

cityscene

What's happening in the City of Fairfax

APRIL 2022

Round Up Program Lifts Community

When you purchase gardening equipment, paper yard waste bags, or any other product available at Twins Ace Hardware in Old Town Fairfax, you can support Children's National Hospital and other local nonprofits by choosing to round-up to the nearest dollar at checkout.

Ace Hardware corporate supports the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, with which Children's National Hospital is aligned. The Old Town Fairfax store, owned by Craig Smith, raised nearly \$20,000 for Children's National Hospital last year.

Smith was treated for a non-life threatening illness at Children's National when he was young, so giving back feels natural. "The hospital is making sick kids healthy, which is of the utmost importance," he said, adding, "I don't think there is anything more worthy than that."

He serves on the hospital's Corporate Advisory Council, a body that strategizes new ways to raise funds, and he chairs a group of owners representing more than 20 Ace Hardware stores in the D.C. metro area who get together bimonthly to share ideas. Smith also serves as a member of the Old Town Fairfax Business Association. OTFBA is bringing back the *Asian Festival on Main* next month.

In addition to fundraising, Smith and others worked on an entrance to the hospital's Healing Garden for a holiday event. The garden, a beautiful outdoor area where no medical talk is allowed, provides a peaceful place where children and their parents can relax.

Twins Ace Hardware holds its *Have a Heart* fundraiser around Valentine's Day to support Fairfax CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), a Fairfax City-based nonprofit that advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children and youth referred by the Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court. Fairfax CASA trains, mentors, and assists at-risk youth up to age 21, with the goal of addressing each individual's needs and ensuring they live in a safe and permanent home.

"Craig and his team are not just dedicated to helping us fundraise through the *Have a Heart* round-up campaign each February; they are also passionate about elevating awareness for our program," said Ashleigh Conrad, Fairfax CASA communications and events specialist. "We are truly grateful for having community support from local businesses like Twins Ace Hardware."

On April 30, Fairfax CASA is hosting its 12th annual *Run for the Children* from 8 a.m. to noon in Old



CRAIG SMITH

Town Fairfax. Visit fairfaxcasa.org for information on participating, volunteering, and donating.

Smith's other fundraisers include *Construct a Cupcake*, cutting Pine Wood Derby cars for Cub Scouts for \$5/car, and supporting Britepaths' *Super Bowl*.

"Community involvement is an essential part of our business," said Smith. "We're thankful there are so many deserving groups in our area."

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CITY NEWS

Police Chief's Advisory Council Seeks Members

The City of Fairfax Police Chief's Advisory Council seeks to increase membership. The advisory council meets monthly to discuss issues of concern. Members provide their views on public safety and law enforcement issues directly to the police department. If you have ideas for improving safety in your community, you are invited to apply. The advisory council is limited to 24 members. *Info: cacchair@fairfaxva.gov, 703-273-7744*

Curbside Leaf Collection Provided Tuesdays in April

On Tuesdays in April, vacuum trucks will collect loose leaves raked to the curb in residential neighborhoods that receive city curbside refuse collection service. Please rake leaves to the curb by 7 a.m. on collection days: April 5, 12, 19, 26. Bagged leaves are not collected in April. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "leaf"), 703-385-7995*

Real Estate Tax Relief, Rent Relief Applications Due April 15

The City of Fairfax provides real estate tax relief and rent relief for senior citizens and city residents with permanent and total disabilities. Different types of relief are granted on a sliding-scale and based on income. Qualified homeowners may choose basic tax relief, tax deferral, tax freeze, or combination tax freeze and deferral. Rent relief is available for tenants who are senior citizens or have permanent and total disabilities. Virginia offers a real estate tax exemption for the primary residence of certain disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. Pick up applications from the Finance Department. Submission deadline is April 15. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "tax rent relief"), 703-359-2486*

