

WE ARE WINCHESTER

SPRING 2026

OLDTOWNIST.COM



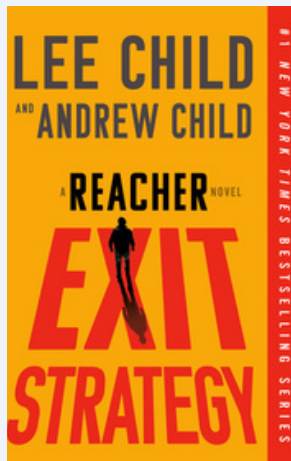
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PHOTO BY
KATIE JORDAN

Winchester Book Gallery Recommends:



First—a Baltimore coffee shop. A seat in the corner, facing the door. Black coffee, two refills, no messing around. A minor interruption from two of the customers, but nothing he can't deal with swiftly. As he leaves, a young guy brushes against him in the doorway. Instinctively Reacher checks the pocket holding his cash and passport. There's no problem. Nothing is missing.

Second—a store to buy a coat. Nothing fancy. Something he can ditch when he heads to warmer climates. Large enough to fit a man the size of a bank vault. As he pulls out his cash, he finds something new in his pocket. A handwritten note. A desperate plea for help.

Third—wherever this bend in the road takes him. Impressed by the guy's technique and intrigued by the message, Reacher makes it his mission to find out more . . .

WinchesterBookGallery.com | 7 N. Loudoun St

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Spring in Winchester has a way of inviting everyone back outside. as patios fill with friends, and the pace of downtown shifts into something lighter and more alive. It's a season of renewal—of opening doors, trying something new, and reconnecting with the community around us.

That spirit of fresh energy makes this the perfect moment for OldTownist to evolve as well. With this issue, we're transitioning to a quarterly publication schedule. This change allows us to slow down, be more intentional, and bring you stories that more fully capture the character and momentum of Winchester in each season.

As you flip through these pages, we hope you feel that sense of spring—of creativity, growth, and connection. Whether you're discovering a new favorite spot, revisiting a familiar one, or simply enjoying the longer, brighter days, this is a time to get out and experience all that our community has to offer.

We'll see you in Old Town!



*Misty Weaver
& Katie Jordan*

**WE ARE
WINCHESTER**

AWABI

Tucked along the walking mall at 111 S Loudoun St, Awabi, a familiar favorite has entered a fresh new chapter. The downtown sushi spot officially reopened in mid-March under new ownership, bringing a blend of continuity and change that longtime patrons will appreciate.

One of the most reassuring constants is the restaurant's skilled sushi chef, who has remained in place through the transition. Guests can still expect the same attention to detail and quality that built Awabi's reputation, from carefully crafted rolls to beautifully presented sashimi.

At the same time, the new ownership has made thoughtful updates to both the space and the menu. The interior has undergone renovations, creating a refreshed, inviting atmosphere while maintaining the intimate feel that suits its location on the walking mall. The most notable addition is the introduction of hibachi meals, expanding the dining experience beyond sushi and offering something for a wider range of tastes.

Awabi also now features daily specials, giving regulars a reason to return often and try something new. With its combination of familiar faces, updated surroundings, and an expanded menu, Awabi's reopening marks an exciting evolution for one of downtown Winchester's go-to dining destinations.



BISCUITS & BEANS: CAT CAFE

Some businesses open because someone spots a market gap. Others begin because retirement turns out to be a little too quiet. For Chris and Charlotte Goebel, Biscuits & Beans Cat Café started with both.

The couple retired at the end of 2022 and moved to the Winchester area, where they expected to settle into country life on nearly eight acres. There were sheep, chickens, ponds, and plenty of room to breathe. Chris figured he'd spend the rest of his days in bib overalls, working outside and enjoying the pace. That dream lasted a while. Then real life set in.

