

WE ARE WINCHESTER

DECEMBER 2023

OLDTOWNIST.COM

FREE



 SUBSCRIBE

Cover by Katie Jordan

Genesis Primitive Church

731 Fox Drive, Winchester

You Are Cordially Invited to Walk the Religious Path Travelled By Winchester's Founders; That Path is Historic Christianity

Within Winchester's Central Blocks Stands 9 Historic Churches Serving as Monuments to Winchester's Early Faithful Christians

Prior to Winchester's Birth In 1744, In 1517 In Wittenburg, Germany, Martin Luther Nailed His 95 Theses, to a Catholic Church Door Effectively Starting the Greatest Protestant Church Reformation Ever Known to Mankind

Thank You, Pastor Dan Nicholson

Phone: 540-327-4693

www.genesisprimitivechurch.org



LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

The chill has arrived and with it the Christmas spirit kicked off with the parade and tree lighting! A blistery but festive night. Thank you to all who joined us for hot cocoa!

This month we explored how to make the best of the season in Winchester including the new MSV light show and past favorites we still love. Plus we have a guide on the organizations that can use your help during the season for families in need. From meals to gifts, and of course your time there are plenty of ways to help one another!

We'll see you in Old Town!



*Misty Weaver
& Katie Jordan*

WE ARE WINCHESTER

The right mortgage lender *makes all the difference.*



☒ Low Rates ☒ Fast Closings ☒ 5-Star Rated Lender



Katie Moody

Loan Officer | NMLS# 1658706

kmody@homespiremortgage.com

homespiremortgage.com/katiemoody



Phone: 540.877.6787



Equal Housing Lender | Homespire Mortgage Corporation | NMLS# 183215
9711 Washingtonian Blvd, Suite 500 | Gaithersburg, MD 20878

This is not a commitment to lend. Timeline of loan process may vary based upon loan product parameters and receipt of loan documentation.

GATHER & GAME



The Quirky Closet
PLUS SIZE WOMEN'S BOUTIQUE



20% off
FULL PRICE PURCHASE
Mention Oldtownist

**SIZES 14-24
BOUTIQUE &
CONSIGNMENT**

   @thequirkyclosetva

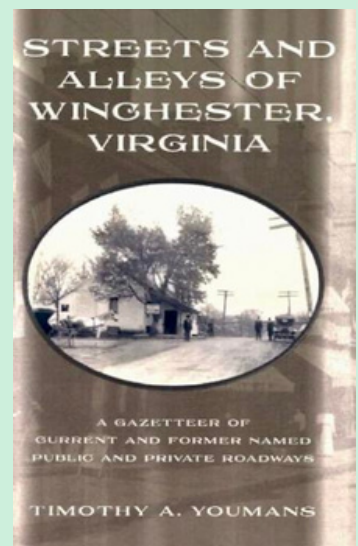
224 S LOUDOUN ST. WINCHESTER, VA

3	14	26	6	25	14	20		7	11	17	24	26	13	16			
17		6		1		6		25		2		2		14			
23	14	23	17	3	6	8	N	20	6		20	3	17	17	15		
6		26		18	F	21		2				17		11			
8	N	17	17	22		21	2	17	24		4	1	23	15	9		
10		17		6		14		6		1				3			
14	8	N	16	9	23	14		21	3	13	23	6	10	14	7		
		2		26		13		25		26		17					
18	F	3	14	5	1	14	8	25		10	2	14	3	13	10		
6				7		18	F	6		14		15		2			
8	N	9	23	15	11		2	6	16	9		8	N	17	19	6	
18	F		17				6		6		15		3		7		
6		8	N	19	13	2		23	13	2	22	13	8	N	14	7	7
3			13		13			14		14		14		6		13	
14	12	14	3	25	14	20		6	10	3	9	2	13	10			
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z																	

Each letter is assigned a number. Every square with that number corresponds to that letter. Start with the smallest words to begin guessing the remaining letter-number matches!

CONGRATS TIM YOUMANS!

When we last interviewed Winchester City Planning Director Tim Youmans for our April 2023 magazine edition, he described how he'd been working for roughly 20 years on a book about the origins of all the street names in our city. The project had started from a school assignment his daughter had in middle school and turned into a passion project that has recently been published. All proceeds of the book will benefit the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society. You can pick up a copy at the Winchester Book Gallery.




