

WE ARE WINCHESTER

JUNE 2023

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Writing this letter each month gives me a moment to pause and think about all of the people we've spoken to for this and future issues, and what it is we want to convey and share with our readers.

Our love of Winchester is what drove us to start the Old Townist, rather than a simple newsletter to our real estate clients, we wanted to write about all of the things we love about our community. To highlight the amazing people that give back by volunteering, or see a need and start a new business, or run for city council to make a difference.

This month I took a deep dive into the history of Virginia wine to discover how this industry has blossomed and created such unique vineyards in our area.

We hope to see you in Old Town!



*Misty Weaver
& Katie Jordan*

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VIRGINIA WINE TRIVIA

- What is the oldest continuously operating winery in Virginia?
- What region of Virginia is the majority of the state's wine production concentrated?
- Which Virginia winery was the first to be awarded the prestigious Governor's Cup for its wine in 1988?
- Which annual wine competition celebrates the best wines of Virginia and is organized by the Virginia Wineries Association?
- Which Virginia winery holds the distinction of being the largest vineyard in the state, spanning over 1,800 acres?



Virginia Wines Offer History and Experimentation

Virginia's wine history traces back to 1607 when the Virginia Company successfully established the Jamestown colony. Captain John Smith's accounts of abundant native grape varieties sparked a fervent desire to produce wine in the New World. In 1619, the Virginia House of Burgesses enacted Act 12, mandating each household to plant ten vines and acquire the skills of vineyard cultivation. However, attempts to create palatable wines were largely unsuccessful. By 1768, the American colonies were exporting less than 13 tons of undrinkable wine, characterized by the persistent foxiness and musty aroma associated with American grape varieties. Thomas Jefferson, renowned for his meticulous documentation, experienced lifelong failures in producing wine at his Monticello estate.

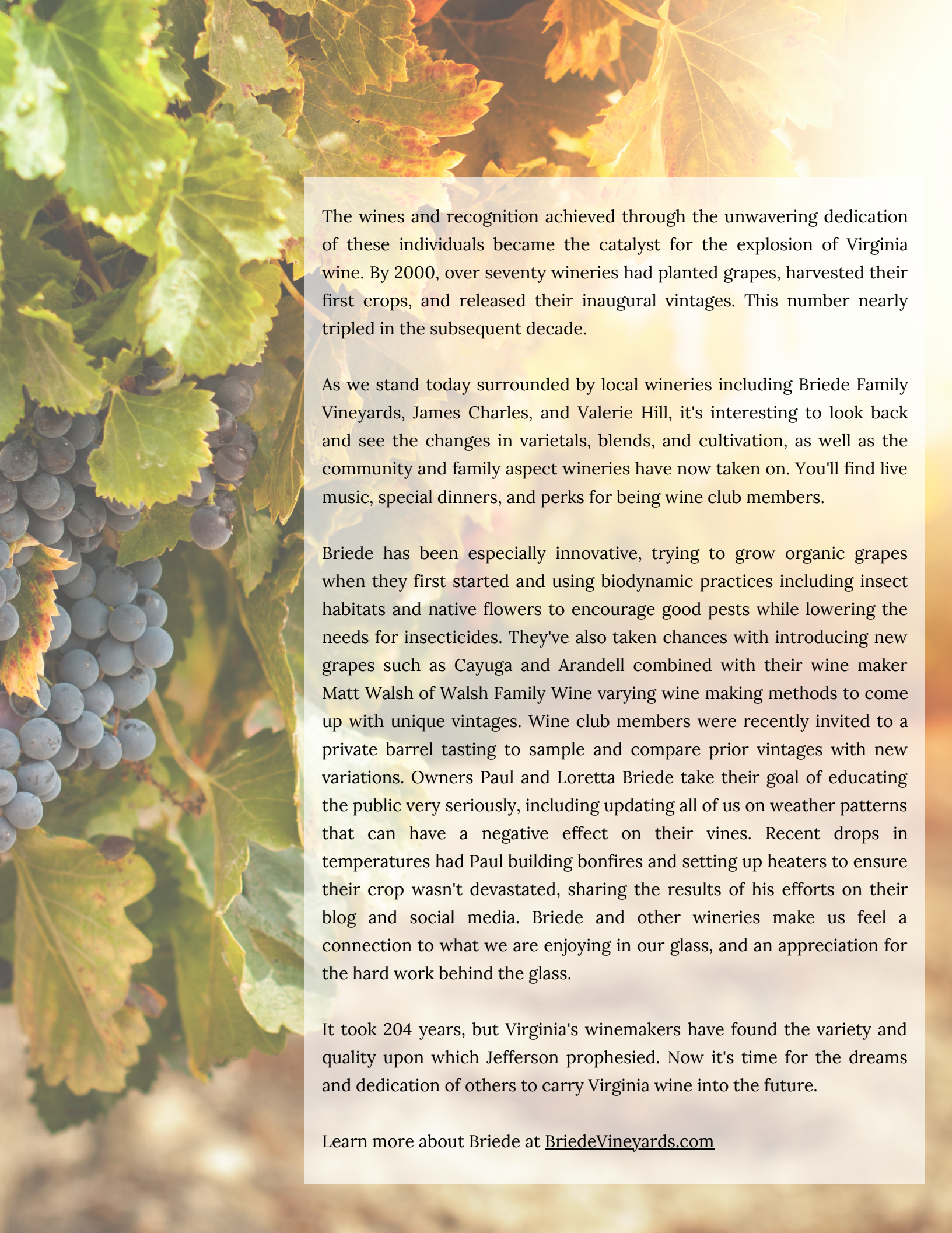
In the early 1970s, Gianni Zonin, the head of an Italian wine enterprise tracing its roots back to 1820, chose Virginia as the location for his New World vineyard. At that time, there were fewer than twelve vineyards in the state, most of which were small-scale private operations with limited success in cultivating vinifera vines. After extensive exploration, Gianni and the talented viticulturist Gabriele Rausse settled on a nine-hundred-acre tract of land in Barboursville, Virginia, in