They both realized they weren't ready to stop building something. Around the same time, they kept coming back to an idea they had first seen in Florida near their daughter's college: a cat café. They loved the concept, but they also felt it could be done better – not just as a novelty, but as a real business with a real rescue mission behind it.

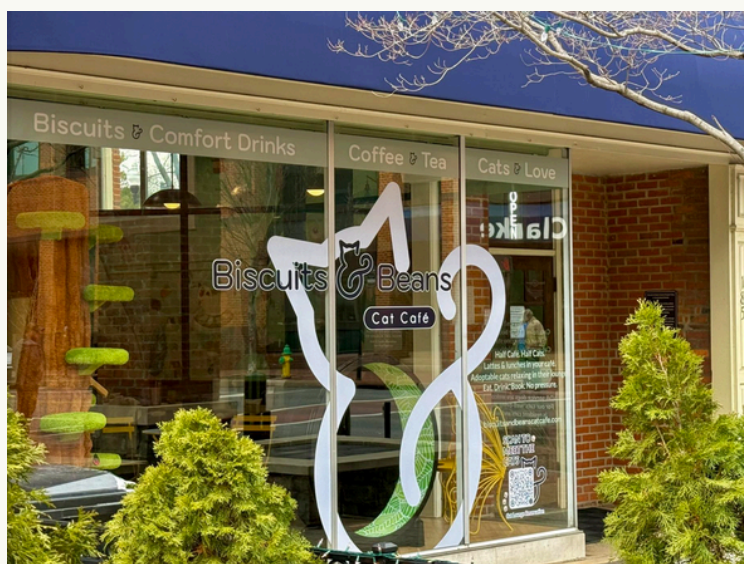
That idea became Biscuits & Beans Cat Café, now at 185 N. Loudoun Street on the Walking Mall in Old Town Winchester. The café side is designed to be welcoming whether you are there for coffee, tea, a baked treat, or a quiet place to sit. The cat lounge is the heart of the concept, giving adoptable rescue cats a calm, thoughtfully managed space where visitors can spend time with them and, maybe, meet the right cat to take home.

Chris serves as chief brand officer, which suits him just fine. Charlotte handles much of the administrative side. And then there is Tina Tomalesky, their chief cat officer, whose rescue background gives the whole operation its backbone.

Tina is also founder of Shady's Paw Rescue, and her involvement changed everything. What the Goebels quickly discovered is that running a cat café ethically is about much more than putting cats in a pretty room and opening the doors. It is about animal care, foster systems, adoptions, behavior, sanitation, and making sure the cats' well-being comes before the customer experience. That part matters deeply to Tina, and it is now built into the whole model. Biscuits & Beans describes itself as a structured foster-to-adoption environment, with rescue partners retaining legal ownership while cats stay at the café temporarily and are cared for in a public but controlled setting.

That mission is what gives the place its real personality. This is not meant to be a revolving door for impulse adoptions. The team wants people to spend time with cats in a relaxed environment, not make a snap decision because a kitten looked cute for five seconds. In fact, they are especially passionate about helping older cats, bonded pairs, and cats who do not shine in the typical adoption-event setup. Cats that may feel stressed in cages or get overlooked next to tiny kittens can instead settle into a space designed for them to decompress and be seen.

The business side is equally intentional. Chris told me early on they made a firm decision: no tipping. Their line is "No Tips, Just Tails," and it is more than branding. They would rather pay staff a higher wage and invite customers to donate directly to cat care instead. Those donations flow through the Just Tails Foundation for Cat Care, a registered 501(c)(3), with funds going toward supplies and rescue support. Their long-term hope is to raise serious money for partner rescues while helping many more cats find permanent homes.



And yes, the café menu has its own charm too. There are specialty drinks, bakery items, and their oversized "Kindness Biscuit," with a portion of each one sold helping support the mission. It is a thoughtful blend of hospitality and heart, which feels exactly right for a business opening in Old Town.