Drug Take Back Day, April 30

Bring unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs to the City of Fairfax Police Department from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 30. Pills, ointments, and liquids in sealed containers are accepted. (No needles, syringes, or Epi-Pens.) Drop-off is anonymous; no identification or prescription information is required. *Info: fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7829*

FY23 Budget Review, Discussions Continue Through May 3

Download the proposed budget online. Review the schedule to share your input with City Council in person, by phone, or electronically. Meetings and work sessions are held at City Hall and broadcast on Channel 12 and online. The budget is scheduled for adoption on May 3. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/budget, WeCare@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7870*

Real Estate Assessments Increase

In 2022, city real property values will increase an average of 6.33%. On average, residential assessments will increase 8.75% and commercial assessments will increase 1.97%. Residential assessments account for roughly two-thirds of all city assessments. Real estate revenues are central to the city's budget, accounting for about 50% of general fund revenues. City Council sets the tax rate during the budget process, which determines the amount of real estate taxes paid. Assessment notices were mailed March 4. *Info and map: fairfaxva.gov (search "assessment"), 703-385-7840*

New Collection Rule for Yard Waste

The city no longer collects yard waste debris in plastic bags, so please use paper bags and refuse receptacles (marked "yard waste"), or bundle debris with twine. Yard waste in plastic bags will be marked with a red tag. It's an easy fix: just transfer the bag contents to the proper container, or bundle the materials.



CURIOUS CITIZENS

Do I need a permit to remove a tree on my property?

Yes, in most cases a permit is required and usually involves replacement. Trees that have been identified as an immediate hazard by the city's enforcement officer do not require a permit in advance. Permits may be obtained online. To apply for a permit (and avoid a \$200 fine), visit fairfaxva.gov (search "tree removal") or call 703-385-7820.

Prohibiting the use of plastic bags for yard waste reduces plastic pollution in the city. *Info: refuserecycling@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7837*

Winter Quarter Limit

On Feb. 22, City Council adopted a winter quarter limit for City of Fairfax wastewater fees. A winter quarter limit is the actual amount of water used during the most recent winter quarter period multiplied by a factor of 1.3. The winter quarter limit will minimize charges for water consumption that does not discharge to the wastewater system (i.e. irrigation and filling pools). The winter quarter limit will be applied to bills based on meter readings taken July 1 and after. Commercial accounts are not included because these accounts have a master meter that can be supplemented by a sub-meter to measure flow that does not enter the wastewater system.



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www.youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva

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 FEB. 1, 2022

CLOSED MEETING

- Convene a closed meeting to conduct interviews for boards and commissions and discuss appointments to boards and commissions.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF FEB. 8, 2022

CLOSED MEETING

- Convened a closed meeting to conduct interviews for Boards and Commissions and discuss appointments to Boards and Commissions.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging Black History Month in the City of Fairfax.
- COVID-19 vaccine update from the city manager.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of a resolution for the reappropriation of capital project funds and Component Unit School Board funds to FY22 that were appropriated in FY21 and have not yet been spent or committed as of June 30, 2021.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, endorsement of the proposed changes to the Gold CUE Bus routes to be effective August 1, 2022.
- Approved, unanimously, a supplemental appropriation resolution for \$864,633 to fund the FY22 second quarter non-discretionary expenditures and unbudgeted initiatives.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, authorization of the purchasing agent to amend the contract in the amount of \$738,390 to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for additional design services for the George T. Snyder Trail.
- Approved, unanimously, a resolution to authorize the city manager to submit a letter of endorsement for the city's FY23 application to the Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program.
- Approved, unanimously, to introduce an ordinance amending the City Code Chapter 102 (Utilities), Article I, Section 102-1 and Article II, Section 102-32 by adding a new winter quarter limit to the rate structure for residential consumer customers; and to waive the first reading and to set the public hearing for Feb. 22, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approved, 5-0-1, the Jan. 25, 2022, special meeting minutes. (*In favor: Councilmembers Harmon, Lim, Miller, Ross, and Stehle. Abstained: Councilmember Yi.*)
- Approved, unanimously, the Jan. 25, 2022, regular meeting minutes.
- Approved, unanimously, the Feb. 1, 2022, special meeting minutes.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Approved, unanimously, to reappoint: Myron Maslowsky to the Board of Equalization; Stephen Rogers to the Board of Zoning Appeals; Stephen Latourette to the Commission on the Arts; Michael Lee to the Environmental Sustainability Committee.
- Approved, unanimously to appoint: Michele Greet to the Commission on the Arts as the George Mason University representative; Padma Surapureddi to the Commission on the Arts; Thomas Peterson to the Environmental Sustainability Committee; Faiza Alam to the Environmental Sustainability Committee.

