

WE ARE WINCHESTER

MAY 2023

# OLDTOWNIST.COM



FREE



A NEW TAKE ON  
GARDENING

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

We have officially completed six issues of the Old Townist and it's been a whirlwind! Each day we learn new things about Winchester and the people that make up our community. We've enjoyed the glowing feedback from subscribers and Old Town businesses that support this small endeavor to give back!

We would love to hear what you would like to see, who you want to get to know better, which stories you would like us to tell. We want to showcase more of the vibrant architecture, people, and businesses that we love!

This month we were definitely focused on spring and new growth with gardening from classic trails, to biodiversity, and hydroponics. We hope you commune with nature and soil soon!



*Misty Weaver  
& Katie Jordan*

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## FAMOUS RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO WINCHESTER TRIVIA

1. Which legendary country singer was born in Winchester in 1932 and went on to become one of the most influential artists in the genre?
2. Which famous Civil War general made Winchester his headquarters during several campaigns and led Confederate forces in the Valley Campaign of 1862?
3. Which American novelist and short story writer, known for his dark, Southern Gothic style, lived in Winchester for a time and wrote several stories set in the area?
4. Which U.S. President visited Winchester during the Civil War and used the Hollingsworth house as his headquarters?
5. Which famous architect and designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., was born in Winchester in 1959?



# SUSTAINABLE FOOD SOLUTIONS FOR THE URBAN JUNGLE: FOX URBAN FARMS



Most people do not imagine growing five acres of food on a quarter acre of gravel when they look at an infill property in a city, but that is exactly what Ann and John Fox saw when they surveyed 1001 S Loudoun St.

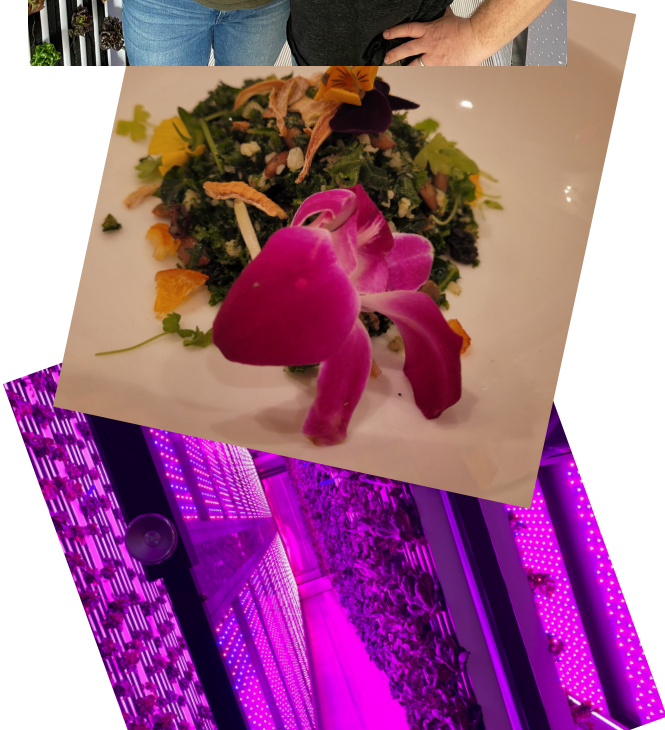
Fox Urban Farms LLC grows fresh greens, microgreens, herbs, and edible flowers using hydroponics within two enormous containers painted with eye-catching paintings by Sarah Gallahan. After 16 years of serving the public through Greenwood Grocery & Deli, they decided to figure out how they might best serve the community in the future while also freeing up their lifestyle after the deli's grueling hours.

Because the containers are totally enclosed, hydroponics allows the Foxes to give safe, wholesome food without having to worry about bugs or pesticides. Hanging seedling trays are automatically irrigated, and timed illumination sends the sun's rays inside regardless of the weather. Setting their own planting schedule allows them to spend more time with their family and devote more time to local charities they care about, such as recently helping update the paint in the cafe at the Winchester Rescue Mission.

