

WE ARE WINCHESTER

NOVEMBER 2024

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Winchester's historic streets are alive with tradition and transformation, and we're thrilled to share a bit of both in this issue.

We explored Manolete's new location, Amber sat down with Brady Cloven—who is leading Friends of Old Town and looking for your input in a community survey—and we're sharing the story behind Handworks Gallery, a true local treasure that's been celebrating handmade art here for nearly 50 years. Finally, we briefly dove into the Byrd Family legacy and how they have pivoted through the years.

Katie and I will be making our rounds in Old Town to show you our favorite shopping spots, plus we're planning a HUGE giveaway to celebrate reaching our follower goals on social media. Make sure to follow along for your chance to win!

We'll see you in Old Town!



*Misty Weaver  
& Katie Jordan*

**WE ARE  
WINCHESTER**

## THE LOCAL PLATE: MANOLETE'S COCINA GOURMET



Restaurant owners around town know Katie and I all too well. Winchester's food scene has exploded over the past decade, giving us plenty of delicious options just a few steps away on the walking mall and beyond. With that in mind, we turned to our amazing social media followers to help us decide what to try at Manolete's new location.

And, as always, you all delivered! The staff at Manolete's couldn't have been more welcoming as we worked our way through your recommendations. We especially enjoyed the tableside prep of fresh guac and our drink of choice, La Reina.

To make the experience even better, we were joined by Mady Rodriguez—former city council member, current teacher at SU and Laurel Ridge, and a 20-year Valley Health employee. She tasted along with us and shared some of her personal favorites, making it a fun, flavorful evening.

Be sure to check out the video, and don't forget to follow us on your go-to social media platform. You'll discover more great food and maybe even win a gift card or lunch on us! @oldtownist

Visit Manolete's at their new location on the mall at 168 N Loudoun St



**WATCH  
THE VIDEO**





# HANDWORKS GALLERY

Handworks Gallery has been an integral part of the community for nearly half a century. It's a place where handmade goods meet history, where art and craftsmanship are celebrated, and where locals and visitors alike can find something special to bring home. But perhaps even more than the art and the gallery itself, the story behind Handworks is what makes it a cornerstone of Winchester's creative community.

Sallie Ebert Grundman, at that time a recent graduate from the University of Virginia with a degree in fine arts, decided to take a leap of faith in 1976. Winchester wasn't exactly an artist's haven back then, but Sallie wasn't one to shy away from a challenge. She borrowed \$2,000 from her father-in-law, secured an old, neglected space above Boyd's Drug Store on the corner of Boscawen Street, and began cold-calling her old art school connections while caring for her newborn daughter, Maryam.

"At the time, there were no craft outlets around," Sallie recalls. "I had majored in stained glass, painting, and printmaking, and there was just no place to sell or showcase that kind of work." So, she created her own space—a combination of gallery and studio—and brought in crafts from artists she knew.

The gallery's beginnings were humble. Between Sallie's work creating stained glass commissions for local churches (including the awe-inspiring windows at the Greek Orthodox Church) and consignments from other artisans, Handworks began to gain traction. By 1986, they moved to their current location, and the gallery has been a beloved fixture on Loudoun Street ever since.

The space itself, which was once a dilapidated old building with rotting carpet and cat smells, has been lovingly transformed over the years. As Sallie fondly describes, "We make something out of nothing." From refinishing woodwork from the old shop to uncovering 200-year-old brick walls, the gallery is as much a work of art as the items inside.

The gallery is now co-run by Sallie's daughter, Maryam Hout, who unexpectedly returned to Winchester after years of living in New York City and Nashville. "I didn't plan to come back and take over the family business," Maryam says with a laugh. But after some time away, and a serendipitous meeting with her now-husband, the pull of home and family led her back. Together, Maryam and Sallie have carried Handworks through lean times and a changing retail landscape.



"When I first came back, we were really just limping along," Maryam admits. "But then, little by little, things started to grow, and we've been busier every year since."

That growth, of course, is no accident. One of Handworks' greatest strengths is its ability to evolve with the times while staying true to its roots. The gallery offers a beautifully curated selection of handmade items—from pottery to jewelry, felted wool ornaments to whimsical home goods. Each piece is carefully chosen, reflecting not only current trends but also the commitment to affordability and craftsmanship.

"We never wanted to be one of those 'precious' art stores," Maryam explains. "You know, the kind where everything is too expensive for regular folks. We keep things handmade, affordable, and always with an eye on quality."