What struck me most talking with Chris, Charlotte, and Tina is that they are not pretending this is simple. They know they are building something unusual. They know they will keep tweaking it. They know Winchester has not really seen anything quite like this before. But that is also what makes it feel promising.

Biscuits & Beans is not just about coffee. It is not just about cats. It is about creating a space that feels good to walk into – one that might brighten somebody's afternoon, help a rescue do more good, and give a cat its second-to-last stop before home.

Officially opening on April 1st!

Learn more at BiscuitsAndBeansCatCafe.com

ART AGAIN THRIFT: CREATIVE REUSE CENTER

A new project launching in Winchester this year aims to make creativity more accessible while keeping usable materials out of the waste stream. Art Again Thrift, a creative reuse shop opening this summer, will collect donated art and craft supplies from the community and make them available to artists, teachers, students, and makers at affordable prices.

Founder Misty Weaver says the idea grew out of conversations with local arts organizations, teachers, and crafters. “Through supporting art nonprofits and teachers around Winchester, one of the things I heard repeatedly was that everyone is limited by budgets. Crafters have also been having a hard time finding local items with recent shop closings. Yet we all have unused art and craft materials sitting around our homes waiting to be loved.”

The concept is simple: materials that might otherwise sit unused in craft rooms, closets, classrooms, or storage can be donated and put back into the hands of people who will use them. Accepted donations will include a wide range of creative materials such as fabric, yarn, sewing supplies, paper goods, beads, paint, brushes, sketchbooks, scrapbooking materials, unfinished craft projects, art tools, and other reusable creative supplies.

The first opportunity for the community to participate will come during the Lost Arts Festival. “We’ll be participating in the Lost Arts Festival on April 12, and that will be the first day people can begin dropping off donations,” Weaver says. “It’s a great opportunity for people to see the concept in action and start thinking about all the creative materials they may have tucked away that someone else could use.” Attendees will also be able to participate in a free craft during the festival.

In addition to retail shopping, the space will offer memberships that come with perks such as discounts, access to early classes and the craft bar, free materials each month, and opportunities to participate in collaborative projects. “My goal is for the shop to become a true third space for creative people in the community,” she says. “A place where someone might stop in when they need to work through something mentally, meet a friend to craft together, or participate in a community art piece. I want it to feel like a space people belong to—not just a store.”

Join us at the Lost Arts Festival - April 12th
Bring your materials to donate and receive a 25%
off coupon for opening month!



An arts and craft creative reuse center dedicated to rescuing usable materials from the landfill, and repurposing them as affordable creative supplies for teachers, artists, crafters, and students.

Non-profit arm collects material donations and fulfills material requests for teachers, non-profits, fundraisers, sponsored art classes, and events.



Long term plans include hiring through NW Works, creating an accessible space, and promoting creative reuse art and artists.

Art Again Thrift is part of a broader long-term vision that includes the formation of a nonprofit arm focused on distributing donated materials to educators, nonprofits, and community programs, while creating a fully accessible space so everyone can enjoy creating art. Art Again is beginning to fulfill this mission with 50 teacher memberships that will be available to Winchester, Frederick and Clarke County teachers for a nominal fee of \$25 for the school year. Each month teacher members will be able to fill a bag with materials they need to ensure their students have engaging craft items, while allowing the teachers to limit their out of pocket expenses.

“We have an incredibly creative community here,” Weaver says. “If we can make materials more accessible and create a welcoming place for people to make things together, that opens the door for all kinds of new ideas and collaborations I am excited to bring to Winchester.”

More information about donation guidelines, founding memberships, and the opening timeline can be found at ArtAgainThrift.com.

THE CHEF'S CORNER

People come to The Chef's Corner for prepared meals, but they stay for the community and connection. Run by Bonnie Jones and her husband Phil—better known as “Buddy”—this small gourmet-to-go meal shop feels less like a store and more like walking into a neighbor's kitchen. And Bonnie and Buddy have plenty of stories to share.