Residents can pick up pre-ordered items or choose their selections when they arrive every Saturday. The Foxes also make sauces and other sides from leftover plants and supply speciality goods to nearby eateries. Edible flowers are high on their list of products they want to sell more of, and local chefs are enthusiastic about the idea. Our editors just enjoyed a delicious salad that included edible flowers from the gardens at a Literacy Volunteers fundraising wine supper prepared by D.A.H. Cuisines chef Kesha Harris.

As Winchester struggles with food deserts, the Foxes are pleased to announce that they will now accept government food benefit program payments, which will benefit the surrounding community. They also enjoy receiving stories about how long their products last in the refrigerator versus store-bought products.

Learn more and place your orders or join their CSA program at [FoxUrbanFarms.com](https://FoxUrbanFarms.com)





# FOUR SQUARE ARCHITECT KYLE HOPKINS REVITALIZES THE PAST



Piccadilly St is currently seeing a rebirth in the reuse of old buildings, with Four Square Architects, led by Kyle Hopkins, at the forefront of several projects. Walking through Old Town, you might be familiar with some of their recent projects, such as the transformation of an abandoned gas station into Pizzoco on North Loudoun Street, the Sarah Zane firehouse remodel, and the town homes currently under construction at the corner of Piccadilly and Kent Streets. Other future projects include Paladin's new location, which will have the city's first rooftop dining, and Four Square's new offices in the former flower store on Piccadilly.

We were pleased to talk with Kyle about his vision and what it's like to be involved in so many projects that have a real visual impact in Old Town. Kyle loves to integrate historical accuracy with modern enhancements by drawing inspiration from such things as roof lines and historical uses of structures.

The black subway tile on the exterior of the flower store building, for example, was chosen to resemble the black stone that was originally on the lower half of the building. The flower artwork over the door pays homage to the building's historical usage, and he plans to save the greenhouse installed in the 1940s.

"I enjoy dealing with historic structures... That's one of my favorite things to do, especially when you can breathe fresh life into them in a creative way that's not just restoration." Kyle's enthusiasm shines through as he talks project elements such as the flow of the new Paladin with a degree of detail that includes the style of serving ware that will be utilized at the bar.

As a group of real estate agents who lament poor design that frequently works against how we live our lives in our homes and commercial spaces, we always look forward to seeing the finished projects developed by Four Square architects. We'll have more information as projects proceed this year, so stay tuned for more from this one-of-a-kind firm. Learn more at [FourSquareArchitects.com](http://FourSquareArchitects.com)







# FRIENDSHIP PARK

## *Community Family Day*

### FREE FUN ACTIVITIES

#### *Firetrucks and more*

Come take a tour of Friendship firehall, explore a firetruck, try on fire gear and more!



#### *Helicopter*

(Weather dependent) Watch the helicopter land and explore careers in flight



#### *Kid friendly games*

Field day games and fun activities



#### *Pizza, Ice Cream*

Take a break with food trucks from 3 Fires Oven and Mattie's Soft Serve

**MAY 21, 12-4PM 627 N Pleasant Valley Rd**



# SEE AND BE SEEN *May events*

## 6 FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

Four Color Fantasies free comic book day plus special sales and more

<https://www.facebook.com/events/152490614413235/>

## 13 FESTIVAL DE SALSA

Family fun day of voting for the best salsa plus dancing, tacos and margaritas! [YDC](#)

## 13 BLOOMIN' DONUT DASH FOR WMR

"Dash" through one of three courses at beautiful West Oaks Farm Market, hang out at the pavilion and enjoy some delicious food! [West Oaks Farm Market](#)



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

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CONNECT WITH US ON  

## 19 MSV AT NIGHT

Experience the MSV after hours during this fun evening showcasing the talented Chumley family! Explore the gardens, and more! [MSV](#)

## 20 7TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrate 7 years with Winchester Brew Works! Specials, food and more! [WBW](#)

## 21 FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY DAY

Bring the family to explore firetrucks, helicopters, games and more! [Friendship Fire Station](#)

SEE MORE EVENTS ONLINE...