It's not just about trends, though. Sallie and Maryam are passionate about supporting both American artisans and fair-trade goods from around the world. From handmade pottery mugs (which Sallie describes as "like a warm friend") to felted wool ornaments crafted by women in Nepal, there's a story behind every item on the shelves. "It's good to know you're supporting someone—whether it's a mom in Nepal who can now work from home or a small American craftsman," Maryam adds.

As the holiday season approaches, Handworks is gearing up for their busiest time of year. Pottery, jewelry, and ornaments are always popular choices for gifts, but Maryam is quick to point out that there's something for everyone at the gallery—whether it's a locally made hot sauce for the men in your life or a felted wool trinket for the little ones. "We avoid plastic, so everything feels special and eco-friendly. Even the smallest gift has meaning."



## Handworks cont...

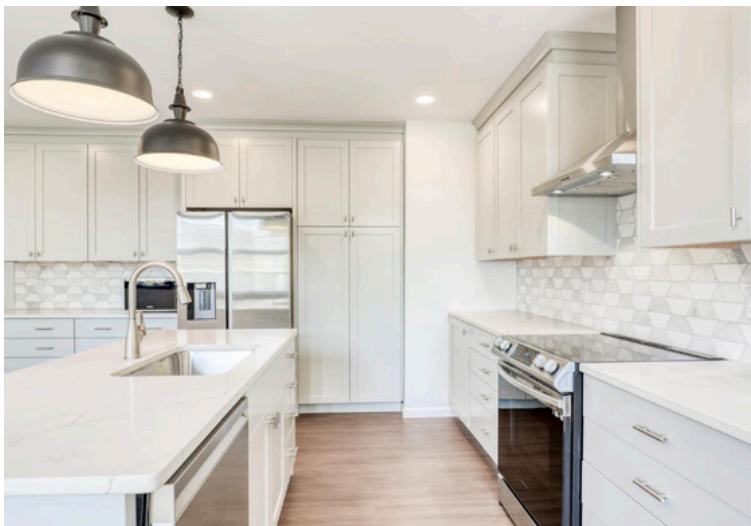
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Beyond the beautiful goods and the rich history, what truly sets Handworks apart is its connection to the community. Generations of customers have passed through its doors, from toddlers to teens and beyond. "It's amazing to see people who grew up coming here now bringing their kids," Sallie beams. "Some of them even end up working for us!"

The women of Handworks Gallery—Sallie, Maryam, and their all-female team—are proud of their role in Winchester's downtown renaissance. They've seen the area transform from a quiet, struggling stretch into a vibrant hub filled with cafes, shops, and art. "It's been wonderful to watch," Sallie says. "We've been here long enough to see it all change, and we're excited to be a part of that."

In a world where everything seems to move so fast, Handworks Gallery is a reminder of the value of slowing down, appreciating craftsmanship, and staying connected to your roots. Whether you're looking for a unique gift or just a little "Handworks therapy" (as Sallie calls it), the gallery is a must-visit.

For more details about Handworks Gallery, visit [HandworksGalleryWinchesterVA.com](http://HandworksGalleryWinchesterVA.com)



## BYRD FAMILY LEGACY

The Byrd family has left an extraordinary legacy in Virginia, marked through politics, journalism, and business. This family, with roots extending back to the colonial era, has shaped the Winchester area and the broader state of Virginia over generations. Central to this legacy is The Winchester Star and the family's contributions to the development of downtown Winchester, specifically the building at 2 N. Kent Street.

The Byrd family's association with The Winchester Star began with Richard Evelyn Byrd in 1897. He acquired the paper when its founder, John Sloat, faced financial difficulties and kept it from folding by providing needed funds. Under Richard's leadership, the paper flourished, particularly due to his talent for concise and impactful editorial writing. Known for his eloquence and brevity, Richard's work quickly captivated readers, transforming The Star into a vital voice in the community. His editorial prowess and legal expertise propelled him into politics, where he served as Frederick County's Commonwealth's Attorney and eventually as Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, a position he achieved in just two years—a record that remains unmatched.

When financial hardships again threatened The Star in 1903, Richard's son, Harry Flood Byrd Sr., stepped in at only 15 years old. Employing his now-famous "pay-as-you-go" philosophy, young Harry managed to turn the paper's finances around by requiring cash payments, bringing The Star back to profitability within two years. This fiscal discipline became a hallmark of Harry Sr.'s later political career as governor and U.S. senator, where he championed balanced budgets and conservative governance.

The Star became a Byrd family enterprise across generations. Harry Sr. expanded the paper's reach while delving into apple farming and public service. His influence continued through his son, Harry F. Byrd Jr., who guided the paper through the Great Depression and World War II, later moving the operation to a new building at 2 N. Kent Street in 1947.

