

WE ARE WINCHESTER

JULY 2025

# OLDTOWNIST.COM

**FREE**



 **SUBSCRIBE**

**PHOTO BY  
DH PHOTOGRAPHY**



## Winchester Book Gallery Recommends:



When ten-year-old Ebby Freeman heard the gunshot, time stopped. And when she saw her brother, Baz, lying on the floor surrounded by the shattered pieces of a centuries-old jar, life as Ebby knew it shattered as well.

The crime was never solved—and because the Freemans were one of the only Black families in a

particularly well-to-do enclave of New England—the case has had an enduring, voyeuristic pull for the public. The last thing the Freemans want is another media frenzy splashing their family across the papers, but when Ebby's high profile romance falls apart without any explanation, that's exactly what they get.

So Ebby flees to France, only for her past to follow her there. And as she tries to process what's happened, she begins to think about the other loss her family suffered on that day eighteen years ago—the stoneware jar that had been in their family for generations, brought North by an enslaved ancestor. But little does she know that the handcrafted piece of pottery held more than just her family's history—it might also hold the key to unlocking her own future.

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

| 7 N. Loudoun St

## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Summer is in full swing, and there's no better time to soak in all that our city has to offer. From fireworks over Jim Barnett Park to the buzz of local flea and farmers markets, July brings a vibrant energy that reminds us why we love calling Winchester home.

In this issue, we take a look at new places around town, established favorites, and share stories of locals making a difference. As we mark Independence Day, we're reminded of the deep history that lives in every brick and battlefield around us – and of the freedoms we enjoy thanks to those who came before.

Wherever July takes you, we hope this issue inspires you to explore, connect, and celebrate Winchester.

We'll see you in Old Town!



*Misty Weaver  
& Katie Jordan*

**WE ARE  
WINCHESTER**

## RAILWAY CAFÉ

The Laurel Center's new Railway Café is bringing fresh food and fresh starts to Winchester. Located at 430 N. Cameron Street, the century-old brick railway station underwent extensive renovations. The result is a striking space complete with a balcony, patio seating, fireplace, and modern kitchen facilities. The café offers breakfast and lunch options with a grab-and-go menu perfect for busy professionals and nearby residents. We especially enjoyed the train themed names of dishes, and would recommend the Railway Burger. We will have to visit again soon for breakfast as that menu looks especially delicious!

But beyond the food, the Railway Café provides paid job training for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, helping them build skills and confidence in a supportive environment. Every cup of coffee and every meal served supports the Laurel Center's mission of empowerment and healing, allowing the community to enjoy great food while helping individuals rebuild their lives. It's a stepping stone toward healing, independence, and stronger community connections.

Learn more about The Laurel Center at [TheLaurelCenter.org](http://TheLaurelCenter.org)





# TIN TOP ART: QUIRKY, CREATIVE, 100% HANDMADE

You know that place in Old Town that makes you feel cooler just for walking in? That's Tin Top Art. And at the heart of it all is Kerry Stavely—printmaker, curator, artist, and low-key creative catalyst for Winchester's ever-growing art scene.

Kerry grew up in Leesburg, studied at the Memphis College of Art, and did her time in the world of advertising design. But eventually, she traded digital deadlines for handmade expression—co-running *Horse and Hare*, a printmaking business with her husband Neil, and launching Tin Top in 2014.

She says her brain craves novelty. Tin Top is the outlet—half gallery, half gift shop, wholly curated chaos in the best way.

"I wanted a place that was quirky and eclectic," she says, "not your standard white-wall gallery, but a space where you might find a block-printed cat spoon rest next to a screen-printed Dolly Parton shirt."

Kerry's art has always bent around real life. Parenting a toddler while painting? Impossible. But printmaking? That she and Neil could do in quick bursts—carving a block between nap time and cleanup. Over the years, they've grown a line of linocuts, etchings, and letterpress work under *Horse and Hare*, even designing a couple of Route 11 Potato Chip bags. (Yes, really.)