CLOSED MEETING

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

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF FEB. 22, 2022

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging Feb. 23, 2022 as "Rotary Day" in the City of Fairfax.
- COVID-19 vaccine update from the city manager.
- Presentation of the city manager's proposed FY23 budget.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, the request for consideration of renewal of a special use permit to allow a family home daycare with up to 12 children maximum in the RH zoning district at 3631 Heritage Lane, subject to conditions.
- Approved, unanimously, the ordinance amending the City Code Chapter 102 (Utilities), Article I, Section 102-1 and Article II, Section 102-32 by adding a new winter quarter limit to the rate structure for residential consumer customers effective as provided by law, and that the ordinance shall become operative for billing invoices commencing July 1, 2022.
- Approved, unanimously, to defer the public hearing and council action to March 8, 2022, on an application of a zoning map amendment and a Major Certificate of Appropriateness for property at 10807 Cedar Ave., 10829 Fairfax Blvd.; 3930, 3932 and 3934 Oak St.; and 3937 Walnut St.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- *The applicant no longer desires the vacation of a portion of a city public right-of-way (Cedar Avenue and Walnut Street), and no further action is required by City Council.*
- Approved, unanimously, that the City Council adopt a resolution providing for the issuance and sale of general obligation refunding bonds of the City of Fairfax, Virginia, providing for the form, details, and payment thereof, and providing for the refunding of certain outstanding general obligation refunding bonds of the city all for the purpose to realize debt service savings.
- Approved, unanimously, the form of an agreement of purchase and sale for the purchase of certain real property located at 10251 Main St. and 10324 Sager Ave., and comprising in the aggregate approximately 2.7 acres (which is attached to the related staff report) and presented by the city attorney. Also authorized the

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Explore the City's Past at Fairfax History Day

Follow the wafting smell of freshly popped Kettle Korn and the sounds of a brass band for fun and entertainment at Fairfax History Day. This popular event returns to Historic Blenheim (3610 Old Lee Highway) April 23. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the city's past from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wander the historic grounds to meet a tavern keeper, a laundress, a suffragist, a blacksmith, and a "Yankee schoolmarm," along with many other living historians portraying jobs and life in the 19th century. Practice your drilling skills with Civil War soldiers, play popular children's games of the past, and hear about enslaved peoples' daily lives. Use a quill pen to sign your muster roll with the Chesapeake Independent Blues, a War of 1812 reenacting group.

This year's Fairfax History Day features demonstrations of weaving, spinning, needlework, quilting and women's dressing, brickmaking, blacksmithing, and carpentry. Engage in conversation with a naturalist, doctor, attorney, or phrenologist. *Did you know a phrenologist studied the shape of a person's head to determine their traits and characteristics?*

The circa 1859 Historic Blenheim House will be open for timed tours of the first floor. Docents will talk about the recent discoveries of new Civil War soldier graffiti and ongoing research and preservation projects. Secure your tour reservation at the entrance tent.



Photos courtesy of Gregg McDonald

Take a wagon ride or relax on a hay bale while you eat and enjoy the sounds of spirituals and string and brass bands.