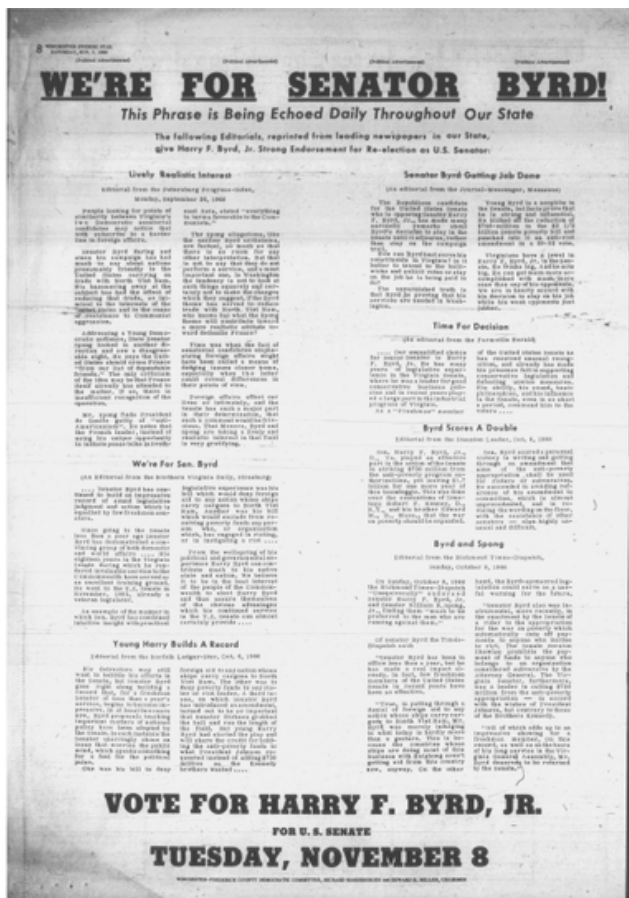
The building at 2 N. Kent Street, built in 1946, became The Star's headquarters and a significant landmark in Winchester's downtown. The relocation represented a strategic investment by the Byrd family, positioning The Star near Frederick County's government complex and the Frederick-Winchester Judicial Center. Over the decades, the building expanded to include five additions, reflecting the family's commitment to maintaining up-to-date publishing technology and accommodating a growing staff. With its brick façade and ample parking, the 40,000-square-foot building continues to be a distinctive structure in the area, embodying the Byrd family's enduring influence on Winchester's landscape.



# Byrd Family Cont...

Though The Star was sold in 2018, the Byrds retained ownership of the building. Thomas W. Byrd, a fifth-generation member of the family, led its redevelopment to a mixed-use space that includes Samson Properties real estate office and Vibrissa Beer restaurant and brewing on the ground level and the five recently completed (currently for lease) luxury apartments on the second floor. The redevelopment respected the site's historical value while contributing to Winchester's evolving needs.

Beyond journalism, the Byrds' impact spans Virginia's political, agricultural, and economic spheres. Harry F. Byrd Sr.'s fiscal policies laid the foundation for the "Byrd Organization," which dominated Virginia politics for over four decades. His contributions to agriculture through extensive apple orchards around Winchester also stimulated the local economy, and the annual Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival remains a testament to his legacy. Meanwhile, Harry F. Byrd Jr. continued this political influence by serving in the Virginia Senate and then in the U.S. Senate, maintaining the family's ethos and commitment to local governance. The Byrd family has continuously contributed to the Winchester community. Their story reflects both the resilience and adaptability of a family deeply intertwined with Virginia's history and culture. The building at 2 N. Kent Street is more than just a structure; it's a testament to the family's ongoing legacy in Winchester—a reminder of their century-long dedication to serving the town, preserving its history, and shaping its future.



Old Town 2045 is setting out to create a community-driven vision to enrich Old Town Winchester's future, and \*Friends of Old Town\* needs your ideas and input to make it happen!

Through this initiative they will prioritize improvements in key areas like infrastructure, public spaces, health and wellness, and the arts, especially in the Loudoun Street Pedestrian Mall and surrounding districts. By working together on this plan, we can help Old Town reach its full potential, becoming an even more vibrant, inviting community space for everyone.

TAKE THE SURVEY HERE



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/oldtownva>



## Winchester Book Gallery Recommends:



Inspired by the legend of Xishi, one of the famous Four Beauties of Ancient China, *A Song to Drown Rivers* is an epic novel steeped in myth about womanhood, war, sacrifice, and love against all odds as the fate of two kingdoms hangs in a delicate balance.

Her beauty hides a deadly purpose.