**ROCK YOUR BRAND.
REEL IN RESULTS.**

OFFERING FREE MARKETING CONSULTS
Scan the QR Code in the corner or email monicabaranko@gmail.com and mention this ad to schedule yours!

FULL SERVICE DIGITAL MARKETING

www.rockandreelmarketing.com

Photography | Videography | Website Design | Social Media Management | Graphic Design | Copywriting

CREATING NEW HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

The holiday season is a time for warmth, togetherness, and cherished traditions. While many families hold dear the customs passed down through generations, there's also something magical about starting new holiday traditions that can become just as meaningful.

Reflect on Your Values and Passions: Begin by considering what truly matters to you and your loved ones during the holidays. Think about your interests, shared values, and the kind of experiences you want to create.

Involve Everyone: Creating new traditions is a collaborative effort. Involve your family and friends in the brainstorming process. Ask for their input and ideas to ensure that the traditions resonate with everyone involved. This inclusive approach will make the traditions more meaningful and enjoyable for everyone.

Be Creative: Don't be afraid to think outside the box. New traditions can be as simple or elaborate as you like. They could involve crafting, cooking, storytelling, or outdoor activities. Consider themed costume parties, cookie baking contests, or even a holiday scavenger hunt. Let your creativity flow and be open to trying new things.

Combine Old and New: There's no need to replace existing traditions if they hold sentimental value. Instead, find ways to blend the old with the new. For example, if you have a long-standing tradition of decorating the tree together, consider adding a new twist like our favorite tradition: hiding one specific ornament like a Christmas Pickle on Christmas Eve with a fun gift for the finder.

Celebrate Differences: Embrace the diversity of your family and friends by incorporating traditions from different cultures or backgrounds. Learning about and celebrating various customs can be a rich and educational experience, deepening your appreciation for the world's cultures like creating a dessert from around the world each year.

Give Back: Consider incorporating an element of giving back into your new traditions. Volunteer as a family, donate to a charity, or participate in a community service project. Helping those in need during the holiday season can add depth and purpose to your celebrations. A group of girlfriends and I started a tradition last year where we challenged each other to purchase the cheapest-best gift they could for our gift exchange within our normal limit of \$50. The person that was voted to have brought the best yet cheapest gift would choose the charity the remaining budget would go towards. The winner last year? An amazing loaf of sourdough bread that was handmade that cost \$2. We ended up giving almost \$300 to charity while still enjoying our gift exchange!

In the end, the most cherished holiday traditions are those that bring joy, meaning, and togetherness. By creating new traditions that resonate with your values and interests, you'll be crafting a holiday season filled with love, laughter, and beautiful memories that will endure for generations to come.

**Your "Good Life,
Well Lived" Store.**

FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK
AND INSTAGRAM



**Your CBD Store®
WINCHESTER**

3113 VALLEY AVE. WINCHESTER VA 22601
www.yourcbdstorewinchester.com
540-773-8893



**POSH PETS
boutique**

Winchester's Premier Pet Store

Specializing in holistic foods,
supplements, and treats, along
with toys, accessories, travel and
training aids.

January - 20% OFF in stock
coats and sweaters

Grooming by appointment!

Visit us on the walking mall
156 N Loudoun St. Winchester



**SHENANDOAH VALLEY
DISCOVERY
MUSEUM**

WINCHESTER HOLIDAY BUCKET LIST

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

Clearbrook Park's annual light show is a cherished tradition that delivers each year. Walk the paved path surrounded by lights synchronized to music. Have hot cocoa with Santa and Mrs Claus, and book the VIP Lodge for your group to heat up and celebrate together.

Follow the Star Drive-Through Nativity

Live walk-through nativity courtesy of the Fellowship Bible Church. ONLY OPEN Saturday December 3 and Sunday December 4, 5-8pm each day.

Belle Grove Plantation Holiday Tours

Belle Grove Plantation will be decorated for the holidays. In the historic Manor House, there is a 12-foot Christmas tree in the Parlor and area Garden Clubs will decorate each room using the theme of "A Few of My Favorite Things." Tours are offered December 2 through December 30



MSV Garden Lights

Museum of the Shenandoah Valley created a spectacular light show this year, that sold out very quickly! But even if you didn't get tickets, checkout their holiday workshops like wreath making, holiday tea and more!