Visit the museum gallery and gift shop inside the Civil War Interpretive Center. Purchase a souvenir to commemorate Fairfax History Day.

Admission is \$6/adult; \$3/age 12 and younger, and free for kids under age 2. Fee includes all activities, including historic house tours and wagon rides. Proceeds support Fairfax City's public historic sites.

There is no parking at Historic Blenheim. Free parking is available for the fully accessible CUE Bus shuttle at Fairfax High School (3501 Lion Run).

Info: fairfaxva.gov/historyday, 703-591-0560

FAIRFAX FUNKY FLEA www.fairfaxfunkyflea.com

Fairfax City Hall Parking Lot 9-2PM

Saturdays:
 April 16
 May 28
 June 25
 July 30
 August 27
 September 24
 October 29

- Free Entry
- Free Parking
- Great Food
- Fresh Coffee
- Live Music
- 40+ Vendors

10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax

FAIRFAX CITY Parks & Recreation

continued from page 3

city manager to finalize and execute the agreement of purchase and sale, with any non-substantive changes as approved by the city attorney, and to consummate the transaction that is the subject of the agreement of purchase and sale, including the execution of any other necessary documentation in connection with the same.

- Approved, unanimously, to introduce a supplemental appropriation resolution for \$900,000 to fund the purchase of certain real property located at 10251 Main St. and 10324 Sager Ave., and comprising in the aggregate approximately 2.7 acres. Further moved to waive the first reading and set the public hearing for March 8, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approved, 5-0-1, the Feb. 8, 2022, special meeting minutes. (*In favor: Councilmembers Harmon, Lim, Miller, Ross, and Stehle. Abstained: Councilmember Yi.*)
- Approved, unanimously the Feb. 8, 2022 regular meeting minutes.



HELPING HANDS

THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU

BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

Board of Architectural Review

(two vacancies: one business representative and one city resident),

Board of Building Code Appeals

(one mechanical or plumbing vacancy),

Board of Equalization

(one vacancy for alternate member),

Environmental Sustainability Committee

(one vacancy),

Park and Recreation Advisory Board

(one vacancy).

Vacancies are subject to change.

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



New Fairfax HS Principal Looks Forward to Joining Community

Georgina Aye recognized a connection to the City of Fairfax and her hometown in West Virginia where she was raised. "I could feel it right away, the strong support from the community, the school as the epicenter, families coming together for 'Friday Night Lights' at the football game – Fairfax City really has that small town feel, but is coupled with arts, diversity, and culture," said Aye.

After 18 years in education in Baltimore, Aye and her family will be moving to the area this summer as she takes the helm at Fairfax HS.

Aye said Fairfax HS was attractive to her because of the teachers, students, and community for their high performance and commitment to academics and excellence.

She also is excited to help celebrate the diverse community within Fairfax, with programs similar to the *We All Belong Here* initiative she established at her previous school, which promoted unity, equity, and cultural inclusivity in academics, performing arts, clubs, and athletics.

Looking ahead, Aye hopes to expand on the partnership between Fairfax HS and George Mason University. Aye sees potential with the Fairfax Academy program and would like to see students take advantage of the many opportunities Mason has to offer.

Superintendent Dr. Phyllis Pajardo was enthusiastic with her praise and welcome for Aye. "Throughout the interview process, I was deeply moved by her commitment to students, her dedication to her staff, and her desire to create an environment that promotes equity and opportunities for everyone."

Aye is currently the principal of Baltimore City's largest high school.



GEORGINA AYE AND FAMILY

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from West Virginia University, a Master of Arts in Education Policy from Johns Hopkins University and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. Aye has been a principal, central office leader, and assistant principal in Baltimore County Public Schools, and Baltimore City Public Schools.



Aye has overseen a \$40 million school renovation, boosted PTA participation in her school by 25%, promoted professional learning communities with a focus on literacy in all content areas, decreased absenteeism by 15%, increased student participation in advanced placement classes by 230%, and boosted the advanced placement test pass rate by 30%.