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

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

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



## AZALEAS IN BLOOM

Don't miss the blooming azaleas at the home of Sabra and Les Veach on Washington St - sure to be at peak bloom during the Apple Blossom parades! Thank you Veach's for everything you do in our community!



## MSV GLEN BURNIE GARDENS

Having wandered the Glen Burnie gardens and now the MSV trails for years, there is still always something new to explore and learn. While many of us may not think of Winchester as a water town, the town spring has played a significant role in our layout and history, and springs up quite often, pun intended.

The wetlands boardwalk trail is the newest water feature, teaming with minnows currently as spring awakens. Anchoring the wetlands and meadow trails it invites the public into the trails with a floating boardwalk overlooking the pond in all directions. Just past the end of the boardwalk trail you can venture off the path to enjoy a view of the waterfall and Folly 14 (made to look like a building in ruins) through a back gate if you don't have time to visit the official gardens during your walk.



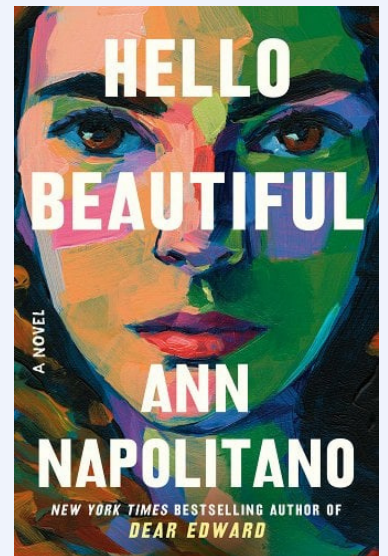


## Winchester Book Gallery Recommends:

William Waters grew up in a house silenced by tragedy, where his parents could hardly bear to look at him, much less love him--so when he meets the spirited and ambitious Julia Padavano in his freshman year of college, it's as if the world has lit up around him. With Julia comes her family, as she and her three sisters are inseparable: Sylvie, the family's dreamer, is happiest with her nose in a book; Cecelia is a free-spirited artist; and Emeline patiently takes care of them all. With the Padavanos, William experiences a newfound contentment; every moment in their house is filled with loving chaos.


But then darkness from William's past surfaces, jeopardizing not only Julia's carefully orchestrated plans for their future, but the sisters' unshakeable devotion to one another. The result is a catastrophic family rift that changes their lives for generations. Will the loyalty that once rooted them be strong enough to draw them back together when it matters most?

An exquisite homage to Louisa May Alcott's timeless classic, *Little Women*, *Hello Beautiful* is a profoundly moving portrait of what is possible when we choose to love someone not in spite of who they are, but because of it.



[WinchesterBookGallery.com](http://WinchesterBookGallery.com) | 7 N. Loudoun St

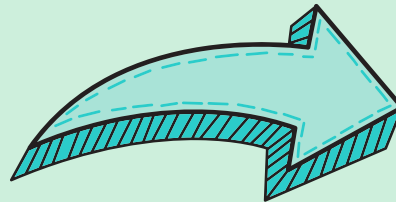
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## LAST CALL

### Cucumber and Gin Cocktail

If the heat is hitting you already, this is the perfect refreshing cocktail to enjoy on the patio in the heat of the day!

- 2 oz gin
- 3/4 oz lime juice
- 1/2 oz simple syrup
- 3-4 slices of cucumber



Muddle the cucumber slices in a shaker until they release their juices. Add gin, lime juice, and simple syrup, and fill the shaker with ice. Shake well and strain the mixture into a glass filled with ice. Garnish with a cucumber slice.