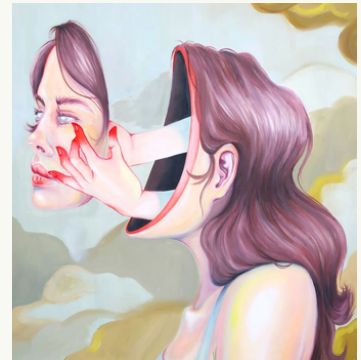
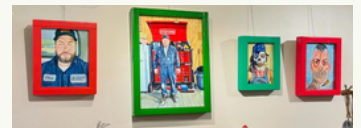
In the back of Tin Top, you'll find their shared studio—complete with a 1909 letterpress and etching press. Sometimes visitors ask for a peek. If you're lucky, you'll get one.

From the outside, Tin Top might look like a fun place to grab a postcard or witty candle. And it is. But it's also a quiet launchpad for dozens of regional artists. Kerry sources from local potters, printmakers, and illustrators, many of whom she's known from the craft show circuit. Some, like potter Susie Rhodes, have had their work on Tin Top shelves since early on.

She's always open to new work. "We're pretty full," she admits, "but I'm always looking for something unique—something I haven't seen a dozen times before."

Tin Top now runs bi-monthly exhibits, and Kerry and Neil have claimed the exhibit space with their own works in a show called "Re-surfaced." After that, look for work by Shelby Hubbard, another former Peter Bullough artist in residence, now based in DC.

Kerry says the shop reflects her own shifting interests. It's a space for humor, nostalgia, social commentary, and a healthy dose of kitsch. As she puts it, "You don't always know what you're looking for until you see it—and when you do, it clicks."



That's the Tin Top magic. It's not just stuff—it's stories, it's art that made someone feel something. Kerry's goal? Help artists share their voice, and help customers find pieces that feel like *theirs*.

Still learning, still experimenting, Kerry's recently taken up pottery—because, of course, she has. "Artists keep learning. We kind of have to," she laughs. Whether it's print, clay, or curating, her work always circles back to creating space—for artists, for expression, for art that doesn't take itself too seriously but still matters.

Visit Tin Top Art at 130 N Loudoun St or at [TinTopArt.com](http://TinTopArt.com)





# SHENARTS GALLERY NOW OPEN

For decades, the Shenandoah Arts Council—known locally as ShenArts—has supported artists and fostered creativity throughout the Winchester region. Now, with the opening of its brand-new gallery and co-op space at 128 N Loudoun St on the Old Town Winchester Walking Mall, ShenArts is taking a bold new step toward greater visibility and deeper community engagement.

The gallery officially opened during First Friday in June, drawing over 250 visitors in a single evening—a clear sign of local enthusiasm for the arts. Located in the heart of downtown, the space was designed with accessibility in mind, offering an inviting and walkable destination where art and community intersect. “We’re bringing art to the people, and people to the art,” the organization emphasizes.

Inside, the gallery showcases a dynamic mix of artwork. One side features rotating exhibits curated by ShenArts, while the other highlights the diverse talents of artists participating in the co-op. Upstairs, visitors will find a gallery space dedicated to the “Artist of the Month,” providing a spotlight for individual artists to share a fuller body of work. The collection includes both two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces, ensuring there’s something for every art lover to discover.



ShenArts aims to offer workshops, educational opportunities, and events that engage participants of all ages and backgrounds. The space will also be available for use by community members, offering a versatile venue for a variety of cultural and social gatherings.

Even as ShenArts grows its physical presence, many of its beloved programs continue to thrive. The organization’s Artscape banner project transforms downtown streets with vibrant artwork displayed on banners in Old Town Winchester and Middletown, celebrating the talents of local artists. Monthly Kids Art Club events provide creative experiences for the youngest members of the community, while the annual ShenArts Fest remains the centerpiece of the year, with this year’s celebration scheduled for September 6.

With its new gallery space, Shenandoah Arts Council is not only elevating local artists but also reinforcing its role as a cornerstone of Winchester’s cultural landscape. ShenArts is committed to making art accessible, inclusive, and integral to the fabric of the community.