The couple met in the early 1980s in Rockville, Maryland. Buddy was a cook and Bonnie worked as a late-night bartender. Not long after, they headed west to Los Angeles, where they spent about fifteen years building careers in food, film, and television. Bonnie served as president of Women in Film in Colorado for a time, and together they even produced a cooking television show.

Over the years they lived in Colorado, Nebraska, New Jersey, and Charlotte, following Buddy's culinary career. Much of his work involved helping regional grocery chains grow and prepare for acquisition—meaning once the company sold, it was time to move on to the next project.

Eventually, one of those projects turned into a business of their own.

While attending a culinary convention years ago, Buddy discovered a technique for making sweet roasted nuts that quickly became a hit. Bonnie saw the potential and encouraged him to turn it into a product. Soon they launched “My Buddy's Nuts,” selling first wholesale and later at festivals across the South. The two became regulars on the festival circuit, building a loyal following that came back year after year.

Winchester, however, was always in the back of their minds.

They had purchased a small house here in 2012, planning to eventually move closer to Bonnie's family. Life sped up that timeline, and after closing their Charlotte operation they relocated to Winchester and began selling at the farmers market while deciding what to do next.

The next step appeared when a small storefront became available downtown. The space had previously been called “Buddy's Dunlaps,” which felt like a sign that the location was meant to be. The Chef's Corner opened at the end of 2022.

Today the shop specializes in chef-prepared meals that customers can take home and heat up—restaurant-quality food without the restaurant. Bonnie handles the menus, planning, and business side of things, while Buddy focuses on cooking.

Each week the menu changes, reflecting Buddy's philosophy that food should stay interesting. Rather than sticking to one cuisine or repeating the same dishes, he prefers to cook whatever inspires him at the moment.

But if you ask Bonnie and Buddy what really makes the place special, it's not just the food. It's the people. Many customers have become regulars and friends—people who stop by not only for dinner but also to catch up. In a town like Winchester, those small connections matter. As Buddy puts it, their customers aren't just customers anymore. They're part of the story.

Learn more and order at TheChefsCorner.net



A circular logo for Winchester Espresso Bar and Cafe. The text "WINCHESTER" is at the top, "ESPRESSO" is in the center in a large, bold font, and "BAR AND CAFE" is at the bottom. Below the logo, it says "SINCE 2010" and "VIRGINIA". To the right of the logo, there is a description: "Warm coffeehouse with an authentic selection of espressos plus light snacks, soups and sandwiches." Below that, it says "STOP IN TODAY OLD TOWN WINCHESTER 165 NORTH LOUDOUN STREET (540) 686-7209". At the bottom, it says "CONNECT WITH US ON" followed by Facebook and Instagram icons.

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JOEL RICHARDSON: SHAPING WINCHESTER

If you've spent any time enjoying Winchester lately—walking the Old Town mall, visiting the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, or hearing about plans for new development districts—you've probably benefited from the work of someone you've never met. Joel Richardson is one of those people.

An architect with Reader & Swartz and a member of the Winchester Economic Development Authority board, Richardson has spent the past decade helping shape the city in ways that often happen behind the scenes. His involvement started simply enough: he moved to Winchester and saw a community full of energy, ideas, and people who cared deeply about where they lived. "I could see things were happening," Richardson said, "but there were also things that could be better. And the easiest way to change that is to get involved." So he did.

About 13 years ago, as the Apple Blossom Mall renovation was underway and downtown programming was evolving, Richardson joined others working to support Old Town merchants and events. That effort helped launch the Old Town Main Street Foundation, a nonprofit designed to give downtown businesses more flexibility and support. The goal was simple: keep things organic and collaborative.

Winchester's community, Richardson believes, thrives when ideas come from the people who live and work here rather than rigid programs handed down from above. Events like Restaurant Week and other downtown promotions grew out of that philosophy—community-driven and responsive to what businesses and residents wanted. He laughs when describing it. "It's the best crazy hobby I've ever had." But the hobby quickly turned into something more.