Old Town Winchester Winter Village

Several days of activities including Santa's Village area with Santa, elves, crafts, and even an appearance by the grinch! Horse-drawn wagon rides from Shenandoah Carriage Company, live caroling and music, demonstrative vendors, and you can grab a warm serving of gluhwein from a participating restaurant and carry it with you as you shop. This will be an open-air market and free to attend!

Abram's Delight Candlelit Tour

Explore the oldest house in Winchester, built in 1754. Guests are invited to walk the museum grounds and view the beautiful holiday decorations that will be created by local garden clubs. Free Admission - Friday, December 1, 6-9pm Saturday, December 2, 3-7pm



UNIQUE GIFTS FOR UNIQUE PEOPLE

TIN TOP
ART & HANDMADE

130 N. LOUDOUN ST.
WINCHESTER, VA

www.TINTOPART.COM

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF GIVING: LOCAL WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

As the holiday season fills the air with a sense of warmth and cheer, the spirit of giving becomes more than just a tradition—it becomes a meaningful way to connect with our communities. While grand gestures and global initiatives often take center stage in philanthropic efforts, there's an undeniable power in local acts of kindness. These local acts of kindness not only brighten the lives of recipients but also strengthen community bonds, reminding us that the true essence of the holiday season lies in the joy of giving and the simple acts of love and kindness shared among neighbors. While we tend to give back more during the holidays, we encourage you to dig into how you can help these organizations efforts throughout the entire year.



LOCAL MEAL HELP

- [Blue Ridge Food Bank](#) - Serving 127,500 people each month in our greater area, \$1 can provide 8 meals with a current match
- [CCAP](#) - Food, clothing, baby items, financial assistance and more is provided by CCAP. (Our team provided 60 pies this year for Thanksgiving boxes to families in Mountain Falls this year!)
- [Winchester Rescue Mission](#) - Daily meals and holiday meals are served to our unhoused population in the cafe, as well as additional services
- [WATTS](#) - Providing temporary shelter during winter months they also host a Christmas week where you can volunteer or provide food supplies for celebrations
- [The Exchange](#) Turkey Sandwiches - This church coordinates creating turkey sandwich meals for residents working on Thanksgiving

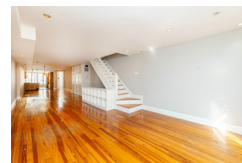
GROUP SHOPPING

- [The Evans Home for Children](#) - Donate gifts for children who are temporarily placed at Evans Home
- [Shop With a Cop](#) - Frederick County and Winchester City provide gifts for local children
- [Bright Futures](#) - Adopt a student with a wish list! Over a 1,000 students are available each year
- National organizations you can help as well: [Toys for Tots](#), [Angel Tree](#)

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

- [Hideaway Cafe](#) - Each year Lydia (store owner's daughter) sells wild-safe reindeer food and donates the profits to a charity she chooses. This year proceeds are going to APOPO, an organization that trains rats to detect landmines.

Loft Apartment



Join us at Dazzling Diva Fitness - the area's premier pole + aerial studio! Let us show you how fitness CAN be fun - and life-changing!

New Student Special - 3 Beginner Pole/Beginner Lyra classes only \$33! DazzlingDivaFitness.com
121 Weems Ln, Winchester

Want to be in all the action on the Old Town walking mall, in a two story, two bedroom loft over the quiet Winchester Book Gallery just steps from restaurants, shops, and activities? The sprawling living area is perfect to create little nooks for gatherings. The original wood floors gleam and there is tons of built in storage space. The gourmet kitchen features stainless appliances, 6 burner gas cooktop, and tons of storage space, with a raised seating area overlooking the private rooftop patio which can be seen through floor to ceiling windows!

Scan/click the QR code for photos and details!
Misty Weaver, 540-999-8826
Samson Properties, Licensed in VA



SEE AND BE SEEN *December events*

3 HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

Plan an afternoon of holiday festivities in a Winchester take on a winter village. Visit the sites on your own in any order for guided tours of these spectacularly-decorated buildings. [PHWI](#)

8 SANTA BAR CRAWL

Come out and join us for our 2nd Annual Santa Crawl located Old Town Winchester! Local Restaurants, Breweries and Bars will be participating. Entry fee is \$10 dollars per person. [Old Town](#)

8 WINTER VILLAGE

Be transported to a cozy European holiday market this Christmas season in beautiful, historic Old Town Winchester, Virginia! A village of traditional European food and crafts vendors. [Old Town](#)



Warm coffeehouse with an authentic selection of espressos plus light snacks, soups and sandwiches.