You can learn more about the ShenArts gallery online at [ShenArtsGallery.com](http://ShenArtsGallery.com)





# SEE AND BE SEEN

July events

## 3

### ROCKIN' INDEPENDENCE EVE

Loudoun St Mall will be alive with music and activities, then head to Jim Barnett Park for fireworks!

OTW

## 19

### ALL-AMERICAN PIG & POUR

Bourbon tastings and pig roast with live music, silent auction, and more to raise funds for the Youth Development Center.

YDC

## 19

### ANTIQUE & MODIFIED CAR SHOW

Enter your car or just come to view antique and modified cars. MSV

## 19

### COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET

Reserve space to bring your items to sell, or bring your eye for a bargain! Hosted by The Frederick Douglass Park Club, funds raise go towards their annual family day! Frederick Douglass Park

## 26

### PARK IT & PLAY

A family wellness day event featuring live music, food trucks, crafts, games, and demonstrations! Jim Barnett Park



We are proud to announce the first ever official vanity license plate commemorating the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival®. **SHOW YOUR PINK AND GREEN PRIDE** year-round with the floral design that is sure to turn heads wherever you travel, from the Commonwealth and beyond!

The plate will be offered for an **ANNUAL FEE OF \$10** in addition to your standard registration. Please scan the QR code or visit the **THEBLOOM.COM** to access the pre-order form. Acceptable forms of payment are cash and check only.





# THE HEART BEHIND HIDEAWAY CAFE

Not so hidden on the south end of Winchester's Old Town pedestrian mall, Hideaway Cafe is much more than a coffee shop. Owned and operated by Victoria Kidd Armstrong, Hideaway is a thriving example of how business and community engagement can go hand-in-hand.

Victoria's passion for community service predates the cafe itself. Her first foray into community food drives began humbly in 2010 with a simple plastic tote on her front porch, inviting neighbors to drop off non-perishable items for World Food Day. That small gesture ignited what would become a lifelong commitment to fighting food insecurity. Over the years, her efforts have resulted in over one and a half tons of canned food donations, contributions to organizations like CCAP and Highland Food Pantry, and the creation of two food pantries. Today, Hideaway Cafe continues that mission, regularly preparing high-protein meals for CCAP's Freedged on Cameron Street, with support from local businesses that both donate supplies and receive recognition through the cafe.

Animal welfare is another cause close to Victoria's heart. After the loss of a beloved family dog, she and her husband Greg began sponsoring adoption costs for dogs from the Winchester Area SPCA. During one visit to choose the next dog to sponsor, their daughter Lydia found an American Akita, now named Miso, to adopt themselves. Lydia has embraced the family mission, choosing which dogs the cafe sponsors and leading her own charitable initiatives.



Founded in 2015, Hideaway Cafe originally occupied a tucked-away spot in the basement of the Old Post Office in Winchester, VA. In 2018, it reopened in its current location on the Old Town pedestrian mall, providing a warm and welcoming environment modeled after a favorite college-town coffee shop in Greenville, NC. The café serves coffee, tea, sandwiches, salads, pastries, and coffee-based cocktails like espresso martinis. It also offers bagged coffees, canned teas, and brewing supplies.

Inclusivity is at the heart of everything Hideaway does. The cafe serves as a safe space for all guests, regardless of race, gender identity, religion, or background. Over the years, it has hosted an eclectic range of events from weddings and baby showers to drag shows, political town halls, and even murder mystery nights. Victoria believes that every person has a story worth hearing, and that belief has fostered a diverse and vibrant community within the cafe's walls.

For Victoria Kidd Armstrong, success isn't measured solely by sales but by the impact her business has on the lives it touches. "You aren't just here to make a buck," she says. "What can I do to leave this place better than when I got here?"