1976. In the heart of the Piedmont region, they dedicated themselves to planting and nurturing a wine enterprise that now produces wines of exceptional character. Their visionary efforts established Barboursville as the birthplace of Virginia's modern wine industry.

Over the next two decades, other passionate and skilled individuals joined the cultivation of this burgeoning industry, driven by innovation, dedication, and a willingness to embrace risk. These early viticulture pioneers faced the challenges of a region known for its variable seasonal climate and limited experience in successful grape cultivation. Dennis Horton of Horton Vineyards emerged as a leading figure in



varietal selection for the state after the mid-1980s when he became the first to commercially plant Viognier. This varietal has since been cultivated by over seventy vineyards and is considered a signature wine of Virginia. Horton's tasting menu now features wines from around the world, showcasing the unique presence of the ancient Rkatsiteli and the elusive Norton. Jennifer McCloud, the visionary behind Chrysalis Vineyards, has been spearheading the revival of Norton since 1997, alongside producing a stellar lineup of white wines. Jim Law of Linden Vineyards, known for his unwavering focus on terroir, has tirelessly studied the Virginia soil since the early 1980s and is now among the top winemakers in the state.



The wines and recognition achieved through the unwavering dedication of these individuals became the catalyst for the explosion of Virginia wine. By 2000, over seventy wineries had planted grapes, harvested their first crops, and released their inaugural vintages. This number nearly tripled in the subsequent decade.

As we stand today surrounded by local wineries including Briede Family Vineyards, James Charles, and Valerie Hill, it's interesting to look back and see the changes in varietals, blends, and cultivation, as well as the community and family aspect wineries have now taken on. You'll find live music, special dinners, and perks for being wine club members.

Briede has been especially innovative, trying to grow organic grapes when they first started and using biodynamic practices including insect habitats and native flowers to encourage good pests while lowering the needs for insecticides. They've also taken chances with introducing new grapes such as Cayuga and Arandell combined with their wine maker Matt Walsh of Walsh Family Wine varying wine making methods to come up with unique vintages. Wine club members were recently invited to a private barrel tasting to sample and compare prior vintages with new variations. Owners Paul and Loretta Briede take their goal of educating the public very seriously, including updating all of us on weather patterns that can have a negative effect on their vines. Recent drops in temperatures had Paul building bonfires and setting up heaters to ensure their crop wasn't devastated, sharing the results of his efforts on their blog and social media. Briede and other wineries make us feel a connection to what we are enjoying in our glass, and an appreciation for the hard work behind the glass.