STOP IN TODAY
OLD TOWN WINCHESTER
165 NORTH LOUDOUN STREET
(540) 686-7209

CONNECT WITH US ON [f](#) [ig](#)

9 BOOKS AND BREWS

WMRA's December Books & Brews will feature Mills Kelly, discussing Virginia's Lost Appalachian Trail. [Winchester Brew Works](#)

15 I SEE YOU MRS ROPER

Put on your Mu Mu, red wig, biggest jewelry, and join us for a parade down the walking mall. [Old Town](#)

31 NYE GLOW PARTY

Head to Old Town to see street performers, live music and a glow party with a laser light show to welcome in the New Year with the Apple Drop! [Old Town](#)

SEE MORE EVENTS ONLINE....

[Old Town Events](#)
[Visitor Center Event Listings](#)

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

Email your events to otw@oldtownist.com with date, title, URL, and location, to be considered for our event calendar each month!

RENTING VS BUYING IN TODAY'S REAL ESTATE MARKET

The age old question - should you rent or buy? While each person's goals and finances certainly play a role, I pulled the average rents and sales prices from 2013 and 2023 to see what difference owning a home could have made in your life.

In those ten years, rental rates went up 27.8% on average, payments which did not add to the renters assets. Property values went up 73.7% in that same time adding massive equity to the owners assets, including your landlords. Many home owners of course used those increases in value to buy larger properties over time, invest in more property, and/or pay off debt.

START YOUR HOME
SEARCH ONLINE



DREAMWEAVERTEAM.COM



Ask Misty a real estate question:
misty@dreamweaverteam.com



Had you purchased a home in 2013 at the average price of \$210,000 today that house would be worth \$364,770. In most of our area that house could have been bought with zero or just \$7,350 in down payment. This is how average people are able to increase their wealth much faster in real estate than investing in other financial markets.

Today we have access to multiple zero down loan programs in both the city and county, and as sales have begun to slow with higher interest rates, buyers are sometimes able to negotiate closing cost assistance as well. It's worth it to find out what your options are for moving from renting to owning!

FACES OF WINCHESTER



NOMINATE SOMEONE!

We are on a mission to highlight the amazing people who are making a difference in the Winchester community!

Submit your nominations here:

<https://forms.gle/X6GvBjsRUDphm6X59>

LAST CALL

Holiday Spiced Eggnog Cocktail



Skip the store bought eggnog and make something special!

- 2 oz spiced rum
- 4 oz eggnog
- 1/2 oz cinnamon schnapps
- Ground nutmeg (for garnish)
- Cinnamon stick (for garnish)

Fill a cocktail shaker with ice, add the spiced rum, eggnog, and cinnamon schnapps to the shaker. Shake well until the mixture is thoroughly chilled. Strain the cocktail into a festive glass or a mug. Sprinkle a pinch of ground nutmeg on top for added flavor. Garnish with a cinnamon stick for a decorative touch.

Serve your Holiday Spiced Eggnog Cocktail and savor the Christmas spirit!





Victoria Kidd

I'm a mom to an incredible ten-year-old and wife to the sweetest fella you'll ever meet before anything else. My family is my reason for waking up and hustling in my business: The Hideaway Cafe. I've been the owner of that little community-focused spot since 2015, and I take a lot of pride in serving breakfast, lunch, coffee, tea, cocktails, and more to over 25,000 guests each year.

Read more about Victoria and her journey in Winchester:
[Dreamweaverteam.com/rc0i](https://dreamweaverteam.com/rc0i)



Anita Jenkins

My first experience on a volunteer board was when I was appointed to the Winchester City School Board in the late 1970's. At the time of my appointment, I had taught school for several years, and was taking a few years away from my profession to be at home with our daughters. This appointment changed my perception of volunteer work because of the structure, the time involved, research, and advocacy for students and educators that impacted all of my future participation in community activities.

