan. 1 New Year's Day

- Closed: Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, Historic Blenheim
- CUE Bus: no service

Monday, Jan. 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

- Closed: city government offices, DMV Select services, General District Court
- Open: Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center
- CUE Bus: modified weekday schedule

Holiday Refuse & Recycling Collection Schedule

- Jan 17: no service
- Jan. 18: Monday and Tuesday routes collected

Please note: there may be a delay in yard debris collection citywide Jan. 17-22. Please leave items at the curb until they are collected. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Refuse Holiday"), 703-385-7837

Dog License Changes, Jan. 1

All dogs age four months and older who live in Fairfax City must be vaccinated against rabies and have a city dog license. Lifetime city dog licenses are available from the Treasurer's Office. Beginning Jan. 1, lifetime dog tags will cost \$20. Dog owners who previously purchased multi-year dog licenses must transition to lifetime licenses in 2022. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "dog license")*

Do Not Use Plastic Bags for Yard Waste Disposal

In June 2021, City Council passed a law banning the use of plastic bags for curbside disposal of yard waste. To help households transition to the new rule, penalties for use of plastic bags were suspended through March 31.

Residents should promptly begin using paper bags, twine, or refuse receptacles for curbside yard waste debris. Beginning April 1, plastic bags will not be collected. *Info: refuserecycling@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7837*

Prepare for Winter Weather

This winter, be prepared: have a plan for managing snowfall, ice, utility outages, property damage, and other issues. Check out these resources for city news and information:

- Website: fairfaxva.gov
- Fairfax City Alert (on city website, click on City Alert)
- Facebook and Twitter: @CityofFairfaxVA

Visit fairfaxva.gov/oem for more information on emergency preparedness.

Home Heating Assistance Available

City residents who need help with heating bills this winter may apply for Fairfax County Family Services Crisis Assistance through March 15. Crisis assistance can be used to pay bills for utilities that are in danger of being disconnected. *Info: fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/public-assistance-employment-services*

Stay Green This Winter: Recycle Holiday Greenery

Give your live trees, garland, and wreaths a chance to keep on giving: Fairfax City refuse customers may place these items and all other live holiday greenery at the curb on their collection day. Remember to remove ornaments, tinsel, wires, and other such elements, so the greenery can be made into mulch.

Proposed Changes to Gold CUE Bus Route

Minor modifications to the Gold CUE Bus route have been proposed to serve residents living in new developments at Fairfax Circle and Layton Hall Drive. A public hearing is slated for Feb. 8. Route changes would be implemented in August if approved. Visit cuebus.org for more information.

FAIRFAX CITY CLIPS

If you enjoy *Cityscene*, you'll love our e-newsletter, *City Clips*. Subscribe today. Scan the QR code, below, or follow the *Stay Connected!* prompt on fairfaxva.gov.



2021 Commercial Recycling Reports Due March 1

City business owners must submit their annual commercial recycling reports to the city electronically between January 1 and March 1 using a form on the city website. The report details actual or estimated weight or volume of recycled materials provided by the business' recycling vendors. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Commercial Recycling Report")*

Composting: It's Not Just for Breakfast Anymore

Composting is the most efficient and earth-friendly way to rid your household of rotten leftovers and food scraps. The City of Fairfax Composting Center accepts nearly all food, thanks to a special process that breaks down bones, oils, and other foods not typically recommended for backyard composting.

Blood Drive, Jan. 7

Support your community in the most fundamental way: donate blood. From 1-5:30 p.m. Jan. 7, the Inova Services Bloodmobile will be at the Fairfax City Police Station, 3730 Old Lee Highway. To schedule an appointment, call 866-BLOOD-SAVES, or visit the city website calendar for online appointment access.

COUNCIL REPORTER

PLEASE NOTE: summaries have been edited. To read the full Council Reporter, visit fairfaxva.gov and click on "City Meetings."