Today, Richardson's work on the Winchester EDA puts him in conversations about some of the city's biggest long-term questions: how to grow, where to invest, and how to keep the character that makes Winchester special. One idea he's particularly excited about is the city's design district planning. The concept is simple but powerful: instead of relying on one large project to transform the local economy, the city can guide development in several areas so that new neighborhoods and commercial spaces grow naturally—much like Old Town did.

"Everyone loves the walking mall," Richardson said. "People come downtown because they want that experience. The question is: why wouldn't we want more places like that in the city?"

For him, good planning isn't just about buildings. It's about creating places where people want to spend time.

Of course, the future of cities across Virginia is changing. Richardson points out that many municipalities—including places as large as Fairfax—are facing a shifting economy as traditional commercial real estate changes. Winchester will have to adapt, too.

One concern he raises often is housing. As the region grows, there simply aren't enough homes for the workforce needed to support new businesses and development. His answer? Sometimes the solutions are simpler than people think. Duplexes, triplexes, and smaller multi-family housing—once common in older American cities—could help bridge the gap between single-family homes and large apartment complexes. "The savior of our city may end up being duplexes and triplexes," he said.

Richardson says one of the reasons he chose to stay in Winchester is that smaller communities give professionals a chance to make a real impact. At Reader & Swartz, that means projects ranging from schools to cultural spaces, including work connected to the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. In a small city, architects don't just design buildings—they help shape the community around them. And that's what keeps him involved. "When professionals leave small towns, the capacity disappears," he said. "But when people stay and get involved, you can actually change things."



Ask Richardson what makes Winchester unique, and his answer is quick: the people. There's a strong community here, he says—one that sometimes forgets how much is already happening around it. That's part of why conversations, collaborations, and local publications matter. They connect the dots between the people doing the work and the residents enjoying the results. Because often, the people shaping a city's future aren't the loudest voices in the room. They're the ones quietly building it.

Reach out to Joel at:
ReaderSwartz.com

Know someone making a difference in Winchester?
Let us know about them!
otw@oldtownist.com

Spring events

Apr 12

LOST ARTS FESTIVAL

Festival devoted to the traditional skills that shaped generations, from fiber arts to blacksmithing, come see demonstrations and more!

LostArtsFest.com

Apr 24+

APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

The 99th Apple Blossom Festival will run through May 3rd - get your tickets in advance: TheBloom.com

Apr 25

KIWANIS PANCAKE DAY

Eat pancakes and raise funds for I'm Just Me Movement with Kiwanis! Call or text Tina for tickets: 703-344-6206

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Call us. We care.

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CLARKE & FREDERICK COUNTIES
CITY OF WINCHESTER

540-459-4742

SHENANDOAH COUNTY

540-743-3733

PAGE COUNTY

540-635-4357

WARREN COUNTY

May 15

SNEAKER SOIREE

Dress up AND wear sneakers as we support Girls on the Run Shenandoah Valley with a night of inspiration and fun! gotrshenandoahvalley.org

June 8

NORTH END SUMMER KICKOFF

Celebrate summer from 12-3pm at Frederick Douglass Park with games, music, basketball, and food. Free to attend. No RSVP needed.

BLACK VALLEY CREATIVE: LOST ARTS FESTIVAL

In the Shenandoah Valley, ideas tend to travel the same way people do—through conversations, collaborations, and a lot of “what if we tried this?” That’s exactly how the Lost Arts Festival came to life.

Katherine Manley, owner and creative director of Black Valley Creative, and co-chair of the festival said “the festival is a collaboration between several women whose work and businesses are already deeply woven into the local community.”

Manley is chairing alongside Christa Nahhas of Lagrange Family Farm, Carrie Brady of Carter Hall Farm, and her daughter Megan Craggs, who runs the farmers markets in both Stephens City and Middletown. The group’s professional worlds already overlap—Lagrange Family Farm even hosts the Black Valley Creative office—so creating something together for the community felt like a natural next step.