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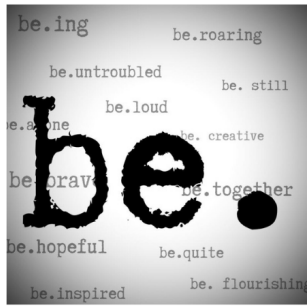
As self-proclaimed Winchester ambassadors, we frequently hear that access to nature is one of local folks' favorite aspects of living here. Blandy Experimental Farms and the Virginia State Arboretum are among the many attractions in Winchester that provide far more than you may realize. On a beautiful spring day, this reporter was given a private tour by the head of public relations, Stephanie Swaim, to discuss everyday activities and the 33rd Garden Fair, which returns on Mother's Day this year.

Graham Blandy donated 712 acres from the Tuleyries estate to the University of Virginia in 1924 to be used to instruct college students in farming skills. While we may not notice it when strolling the various trails, the farm is still an active field study site with students, and every tree has been cataloged and labelled to aid in identification. While most people are familiar with the ginkgo grove and dogwood lane, there is also a new sundial to relax by, a conifer path, herb garden, iris garden, native plant trail, wild flowers galore, and even horse trailer parking for riding the trails together.

One current experiment you can visually see happening is an ecological restoration project in which a former hayfield that was expected to naturally develop into a diverse forest was instead overrun by non-native buckthorn and autumn olive trees, forming an impenetrable thicket and preventing the establishment of larger canopy trees and under soil vegetation. Funding has been awarded to the project to test multiple methods of invasive tree eradication and native tree regeneration on a 2.5-acre area. As we drove by we could see some of the methods used and will be able to compare as the new vegetation grows.

If you've never been to Blandy, the Garden Fair is a terrific time to go. Blandy's trademark Garden Fair will be held May 12-14, featuring vendors and plant sales, food trucks, music, and refreshments for the members-only preview on Friday night. It is beneficial to bring your own wagon for purchasing plants! Visit [Blandy.Virginia.edu](http://Blandy.Virginia.edu) for more information!





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# Winchester Area SPCA



## ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS WITH YOUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIEND

**Choose the right time:** Avoid walking your dog during the hottest hours of the day, typically between 10 AM and 4 PM. Instead, opt for early morning or evening walks when the temperature is cooler.

**Hydrate frequently:** Always bring water for your dog to drink during the walk, and take frequent water breaks. You can also wet your dog's fur with water to help them cool down.

**Protect their paws:** Hot pavement and sand can burn your dog's paws. Consider walking on grass or in shaded areas, or invest in protective booties for your dog's paws.

**Watch for signs of overheating:** Dogs can quickly overheat in hot weather, leading to heat stroke. Watch for signs such as excessive panting, lethargy, vomiting, and collapse. If you suspect your dog is overheating, seek veterinary attention immediately.

The Winchester Area SPCA, est. 1907 has been an advocate for animals for over 115 years. As a locally funded 501c3 nonprofit agency, the shelter's mission is to strengthen the human-animal bond and safeguard animals in transition. Since 2014, the shelter has been a designated no-kill facility. With a vision to enrich lives and end pet homelessness, the agency has developed innovative programs to engage and serve the community. To learn more about the Winchester Area SPCA, visit their [new website:](https://winchesterspca.org/)

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# WINCHESTER REAL ESTATE

Things are heating up.  
Now is the time to sell.

Another update of low inventory and multiple offers! Buyers are out in full force, with many fighting for the same properties since there are so few on the market. If you are ready to buy that means you MUST get preapproved so you are ready to write an offer when the home you love comes up. Sellers still need to price correctly, buyers are a bit gun shy to go overboard with the current interest rates, so pushing your price can backfire as the longer days on market screams to buyers that you are overpriced, potentially netting you less than if you priced your home conservatively to drive more offers.

*Misty Weaver &  
Katie Jordan*

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PROPERTIES

## 2023 MARKET SUMMARY

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SOLD  
HOMES

43  
AVG DAYS  
ON MARKET

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