Learn more about Anita:
[Dreamweaverteam.com/wqkk](https://dreamweaverteam.com/wqkk)

VOSTRIKOV'S NUTCRACKER ATTRACTS NATIONAL TALENT

Melissa Kauffmann recalls the first time she saw a professional ballet as a young girl, noting that she knew in that moment she wanted to dance. She followed that passion through college until she experienced a back injury that ended her performing days. It led her to teaching and Vostrikov's Academy of the Ballet. Gennadi and Susan Vostrikov, both professional ballet dancers who performed around the world, started Vostrikov's Academy of Ballet in 1982. The couple came to Winchester to be near Susan's family. Gennadi started out teaching at Shenandoah Conservatory (now Shenandoah University) before deciding he wanted to teach younger students because there was more he could help improve with young dancers. When the Vostrikovs retired in 2017, Melissa took ownership of Vostrikov's Academy of Ballet and has been running it ever since.



Melissa describes Vostrikov's Academy of Ballet as a nurturing studio that gives great instruction, and is aware that every individual has different needs and talents. She aims to nurture each student as a whole child. "I'm always saying to my students that more than anything, I want you to be good humans. I want you to be contributing to our society. I want you to feel good about yourself so you can feel good to give to other people, be supportive of each other. I love seeing the older ones nurture the younger ones and the younger ones really looking up to the older ones and really aspiring to what

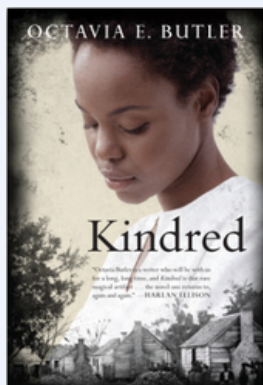
they can do."

The Academy's annual offering of the Nutcracker is extra special this year. Two international ballet stars will be guest performers. Kathryn Morgan, formerly of New York City Ballet and Miami City Ballet, will be the Sugar Plum Fairy in the Sunday, December 17 performance. Kathryn famously performed as a principal in the New York City Ballet as a teenager, taking on roles such as Juliet in Romeo and Juliet. She is known throughout the industry, not just for her skill and early success, but also for her tutorials online, her product line, and her incredible comeback to the stage after battling an autoimmune disease.

The Cavalier, who dances with the Sugar Plum Fairy, will be portrayed by Sean Rollofson of Ballet Met. Sean, who is described by Melissa as a genuine and incredibly thoughtful human, agreed to take on the Cavalier role when the Academy's regular performer had a conflict with his own university senior recital happening that same weekend. When Melissa put out the call looking for a replacement, she never expected such an acclaimed performer to agree to travel to Winchester. As luck would have it, the Vostrikov's daughter (who is a freelance dancer in New York City) saw Melissa's post about needing a male ballet dancer and put the notice out to her ballet community. Sean reached out saying he loved having the opportunity to bring higher levels of ballet to communities that don't regularly have the opportunity to view such performances. Upon hearing that the Vostrikov's Academy of Ballet performers loved watching Kathryn Morgan online, Sean reached out to Kathryn directly and asked her to join him in Winchester for a performance.

We encourage everyone to come to one of the Nutcracker performances to see these international ballet stars in Winchester. The performances take place December 16-17 at Handley High School. Tickets can be bought online at <https://www.virginiayouthballet.org/>

Winchester Book Gallery Recommends:



The visionary time-travel classic whose Black female hero is pulled through time to face the horrors of American slavery and explores the impacts of racism, sexism, and white supremacy then and now.

"I lost an arm on my last trip home. My left arm."

Dana's torment begins when she suddenly vanishes on her 26th birthday from California, 1976, and is

dragged through time to antebellum Maryland to rescue a boy named Rufus, heir to a slaveowner's plantation. She soon realizes the purpose of her summons to the past: protect Rufus to ensure his assault of her Black ancestor so that she may one day be born. As she endures the traumas of slavery and the soul-crushing normalization of savagery, Dana fights to keep her autonomy and return to the present.

Dana not only experiences the cruelties of slavery on her skin but also grimly learns to accept it as a condition of her own existence in the present.