Xishi's beauty is seen as a blessing to the villagers of Yue—convinced that the best fate for a girl is to marry well and support her family. When Xishi draws the attention of the famous young military advisor, Fanli, he presents her with a rare opportunity: to use her beauty as a weapon. One that could topple the rival neighboring kingdom of Wu, improve the lives of her people, and avenge her sister's murder. All she has to do is infiltrate the enemy palace as a spy, seduce their immoral king, and weaken them from within.

[WinchesterBookGallery.com](http://WinchesterBookGallery.com)

| 7 N. Loudoun St



# SEE *November events* AND BE SEEN

## 9 SUSHI TWO

Learn to prepare sushi! From rice to sauce and everything inside, this class includes Dragon Roll, Shrimp Tempura, Sushi Nachos, Dynamite Roll, Sushi Rice, Unagi Sauce and Yum Yum Sauce, the best you have EVER tasted.

[Nibblins](#)

## 14 CHAMBER ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Join Chamber members and SU students and faculty for a State of the Region and other updates on our local economy and business landscape. [SU](#)

## 15+ MSV GARDEN LIGHTS

Experience the magic of the MSV gardens as they are decked out with lights for the season! [MSV](#)

## 23 WINTER WONDERLAND MARKET

We will have a large selection of local crafters and artisans for you to find the perfect Christmas Gift Plus tons of fun in the kids zone! [War Memorial Building](#)

## 30 WREATH MAKING

Learn how to make a holiday wreath with wild foraged greenery. We will provide everything you need. You will learn special techniques and skills that will last a lifetime! [Homestead Farm](#)





# FACES OF WINCHESTER: BRADY CLOVEN

Without doubt, most people in the surrounding area have been to an event in our Old Town area. From First Friday, to Oktoberfest or Hop Blossom, downtown Winchester offers a variety of occasions and celebrations that all can take part.

For years, those in charge of planning these events would have to visit several offices, apply for permits at different offices and coordinate all the necessary paperwork and licenses themselves. Recently, such an undertaking has gotten easier.

Earlier this year Brady Cloven assumed the leading role of Winchester Main Street. He's spent these first few months introducing himself to the community, attending meetings and events, and listening to the ideas and concerns of downtown business owners and community members. He's working closely with a nine-member board on both short-term and long-term goals, keeping businesses and the community at the forefront.

First, Cloven is focusing his attention on foundation procedures, administrative roles and developing a user-friendly website to help navigate event procedures. He's coordinating business resources in our community, solidifying a community engagement calendar, and organizing committees to help everything flow smoothly.

Long-term, Mr. Cloven plans to apply for grant opportunities supporting better downtown signage, advertising and promotion. Through developing close relationships with those in our downtown, he hopes to help create a thriving area, one where people choose to come first for dining, entertainment and shopping.

Brady visited the area several times before considering applying for the leadership role. He previously worked in non-profit management in Massachusetts, and saw some of the offerings our area has. He decided to take a weekend getaway to visit and participate in a few events. He found the community and its people charming and was excited to throw his hat in the ring to become Winchester Main Street's first and only paid employee. Since accepting the position, Brady and his wife live just a short walk away from Old Town and immerse themselves in all the activity.

It's a big undertaking, for sure, but Cloven is enthusiastic and optimistic that downtown Winchester will continue to grow, attracting greater tourism numbers and offering residents a variety of fun-filled gatherings.

**Amber Koehler has lived in Winchester for 22 years.**

**She owns Twice Is Nice Consignments in our downtown area and loves to support all things local.**



Mr. Cloven and the Board of Directors of Winchester Main Street hold monthly meetings, inviting any area business or individual to attend. Together, WMS is creating an exciting calendar and new initiatives that will appeal to a wide variety of people. It's been a big year for Cloven with so much to look forward to in the future.

Brady Cloven can be reached at [mainstwin.bcloven@gmail.com](mailto:mainstwin.bcloven@gmail.com) with questions or ideas. Or you might run into him, walking around with a huge grin and a look of excitement, planning something that's sure to be great!





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

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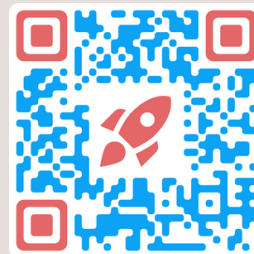
### MISTY WEAVER & KATIE JORDAN

Our mission at the Dream Weaver Team is simple: to turn your dream lifestyle into your reality. Real estate is an investment in your future, and experience matters. Our team has decades of experience as investors and agents.

#### OUR MARKETING STARTS WITH:

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WINCHESTER STAR AWARDS**