When not working, Aye, her husband, and their three daughters (ages 3, 6, and 10) look forward to discovering Fairfax City's many restaurants, trails, and area museums. "We are all foodies and explorers, so we are excited to get to know Fairfax and all it has to offer," said Aye.



University Bike Lanes Funded

The University Drive bike facilities project was awarded \$913,000 in Transportation

Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) funding, and the funding is available immediately. Bike lanes and/or sharrows will be installed from Layton Hall to South Street, and the Layton Hall/University Drive intersection will be improved.



The TA Set-Aside Program was established by federal law to fund a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements, and environmental mitigation. The program awarded \$7.1M to eight projects in Northern Virginia.

City transportation planners expect bicycle use between Old Town Fairfax

and George Mason University to increase when the Capstone Collegiate residential complex opens this fall. Making the city safer for bicyclists will encourage residents and visitors to use the future bike share program and reduce emissions.

Old Lee Highway Multimodal Improvements Update

At its Nov. 8, 2021, meeting, City Council adopted a resolution to approve



the major design features for the Old Lee Highway Multimodal Improvements project, which include: a sidewalk and two-way separated bicycle path along the west side of the corridor; sidewalk along the east side; shared use path in constrained areas; one vehicular travel lane in each direction; and existing right and left turn lanes will remain, except at

Great Oaks Drive.

New left turn lanes will be installed northbound to the Sherwood Center, southbound to Daniels Run, northbound to Old Post Road, and northbound to Great Oaks Drive (existing right turn lane will be removed). A roundabout will be constructed at the Ridge Avenue intersection.

Next steps include working with property owners along the corridor, a public hearing at 60% design (no council action), right of way acquisition, utility

relocation, award of construction contract, and then construction will begin.

A place making firm is under contract to explore what story to tell along the corridor. This process will include public engagement. Amenities may include art, signs, and interactive features – all ideas are welcome.

Info: fairfaxva.gov/oldleehwy



Glass No Longer Accepted in Curbside Recycling



The City of Fairfax no longer accepts glass bottles and jars in curbside recycling containers. Residents should reuse glass containers or take them to the purple, glass-only recycling containers located throughout the area, or dispose of the glass in the trash.

Much of the recycling infrastructure in the region is not equipped to sort glass collected in single-stream recycling, so it is processed as waste and trucked to a landfill. The source-separated glass collected by the Purple Can Club is sold and recycled to make new bottles and jars.

Please ensure your glass is empty, clean, and dry. Labels and lids may be left on. Material that is not accepted: plastic bags/wrap; light-bulbs and lamps; ceramics, Pyrex and porcelain; and mirrors, windows, and plate glass.

City residents can use any of the purple containers in the region. Purple

containers are accessible to everyone 24 hours, 7 days a week. Convenient drop-off locations:

- I-66 Transfer Station:
4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax
- Fairfax County Government Center:
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax
- Burkholder Center:
10700 Page Ave., Fairfax
- Providence Community Center:
3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax

Info: fairfaxva.gov/recycling, recycling@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7837

CUE is for You

Catch a Ride on a Comfortable New Bus



Six new CUE buses have just completed their cross-country trip from the manufacturer in California. The new buses replace older models and will require less maintenance. Improved features include:

- New vinyl seats are more comfortable and easier to keep clean
- New flooring is more durable, lighter, and slip-resistant
- New brighter lighting inside and outside for passenger and driver safety
- Yellow powder-coated grab handles are more visible to riders
- New camera system to improve safety for riders
- New rear destination signs with integrated back-up cameras

Ukrainian Refugees Need Your Help

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission, which represents 13 jurisdictions, is leading a clothing drive to help Ukrainian refugees in Poland. As an NVRC member, Fairfax City will collect donations in the City Hall Atrium through mid-April. Info: helpukrainenova.org

WHAT'S NEEDED

- New pairs of gloves
- New or gently used coats
- New pairs of sweat socks and/or heavy socks
- New blankets



Coming Soon

WHISKEY BASICS at Blenheim

APRIL 16
Limited Seating 3-6 PM

Come get schooled in the Whiskey Basics!