WinchesterBookGallery.com | 7 N. Loudoun St

**WHATCHAMACALLIT
or
THINGAMAJIG**
These experts will help you find it!



Soltenberger's True Value
832 Berryville Ave.
Winchester, Virginia

True Value Like to Buy? Visit The Store Follow us on Facebook




Victoria Zabala

Taxes, Translations &
Interpreting Services

Office: 540.545.2004
Cell: 540.303.6717
Cell: 540.877.0742

 victoriazabala@hotmail.com

 133 W. Boscawen St. Suite 3
Winchester, VA 22601

Created and distributed by Dream Weaver Team LLC. Contact otw@oldtownist.com for advertising and other inquiries.

Get a FREE copy of OldTownist each month! Visit OldTownist.com to sign up!

EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH RUNNING



Girls on the Run (GOTR) may have running in its name, but it's about much more than just physical activity. This unique program is designed to empower girls in grades 3-8 by coaching them through a curriculum that encompasses a wide range of life skills. From healthy decision-making to conflict resolution, fostering friendships, and giving back to the community, GOTR strives to build confident and well-rounded young individuals.

The Shenandoah Valley chapter of Girls on the Run was established in 2011 and is currently under the capable leadership of Executive Director Annoica Ingram. Annoica's personal journey with GOTR is inspiring; she served as a dedicated coach for almost a decade before taking on her current role. She takes immense pride in witnessing the transformation of girls who participate in the program, watching them grow in self-confidence and compassion towards their peers.

One of the most heartwarming aspects of GOTR is the community service projects the girls undertake. At each location, participants are tasked with selecting a local cause or group to support, devising a plan to make a positive impact, and then putting that plan into action. Projects have ranged from collecting donations for local animal shelters to creating heartfelt thank-you cards for teachers, reinforcing the importance of giving back to their communities.

GOTR tailors its offerings to different age groups, with girls in grades 3-5 participating in Girls on the Run and those in grades 6-8 joining Heart and Sole. The curriculum is refreshed periodically to keep returning participants engaged, and it can be adjusted to accommodate girls with disabilities or special needs. The programs typically run twice a week for 90 minutes over ten weeks and are held at community sites such as local schools or parks. Volunteer coaches, who undergo training by GOTR and are provided with necessary supplies, lead these sessions. Financial assistance is available through scholarships, and over \$10,000 in scholarships were awarded in the last season. Additionally, girls in need can receive free sneakers to support their participation.

To witness the impact of the program firsthand, I attended the annual 5k event held in November at Admiral Richard E. Byrd Middle School. The event was a heartwarming showcase of support for these young girls. Volunteers cheered the girls and their running buddies along the course, offering words of encouragement and praise. Parents, siblings, friends, and community members held signs, rang bells, and cheered every girl as she crossed the finish line. In a world often focused on winning, this event delivered a powerful message: every participant's journey is valued, regardless of their race time.

One parent shared, "I was a little hesitant when my daughter asked to join Girls on the Run. Running is not her strong suit. After her first practice, she considered quitting, but she spoke to her coach and came home saying, 'As long as I finish, mom, I am a winner.' Our biggest takeaway from GOTR this year was to push through to the end! My daughter has built her self-esteem and confidence during this year's GOTR fall session and is looking forward to participating again in the spring."

A dedicated coach also expressed her enthusiasm for the program, saying, "It is your chance to help girls at an age that is complicated for them. It gives you the chance to form relationships and get girls to open up about challenges they might have. It puts a fun twist on running that even girls who are not avid runners can enjoy. The curriculum is easy to follow, making it easy to coach and enjoy the time with the girls."

Girls on the Run of the Shenandoah Valley is making a profound impact on the lives of young girls, teaching them invaluable life skills while fostering a sense of community and self-worth. To learn more about this remarkable program, you can visit their website at GirlsOnTheRunSV.org. Girls on the Run is about more than just running; it's about running towards a brighter, more confident future for girls in the Shenandoah Valley.

Anyone can market your home.
We'll make it famous.

Professional marketing from staging, photography, videography,
3D tours, floor plans, social media, and yes, even our own
magazine: OldTownist.



SAMSON
PROPERTIES

MISTY WEAVER, LICENSED IN VA

**WE ARE
WINCHESTER**

KATIE JORDAN, LICENSED IN VA & WV

2 N KENT ST WINCHESTER VA 22601 | NANCY WILLIAMS WV BROKER | 540-999-8826 | MISTY@DREAMWEAVERTEAM.COM