The seed for the festival started simply enough. Carrie Brady has long loved attending the well-known Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival and floated the idea of bringing a smaller fiber-focused event to the area. As the conversation evolved, the idea started expanding beyond fiber alone. At some point in the brainstorming, the phrase “lost arts” entered the conversation—and suddenly everything clicked.

Instead of centering only on fiber arts, the festival would highlight a wide range of traditional and hands-on skills that are slowly disappearing from everyday life. Think weaving, blacksmithing, animal herding, and traditional craft demonstrations. The goal was to celebrate skills that once shaped daily life but now often survive only through passionate hobbyists, artisans, and farmers.

The first Lost Arts Festival, April 12th, will feature vendors and artisans from around the Shenandoah Valley, with roughly a third offering live demonstrations. Some will work right at their booths, while others—like the blacksmith—will need a little extra space to safely show their craft in action. For Manley, those demonstrations are part of the magic. “I think seeing something you’ve never seen before is really exciting,” she says. But even more than that, what motivates her is watching a community show up.

Manley’s role in organizing the festival makes sense when you learn about her day job. Black Valley Creative, the advertising agency she founded in 2019, focuses almost entirely on storytelling.

The company specializes in photography, social media management, and content creation for local businesses throughout Shenandoah and Frederick counties and beyond. Instead of traditional marketing analytics, Manley’s team leans heavily into creative storytelling—getting to know business owners personally and translating their personalities into authentic online content.

It’s a philosophy rooted in conversation. When Manley meets a new client, the process looks a lot like the interviews she gives: a long talk about who they are, what they care about, and what makes their business unique. From there, her team builds a social media voice that feels natural instead of manufactured.

Black Valley Creative now works with a range of regional clients—from tourism initiatives and vineyards to restaurants and farms—but the common thread tends to be businesses connected to the land or to the experience of visiting the Valley. Tourism projects, in particular, are a favorite.

“They hit all the aspects we love,” Manley says. “You get to go to restaurants, go on hikes, and be part of conversations about how we bring people here while still supporting the people who live here.”

That same mindset is what shapes the Lost Arts Festival. It’s designed not just as entertainment, but as a way to spotlight the kinds of skills, crafts, and agricultural traditions that still quietly thrive across the region.

Learn more at BlackValleyCreative.com and LostArtsFest.com

Purchase tickets in advance to save:



2026
**LOST ARTS
FESTIVAL**
*a celebration of the timeless
skills that shaped our past*

SUNDAY, APRIL 12
10:00AM - 4:00PM
LA GRANGE FAMILY FARM
5498 VALLEY PIKE STEPHENS CITY, VA

STEP INTO A DAY OF OLD-FASHIONED MAGIC WHERE LOST ARTS COME BACK TO LIFE. DISCOVER THE TIMELESS SKILLS, TRADES, AND TRADITIONS THAT ONCE SHAPED EVERYDAY LIVING AND STILL DESERVE A PLACE IN OUR WORLD TODAY.

Scan the QR Code to purchase your tickets.



DHARMA YOGA



Dharma Yoga is more than a place to stretch—it's a space to rediscover how the body is meant to move. For founder Jill Donnelli-Hu, the journey began not as a business plan, but as a necessity. Living with scoliosis, she found that yoga was the only practice that consistently relieved pain and prevented debilitating nerve issues. What started as a personal solution soon became something she felt compelled to share.

In the earliest days, Dharma Yoga existed in Jill's basement. There was no grand vision—just a small, welcoming space where a few friends gathered to move and feel better. But word spread, and the intimate setting quickly filled. From there, she took a leap, renting space at a local Pilates studio before eventually settling into her current home, a light-filled room in a historic building surrounded by nature. Deer, foxes, and the occasional groundhog wander past the windows, reinforcing the studio's quiet, grounding energy. Though yoga is in the name, Dharma Yoga is better described as a movement studio. Jill's teaching spans both ends of the spectrum: the physically demanding structure of Ashtanga yoga and the gentle, restorative approach of somatic movement. One builds strength and discipline; the other retrains the body to move mindfully, addressing what she calls “neuromuscular amnesia”—the disconnection that can happen when bodies are inactive or misaligned. Despite their differences, both approaches aim toward the same goal: awareness, function, and freedom of movement.