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF NOVEMBER 9, 2021

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of approval of a contract amendment for professional engineering and related services for development of detailed engineering plans for Old Lee Highway (Phase II) (after discussion); Introduction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 90 (Taxation), Article II (Real Property Taxes) to add a new Division 5 pertaining to a new solar energy equipment tax exemption (after discussion); Introduction of an ordinance permanently vacating, discontinuing, and closing a portion of city public rights-of-way (part of Cedar Avenue and Walnut Street) (after discussion); Introduction of an appropriation resolution for \$13,973,800 to implement and fund the initial phase of the City of Fairfax American Rescue Plan Act spending plan.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, a supplemental appropriation resolution in the amount of \$3,950,391 to fund the FY22 first quarter non-discretionary expenditures, unbudgeted initiatives, capital program escalation, and FY22 unfunded priorities.
- Approved, unanimously, an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 30 (Elections), Article I (General), to add a new Section 30-2, pertaining to the timing of elections for the Mayor, the Members of the City Council and the Members of the School Board, in accordance with legislation enacted by the 2021 Session of the Virginia General Assembly (moving the municipal general elections from May to November of even-numbered years beginning in 2022, extending the current terms of office to Dec. 31, 2022).
- Motion failed, due to a lack of a second: a proposed resolution requesting the General Assembly amend City Charter Section 3.1 relating to the election of the Mayor, the members of the City Council and, by implication, the members of the School Board (schedule the next municipal general election on November 2023; modify the terms for these offices to four years instead of the current two years; and extend the current terms of office to Dec. 31, 2023).

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, 4-2, the major design features of the Old Lee Highway Multimodal Improvements Project. *(In favor: Councilmembers Lim, Miller, Ross, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmembers Harmon and Yi.)*

Willard-Sherwood Health and Community Center Open Houses

An exciting and innovative project is underway in the heart of Fairfax City that will bring health, wellness, and recreation together on one campus. Fairfax City and Fairfax County are jointly redeveloping the campus at the current location of the Joseph Willard Health Center and



Sherwood Community Center. Once complete, the city-operated community center and a county-operated health and human services center will provide integrated services to both city and county residents.

Open houses have been scheduled at the Sherwood Center to provide opportunities for you to visit with city and county staff to learn about the project, ask questions, and provide input on the planning and design of the new facility.

- 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 22
- 6 - 9 p.m. Jan. 26
- 1 - 4 p.m. Jan. 29

Learn more at fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/willard-sherwood-health-community-center

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approved, unanimously: the October 12, 2021 regular meeting minutes; the October 26, 2021 special meeting minutes; and the October 26, 2021 regular meeting minutes.

CLOSED MEETING

- Closed meeting to discuss acquisition of property for public purposes.


COUNCIL ACTIONS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2021

- Approved, 4-2, introduction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 102 (Utilities) pertaining to the establishment of a stormwater utility, together with a stormwater management enterprise fund, and the imposition of an associated stormwater utility fee. Waived the first reading, and set the public hearing on the ordinance for December 14, 2021. *(In favor: Councilmembers Harmon, Miller, Ross, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmembers Lim and Yi.)*
- Approved, unanimously, introduction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 90 (Taxation), Article II (Real Property Taxes), Division 3 pertaining to tax exemptions for the elderly or disabled, to increase qualifying income levels. Waived the first reading, and set the public hearing on the ordinance for December 14, 2021.

Northern Virginia Clean Water Partners surveyed 500 Northern Virginia residents to understand their current behaviors and attitudes as they relate to managing pet waste, lawn care, and motor oil disposal. These are the results.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA 2021 WATER QUALITY SURVEY

Although the entirety of the Northern Virginia region is in the Potomac River watershed, many Northern Virginians are underinformed about actions they can take to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff.




Where do you believe stormwater goes?

60% of NoVA residents think it eventually ends up in the Potomac River or Chesapeake Bay

AND

Around 40% of NoVA residents either don't know where it goes or believe **it goes to a wastewater treatment plant.**



59% of Northern Virginians feel at least somewhat confident that they would know where to **report potential water pollution.**


BUT ONLY 53% are likely to report water pollution if they saw it.

Although improperly disposed pet waste is a major source of bacteria in stormwater,

About four in ten residents of Northern Virginia feel they are most **prevented from taking action** to protect clean water because they **DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.**



About **1/3** of NoVA residents have seen or received **information about reducing water pollution** in the past 12 months.



Permit Compliance Will Improve Water Quality in Streams

When it rains, stormwater runoff flushes everything left on the ground into the nearest waterway. If you have ever walked a stream valley trail after a storm, you've seen the amount of trash and debris that washes into our creeks; plastic bottles, bags, toys, balls – anything that floats – and that's just what you can see. Stormwater runoff also carries lawn chemicals, pet waste, oil, and fuel into our streams. These streams are where children and dogs play, and wildlife lives (and drinks).

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality issues the city a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit that regulates the quality of the stormwater entering streams from the city's stormwater management system. One of the permit requirements is to submit an annual report that describes the city's collective efforts in stormwater management. The report also details the city's progress toward meeting the best management practices for six minimum control measures and total maximum daily load requirements identified in the permit. The city's FY21 report (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021) was received and accepted with no comments or follow-up actions to take.