[HideawayCafeVA.com](http://HideawayCafeVA.com) | 141 S Loudoun St. Winchester, VA 22601



# WILDEMBER: EMILY KALLICK BRAND WHISPERER

If you've shopped locally or scrolled through Winchester's social feeds lately, you may have noticed a fresh, vibrant aesthetic—and behind it is one of Winchester's very own brand whisperers, Emily Kallick. Having been part of Emily's marketing for Twice Is Nice trunk shows in the past, I was delighted to sit down with her over drinks at Espresso Bar and learn more about her personally.

Emily didn't grow up thinking she'd end up here. Born with a wanderer's spirit—"everywhere and nowhere," she calls it—she landed in Fairfax during high school, then enlisted in the National Guard. After a stint at craft stores and meeting her now-husband, the Army dropped orders to relocate them to Winchester. Without jobs, Emily grabbed printed resumes and hit the pedestrian mall—landing a position at Make Nest, where she spent eight years evolving from shop girl into unofficial marketing strategist.

When COVID hit, everything in the creative economy froze. But for Emily, necessity sparked opportunity. With daycare closed and a toddler at home, she took a leap—freelancing her social media and website skills to old and new clients, including Twice Is Nice and author Alicia Lewis. Suddenly, she had not just one opportunity, but a growing business.

Today, Emily brings a refreshingly human touch to small-biz marketing. No fluff. No headless marketing teams. Just curious questions and strategic structure.

- **Websites & Branding:** Using user-friendly platforms like Squarespace, she empowers owners to manage on their own. She dives into the emotional core using candid onboarding questions ("when did you first feel you made an impact?") that reveal authentic taglines and messaging—like "Celebrate Confidently" for Summit Events.
- **Marketing Systems:** From automating email funnels to easy Google Forms for ordering parts, Emily builds infrastructure so that artistry and function coexist.
- **Social Media & Email:** With a team including expert Hannah, she helps clients stay consistent and genuine online—without overwhelming them.



"I love marrying geeky data systems with gorgeousness," Emily smiles. "Like corsetry—structure makes beauty function."

More than a consultant, Emily is a connector. Through Bike Walk Winchester initiatives, Handley Library branding, and pop-up flower bars at local shops, she fosters cross-pollination between businesses—making Winchester's creative scene feel even more like a family.

Scared to find help with marketing? Emily hears it daily: "People think it's expensive, but they can't or don't want to do the work themselves." Her advice?

- If you're doubting yourself, you probably *are* ready.
- You don't have to sign a long contract—start with a phone call.
- You don't need marketing perfection—you need empathy, honesty, and a systems-first approach.
- And—the miracle moment—if you're asking whether you should, that question already says you should.

Emily isn't just making brands more beautiful—she's making them *meaningful*. Marketing isn't a chore for her clients; it's a reclaiming of their voice. And in a perfect Winchester moment—she even teaches her 9 year old son Jesse a few tricks, and he responds by sparking his own ideas.

Emily's here to help local founders find joy again, not jackhammer their souls into spreadsheets. Whether you need a website that works *for* your business, a tagline that actually tells your story, or a system that frees you up to do what you love—you're invited.

Learn more about Emily at [WildemberBrand.com](https://WildemberBrand.com)

Created and distributed by OldTownist LLC. Contact [otw@oldtownist.com](mailto:otw@oldtownist.com) for advertising and other inquiries.

**Get a FREE copy of OldTownist each month! Visit [OldTownist.com](https://OldTownist.com) to sign up!**



# 408 MONTGOMERY CT - \$735K JUST SOLD

WE ARE  
WINCHESTER



Whether you're buying, selling, or investing, trust a local expert who knows Winchester inside and out. As highly involved members of this community, we bring not only deep market knowledge but also strong local connections to help you navigate every step with confidence. Let our experience and commitment open the right doors for you — in a place we both call home.

**READY TO BUY, SELL, OR INVEST? CALL US!**



## REACH OUT TODAY



**VOTED #1 & #2 AGENT 2024  
WINCHESTER STAR AWARDS**



Katie Jordan



Misty Weaver

703-477-2988

katielandijordan@gmail.com

540-999-8826

misty@dreamweaverteam.com