Jill's instinct as a “refiner” allows her to meet each person

where they are, offering subtle adjustments and guidance tailored to individual needs. This attention is even more pronounced in her private sessions, where she can focus entirely on one body and its unique patterns.

Perhaps the most defining aspect of Dharma Yoga, however, is its philosophy. Jill encourages every new student to leave their expectations at the door. Too often, she says, preconceived notions about yoga—what it looks like, who it's for, or how it should feel—become barriers. In reality, the physical poses are only a small fraction of what yoga offers. The deeper practice is expansive, personal, and constantly evolving.

For longtime student Ann Osborn, who has practiced yoga for more than 25 years and spent over a decade at Dharma, that approach is part of the studio's lasting appeal. She describes the environment as warm and welcoming, a place where people connect easily rather than retreat into silence. At the same time, the classes remain challenging, with opportunities to break down complex postures and continue growing no matter one's experience level.

That combination—community, personalization, and a broad view of movement—is what sets Dharma Yoga apart. It's not about achieving the perfect pose or fitting into a mold. Instead, it's about learning how to move better, feel stronger, and reconnect with the body in a way that supports a lifetime of health. In a quiet corner of Winchester, what began in a basement has evolved into something much larger: a practice rooted in necessity, shaped by curiosity, and shared with intention.

Dharma Yoga is located at 922 Martinsburg Pike in the Fort Collier Civil War Center.

Learn more at WinchesterYoga.com



WINCHESTER CITY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOUNDATION

In communities across the country, law enforcement agencies are rethinking what public safety means—shifting toward a model built on prevention, trust, and connection. In Winchester, that approach is reflected in the work of the Winchester City Sheriff's Office Foundation, an all-volunteer organization that funds programs extending beyond what the city budget can provide. Its mission is simple but impactful: to support initiatives that strengthen relationships, meet critical needs, and enhance the well-being of the community.

The Foundation's earliest focus was Project Lifesaver, which serves individuals with cognitive conditions such as dementia and autism who may be prone to wandering. Participants wear a small transmitter that allows trained officers to locate them quickly using specialized equipment if they go missing—often in less than 30 minutes. Over time, the program has expanded beyond a single agency, with multiple local departments trained to respond. The Foundation continues to fund this life-saving service, ensuring it remains available to families who rely on it.

The organization's reach grew under Sheriff Sales, whose background with the Winchester Police Department shaped his commitment to community policing. His philosophy emphasizes everyday interactions that build trust, especially with young people. Whether engaging with children on the basketball court or connecting with residents at local events, his goal is to ensure that positive experiences with law enforcement come long before any crisis situation.

That vision has led to expanded programming focused on youth and education. The Foundation now awards scholarships to graduates of John Handley High School and runs a "Reading with the Sheriff" initiative, where volunteers visit classrooms, read with students, and provide each child with a signed book by a local author. The program supports the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, reinforcing the importance of reading proficiency by the end of third grade while also creating meaningful connections between students and law enforcement.

Beyond education, the Foundation maintains a strong presence at community events throughout the year. From serving snow cones at National Night Out to supporting outreach efforts with the Laurel Center and participating in events like Frederick Douglass Family Day, volunteers consistently show up to engage with residents in positive,



approachable ways. These efforts help build familiarity and trust, reinforcing a sense of shared community.

The Foundation has also introduced creative and compassionate initiatives to meet unexpected needs. In partnership with the Shenandoah Arts Council, it hosts a Youth Art Month exhibit that transforms the courthouse into a gallery showcasing student artwork. Another initiative, the "Bexley Boxes," provides essential items like diapers, snacks, and comfort objects for children who may find themselves at the courthouse during difficult situations, ensuring they are cared for with dignity and compassion.