MurLarkey's Distiller will educate you through the various tastings offered as you relax on the grounds of Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center (3610 Old Lee Hwy).

Enjoy a safe and distanced experience with you and your closest of family/friends. There are two seating options at 3pm & 5pm. Each table can host up to 6 people.

TICKETS REQUIRED

Please visit fairfaxva.gov/communityevent for the registration links.

- New transmissions and emission controls provide better fuel economy and reduce pollution
- CUE Bus has extended fare-free rides for all through June 2025. Ride

CUE to city parks, schools, restaurants, shopping centers, George Mason University, and the Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Metrorail Station.
Info: cuebus.org, 703-385-7859

EGG-STREME

TEEN EGG HUNT

THURSDAY APRIL 7
8PM - HISTORIC BLENHEIM
3610 OLD LEE HWY

TICKETS REQUIRED

Please visit fairfaxva.gov/communityevent for the registration links.

CITY OF FAIRFAX FISHING DERBY

SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH
ASHBY POND CONSERVATORY
9817 ASHBY ROAD, FAIRFAX

\$5 PER PARTICIPANT
3 SESSIONS: 9:15AM, 10:15AM, 11:15AM

TICKETS REQUIRED

City Hall • 10455 Armstrong St. • Fairfax, VA 22030

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

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- Recorded
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Cityscene is mailed to city residents and businesses by the first of the month and published on the city website. It is published by the Communications and Marketing Office to inform the public of government actions and events of interest in the city. Information is subject to change after publication.

Cityscene is available in large print, Braille, and audio upon request.

Para solicitar ayuda con servicios de la ciudad o preguntas sobre esta publicación, por favor llame al 703.385.7800.

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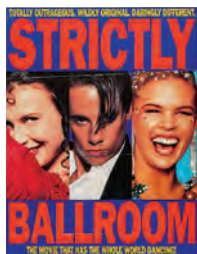


To report a problem or request a service, please use Fairfax City Resolve. Look for the "Report" button on fairfaxva.gov.



LIVE LIFE IN THE ARTS

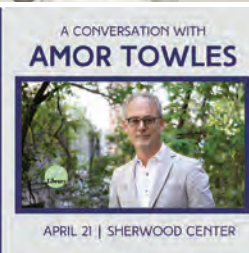
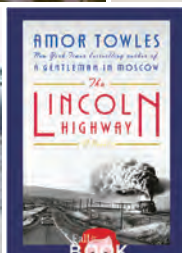
Upcoming programs and performances are listed in the events calendar at fairfaxva.gov.



Nataly Merezhuk



Trio Peridot



APRIL 21 | SHERWOOD CENTER

ArtScreen

(sponsored by the Commission on the Arts)

Strictly Ballroom
 7:30 p.m. April 1
 Sherwood Center
 Doors open 7 p.m.

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
 7:30 p.m. April 15
 Sherwood Center
 Doors open 7 p.m.

Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series

(sponsored by the Commission on the Arts)

Nataly Merezhuk
 8 p.m. April 8
 Sherwood Center
Trio Peridot
 8 p.m. April 29
 Sherwood Center

Mason Arts at Old Town Hall
 TBD. 7 p.m. April 13, Old Town Hall

Friday Morning Music Club
 Noon, April 21, Old Town Hall

Fall for the Book
Amor Towles
 7 p.m. April 21
 Sherwood Center
 Pre-registration required.
fallforthebook.org

City of Fairfax Band Association
Dancing in the 20s
 City of Fairfax Band
 7:30 p.m. April 9
 Fairfax High School
 \$15/adults, \$10/seniors, students free