It took 204 years, but Virginia's winemakers have found the variety and quality upon which Jefferson prophesied. Now it's time for the dreams and dedication of others to carry Virginia wine into the future.

Learn more about Briede at BriedeVineyards.com

Emily

IN WINCHESTER



After a whirlwind campaign, Emily Rose Windle got to work on keeping her promises to the Second Ward including bringing back North End meetings to keep residents apprised of what is happening on city council.

As the city's youngest councilor, she is utilizing her position to remind everyone that decisions affect all residents in the city, not just the retired and wealthy. Emily regards her councilor role as apolitical in many areas including current hot topics: the increase in real estate taxes and the planned rain water fee. Emily believes parks, taxes, and whether or not your street lights work should be viewed through the lens of how they will affect the entire community, including those living below the poverty line or on fixed incomes where \$800 a year can mean the difference between having a roof over your head or not.

Emily observes the differences in life stages that affect community involvement while working among older councilors. When we are isolated from the daily grind, most of us forget what it was like to raise a small family and work full-time. When meetings are planned during the day, those who are still employed or at home with children are effectively barred from attending, a problem that exists at all levels of government, boards, and committees. As a result, bringing back North End meetings was at the top of her priority list, to ensure that locals are kept in the know and available to discuss ideas together.

Emily's election campaign included door knocking not only to get her name out there, but also to hear what neighbors needed addressed. She recalls one person who was enraged when she knocked, ordering her to return in a year to show what she had actually done for the town rather than just saying nice things to earn his support. Emily caught up with him at a recent community gathering at T-Bones, where he said she was "doing really well."

Her next ambition is to help revitalize the public parks, particularly Friendship Park in her neighborhood. Citizens' input is critical at this point in assisting Emily and her team of city staff and volunteers in understanding the needs and wants of the nearby residents. Now that the deteriorating basketball court has been removed, it is time to explore what facilities should be added.

Emily and all members of City Council can be reached at <https://www.winchesterva.gov/government/city-council>

SEE AND BE SEEN

June events

9 GARDENS AT NIGHT - ROBBIE LIMON

Kick off summer with '70s music and classic favorites performed by Robbie Limon Band. [MSV](#)

16 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

We Coming... The Powerful Quiet Fire Soul Show will be performing at 2nd Annual Juneteenth Celebration - [Old Town](#)

17 BLOOMIN' DONUT DASH FOR WMR

Learn techniques for fabulous ice creams, sorbets and sherbets at [Nibblins](#)



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17 FREDERICK COUNTY HOMESTEADERS FARM CRAWL

Join us for a day of fun exploring our local farms, getting to know our hard working farmers, and making lots of memories! [FB Page](#)

19 BRIEDE VINEYARD 5K

Come out and enjoy this scenic 5k/1M that runs around Briede Family Vineyards. Walkers and strollers are welcome - [Briede Family Winery](#)

24 SHENANDOAH VALLEY WINE FESTIVAL

Taste and buy Shenandoah Valley wines, shop craft vendors and listen to music - [MSV](#)

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!

NW WORKS GARDEN PROJECT

On Tuesday, April 25th, over fifty individuals bustled determinedly across the NW Works Campus. Members of the staff excitedly supported the individuals attending their Day Support Program with activities like weeding, trimming trees, and spreading mulch while classic rock music filled the air. The day marked the launch of the NW Works Garden Program, and there was much to complete before the start of the growing season.

NW Works, a Winchester-based nonprofit, offers a variety of programs to support adults living with disabilities in the Northern Shenandoah Valley on their career journeys, and the Garden Program will serve as a career exploration site for the garden and agricultural industries. “The garden will offer a low-risk environment where individuals can explore gardening, sharpen their skills, and build confidence as they master the roles and responsibilities,” explains NW Works CEO Grady “Skip” Philips, III. “We can use the garden to train people for positions at Garden Centers, or nurseries, or even farms if that’s the career they want to pursue. Once they master the skills, they will be competitive candidates for integrated roles in the community. Our team of dedicated Direct Support Professionals and Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists can help them find a job and offer ongoing job coaching as they grow in their position”.