Meeting the requirements of the permit is a citywide effort. City staff from several departments are involved in erosion and sediment control, facilitating volunteer stream



CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

cleanup events, holding public events such as Earth Day and Arbor Day, reviewing redevelopment plans, investigating illicit discharges of pollutants to storm drains and waterways, and sharing educational materials.

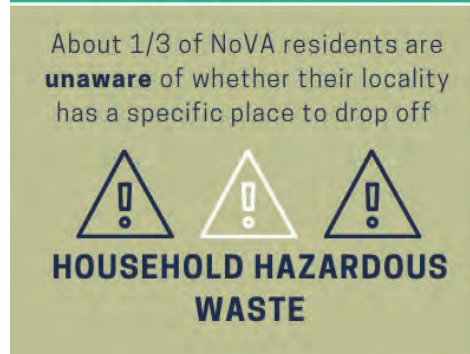
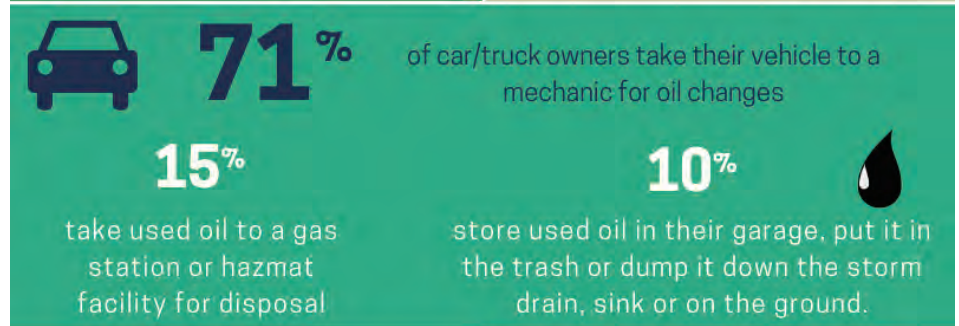
The MS4 permit emphasizes increasing public awareness of stormwater pollution, human impacts to water quality, and local water quality concerns. As a member of the Northern Virginia Clean Water Partners, the city participates in the "Only Rain Down the Storm Drain" initiative. This regional campaign targets the prevention of contamination in local waterways from pet waste, household chemicals, and disposal of waste oil.

The city's stormwater system drains directly to the nearest waterway, not to a wastewater treatment plant. If you see something out of the ordinary in a stream, please report your observation to the Fire Marshal during business hours (703-385-7830, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays), and to police dispatch (703-385-7924) on evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Help Keep Streams Clean and Healthy

- Take household hazardous waste to the I-66 Transfer Station on West Ox Road
- Participate in stream cleanup events
- Pick up pet waste, even in your own yard
- Fertilize lawns in the fall
- Clean your vehicle at a car wash
- Secure trash and recycling on collection days

The FY21 MS4 Annual Report and reports from prior years are published at fairfaxva.gov (search "MS4").



HISTORY PROGRAMS

Uncovering the History of Mantua, Jan. 9

Join author and historian Sue Kovach Shoenberger as she discusses her new book on Mantua: the long historical roots of the mid-century suburb community east of the city. The event will be held at 2 p.m. Jan. 9 at Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, 10209 Main St. The book will be available for sale and signing.

History of Col. John S. Mosby's Operations in Prince William County, Virginia. Jan. 22

Author historians Don Hakenson and Chuck Mauro will talk about their latest book, which serves as a guide to Prince William County historical markers, safe houses, and graves of men associated with the Chinquapin Rangers, the Iron Scouts, and Colonel John S. Mosby. The event will be held at 2 p.m. Jan. 22 at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim. The book will be available for sale and signing.

PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES AT HOME AND AWAY

LOCK TAKE HIDE

YouTube

Subscribe to see what you're missing!
www.youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva

Dale Lestina Recognized

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Tenacious, strategic, patient, and determined, Lestina knows how to get things done. When he believes in something and knows in his heart that it's right, he forms a plan, organizes people and resources, and works within the system to achieve his goal. These traits served him well during his 32-year career as the chief lobbyist for the National Education Association, where, after an eight-year battle on Capitol Hill, he was instrumental in the creation of the U.S. Department of Education in 1979. (As a gesture of friendship and gratitude, former President Jimmy Carter sends Lestina a Christmas card every year.)

Lestina's toughness and temperament were honed during his outstanding athletic career at Minnesota State University at Moorhead, where he fought for field position as an offensive and defensive lineman on the football team, boxed as a heavyweight, and pinned the AAU champion to the mat during a heavyweight wrestling match.