Through all of its efforts, the Winchester City Sheriff's Office Foundation demonstrates that public safety extends far beyond enforcement. As a fully volunteer-run organization, every dollar donated goes directly toward supporting its programs. By investing in people, supporting families, and fostering positive relationships, the Foundation is helping to build a stronger, more connected community—one where residents feel not only protected, but truly valued.

You can support the Winchester City Sheriff's Foundation by donating online at GiveButter.com/WCSOF

MURPHY BEVERAGE COMPANY

On Winchester's walking mall (167 N Loudoun St), where familiar faces pass by storefronts that feel more like gathering places than retail spaces, Murphy Beverage Company has quietly evolved into something more than a wine shop. Under the ownership of Heidi Hiller, it has become a place of discovery—where curiosity is encouraged, conversations matter, and wine is stripped of its intimidation factor and made approachable for everyone.

Hiller took over the shop four years ago, continuing a legacy started by former owner Charlie Fish while steadily shaping it into something uniquely her own. A longtime customer before stepping behind the counter, Hiller brought with her not only a deep appreciation for the store, but also a growing expertise in wine, having earned her sommelier certification prior to the transition. What began as a career change has since become a thoughtful reimagining of what a neighborhood beverage shop can be.

Over time, the store's focus has shifted in subtle but meaningful ways. Wine now takes center stage, with an emphasis on small producers, sustainable practices, and underrepresented voices in the industry, including women-owned wineries. Shelves are increasingly filled with bottles that tell a story—whether it's a low-intervention vintage from a family vineyard or a lesser-known varietal from a region customers may have never explored. Alongside that, Hiller has expanded offerings in aperitifs and thoughtfully curated non-alcoholic options, from alcohol-free wines and beers to shrubs and mixers that lend themselves to creative mocktails.

That sense of exploration is central to the Murphy experience. Customers aren't expected to arrive with expertise. Instead, conversations guide the process. A simple question about what someone typically drinks, what they're cooking, or even their price range opens the door to tailored recommendations.

For those looking to dive deeper, the shop's longstanding Platinum Wine Club offers a curated monthly experience. Members receive two bottles—often a familiar favorite paired with something more adventurous. The goal is



simple: to expand palates and build confidence, one bottle at a time.

Education at Murphy Beverage Company extends beyond the club. Monthly tastings, sometimes led by Hiller and sometimes by visiting distributors, invite customers to learn in a relaxed, social setting. There's also a unique collaboration with Winchester Book Gallery, where a book club pairs literature with wine selections chosen to complement the themes or setting of each read. It's an experience that blends storytelling in two forms—on the page and in the glass.

Seasonality plays a role in how the shop evolves throughout the year. As spring arrives in the Shenandoah Valley, displays shift toward wines that pair well with fresh, green produce—think crisp whites alongside asparagus and leafy vegetables, or light reds suited for milder evenings. With Winchester's beloved Apple Blossom Festival on the horizon, the shop also becomes a destination for thoughtful host gifts and festive bottles, often chosen as much for their charm as for what's inside.

Despite its curated offerings, Murphy Beverage Company maintains an easygoing, welcoming atmosphere. Regulars stop in for their monthly selections, while newcomers are greeted with the same openness. It's a place where seasoned wine enthusiasts and complete beginners stand side by side, united by a shared willingness to try something new.

For Hiller, that's the heart of it all. Wine, after all, isn't meant to be exclusive—it's meant to be enjoyed, discussed, and shared. And on the walking mall in Winchester, Murphy Beverage Company is doing just that, one conversation—and one carefully chosen bottle—at a time.

Learn more online at MurphyBeverage.com

1041 W MASTERS DR - \$420K JUST LISTED

WE ARE
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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.

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