After earning bachelor's and master's degrees, he passed on a professional football career to become a teacher (the salaries were similar at that time). The vocation runs in his family: his mother, two brothers, three sisters, and his late wife, Bonita, all were teachers. Lestina taught high school physics for eight years before joining the North Dakota Educational Association.

Equal pay for men and women was unheard of that time, and Lestina's success in establishing the first equitable master contract for teachers working in the Fargo, N.D. school district caught the attention of the National Education Association. After working in the association's St. Paul, Minn., regional office for a year, he was sent to the NEA headquarters in Washington, D.C., to train staff in arbitration grievance processing and

contract negotiations. It was in this position that he realized that, at the federal level, education was caught in the middle between health and welfare. There was no funding and no direction, and Lestina began his work to create a new department — one with clout that would oversee 5,000 teachers in each of the nation's 435 Congressional districts.

“I got into the lobbying arena, and I really enjoyed that. I never worked a day in my life from then on, because it was just all fun,” said Lestina. “Lobbying was my cup of tea.” Senate passage was easy, he says, but moving the legislation through the House was very difficult. “The Southeast was particularly challenging,” he said. After 44 separate floor votes, the U.S. Department of Education was established.

“The department is here to stay,” Lestina said, despite ongoing efforts to abolish it. “There isn't a single student, be it a graduate student or preschool student, who isn't affected by the department of education. I feel really good about that.”

When Lestina and his wife moved east in 1971, they settled into a sturdy house in the Mosby Woods neighborhood, where he has lived for 50 years. Fairfax Boulevard, then-Lee Highway, was still a gravel road with no curb and gutter. “I can't tell you how lucky I feel to have moved into that community,” said Lestina. “It is really top notch. Neighbors look after neighbors. The community association has always been very active.”

Their only son, Lunn, learned to swim in the Mosby Woods Pool, and earned a scholarship to Stanford after beating a Russian national record. Lestina is very proud of Lunn, who lives with his family in Pittsburgh, describing him as “a picture of success.” Lunn used to hold his father's spot in line at the U.S. Capitol.

Although Lestina spent most of his time on Capitol Hill, dealing with community issues was his hobby. “You get what you put into your community,”

he said. “You have the time for what is a priority to you. This was, and still is, a priority for me,” he added.

He served as president of the Mosby Woods Community Association, where he led the “Unite Mosby Woods” effort to adjust the boundary with Fairfax County. The developers hadn't paid attention to the county/city line, so two thirds of the houses were in Fairfax County and a third were in Fairfax City. “Where you lived was where your living room was,” said Lestina, describing the reality for more than 250 homeowners at the time. “You could move without leaving your house if you rearranged your rooms.”

Mosby Woods had “snow shoveling gangs” that cleared the roads because county plows couldn't access the landlocked neighborhood. “And that was before snow blowers. I suppose they existed somewhere, but we didn't have any of them here in Mosby Woods,” he said. The 1979 Washington's Birthday Blizzard galvanized the community's determination to become part of the city.

“The city has always provided better public services,” Lestina said. A petition was circulated and signed by all but two people. They wore “Unite Mosby Woods” buttons on their jackets. (Lestina still has some saved in a peanut butter jar.) Meetings held at City Hall to discuss the boundary adjustment were standing room only, with people overflowing into the marble stairwell.

When Mosby Woods was finally accepted into the city, the community held a victory party in Mosby Woods Park. Speeches were given — but it was hard to hear them due to the traffic noise from I-66, which was getting busier and louder. Lestina noticed — and again stepped into the arena for his community.

Read the second part of this story in the February Cityscene.

Public Hearing for Proposed Wastewater Rate Change Slated for Jan. 25

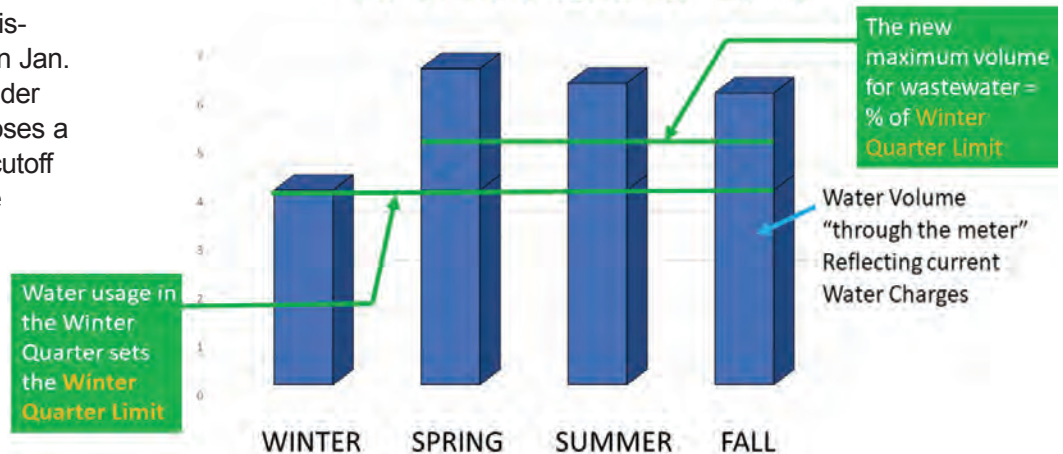
More predictable and affordable bills for residential sanitary sewer service (wastewater) customers will be discussed during a public hearing on Jan. 25. Fairfax City Council will consider adopting an ordinance that proposes a new maximum wastewater rate cutoff based on water usage during the winter quarter. The ordinance will be introduced during the Jan. 11 City Council meeting.

If the ordinance is adopted, a percentage of the winter quarter limit will be used as the maximum consumption level for the three other periods in the year. The city's estimated wastewater service charges will more accurately reflect the volume of water discharged to the wastewater collection and treatment system. This change to the wastewater rate structure is deemed the most important component and will be addressed as a first step. In the future, a reduction in the minimum volume will be considered. Public input on the proposed ordinance is encouraged.

All residents create wastewater when they wash dishes, bathe, flush toilets, cook, and do laundry. This wastewater is conveyed to the advanced treatment plant in Lorton. Currently, city charges for wastewater service are based on Fairfax Water meter readings, which measure the water volume used. However, this system does not differentiate between water used inside the home and water used outside for irrigation, washing vehicles, etc. – water that is not collected nor conveyed to the Lorton treatment plant.

The proposed winter quarter limit is based on the premise that water used during the coldest three months of the year is for indoor uses only. The new winter quarter limit will reduce wastewater charges to a maximum of 130 percent of the winter quarter volume or actual water consumption, whichever is lower.

The Winter Quarter Limit



This graphic illustrates water usage during the four quarters of the year. The winter quarter is typically the lowest water consumption during the coldest billing period of the year (reflecting indoor use only). The remaining three quarters in the graphic illustrate higher water consumption and, as such, reflect the portion as outdoor use. Outdoor use does not enter the wastewater collection and treatment system.

Village Advisory Board

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Village volunteers; coordinate and support Village operations in conjunction with the Village coordinator; and be a community advocate for the Village.

- **Recruitment:** Oversee member and volunteer recruitment, including community outreach and education about the Village.
- **Board Effectiveness:** Assure the board fulfills the foregoing governance, responsibilities, and maintains effective board organization, procedures, and recruitment.
- **Actively Participate:** Attend board meetings and be an active member of the Village.

The city will provide Village business functions including fiduciary oversight, risk management, provision of required volunteer background checks, and data tracking/management.

To apply, visit fairfaxva.gov (search "boards and commissions").



HELPING HANDS

THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU

BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

Board of Architectural Review (one vacancy for business representative), **Board of Building Code Appeals** (one mechanical or plumbing vacancy), **Board of Equalization** (two vacancies: one alternate member and one member), **Commission on the Arts** (two vacancies: one city resident and one George Mason University representative), **Environmental Sustainability Committee** (two vacancies), Regional – **Fairfax Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board** (one vacancy), **Fairfax Village in the City Advisory Board** (three vacancies), **Historic Fairfax City, Inc.** (one vacancy), **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** (one vacancy), **Personnel Advisory Board** (one vacancy).

To apply, visit fairfaxva.gov and search "boards and vacancies," or call 703-385-7935.

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Cityscene is produced by the city's Communications and Marketing Office

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LIVE LIFE IN THE ARTS

Upcoming programs and performances are listed in the events calendar at fairfaxva.gov.



Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series
 Washington Saxophone Quartet
 8 p.m. Jan. 7 at Old Town Hall



Chocolate Lovers Festival

February 4 - 6 • Old Town Fairfax

Children's Activities • Chocolate Art
 Chocolate Tastings • Cake Walk
 Liquid Chocolate • Historic Open Houses
 Construct a Cupcake • and more!

Full Schedule of Events:
www.ChocolateFestival.net
 703-385-7858



ArtScreen
 Strictly Ballroom
 7:30 p.m. Jan. 14
 Sherwood Center

POSTPONED



Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series
 Zach Smith and the Dixie Power Trio
 8 p.m. Jan. 21
 at Old Town Hall

Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series
 The Hot Lanes and Bobby J
 8 p.m. Feb. 4
 at Sherwood Center