The campus boasts an almost 5,000 square foot garden with twenty raised beds in various stages of disrepair. Over time, the garden will be equipped with accessible raised garden beds and accommodative tools for people with limited mobility. Giving a garden of this size a facelift is no small task, but community members across the region have stepped up to move the project along.



NW Works Garden Project Lead, Zikara Lively, has been working tirelessly with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners Association, which has adopted NW Works as one of its projects. Volunteers from the association will volunteer weekly in the NW Works Garden, training clients and staff on planting, weeding, harvesting, and pest control. The team is also partnering with Fox Urban Farms for seedling donations, Shenandoah Sands for rich, fertile topsoil, and The Home Depot Foundation for plants and other necessary supplies. They are expecting to hear back regarding several outstanding proposals in the coming weeks.

Outside of the scheduled volunteer hours, the garden will be maintained by staff and clients across the campus. If all goes to plan, the team expects the garden to produce over 300 pounds of fresh produce each year. Vegetables and herbs not used in culinary lessons at NW Works will be donated to area food banks including the Knights of Columbus Food Pantry in Winchester and FISH of Clarke County.

Residents with extra seedlings, a green thumb, or an interest in getting involved with the mission at NW Works are encouraged to reach out to Director of Development, Carly Stoliker, at cstoliker@nwworks.com, or to visit the organization’s website at www.nwworks.com to learn more!

LAST CALL

Strawberry Margarita



Fresh strawberries should be paired with your favorite tequila - stat!

- 1 1/2 oz tequila
- 1 oz lime juice
- 1 oz strawberry puree
- 1/2 oz agave nectar



To make the strawberry puree, blend fresh strawberries in a blender until smooth. In a shaker filled with ice, add all the ingredients and shake well. Strain the mixture into a salt-rimmed glass filled with ice and garnish with a strawberry slice.

NEW STORE OPENING

We can't wait to try the new bakery and tell you what we think! They'll be featuring baguettes, rye, wheat and focaccia breads plus some favorite sweets like cinnamon rolls, muffins, and coffee cake!

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Espresso Bar Secret Garden



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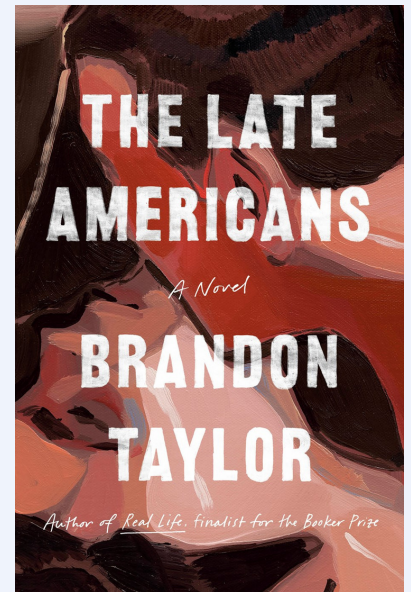
The nicest things in life are often the simplest. Winchester is a booming city, but it retains the feel of a friendly small town where everyone from baristas to chefs to shop owners knows your name. A place where people smile at each other and share sweetness.

To be reminded that there is beauty in each day, head out the back door and into the secret garden.

Winchester Book Gallery Recommends:

In the shared and private spaces of Iowa City, a loose circle of lovers and friends encounter, confront, and provoke one another in a volatile year of self-discovery. At the group's center are Ivan, a dancer turned aspiring banker who dabbles in amateur pornography; Fatima, whose independence and work ethic complicates her relationships with friends and a trusted mentor; and Noah, who "didn't seek sex out so much as it came up to him like an anxious dog in need of affection." These three are buffeted by a cast of poets, artists, landlords, meat-packing workers, and mathematicians who populate the cafes, classrooms, and food-service kitchens of Iowa City, sometimes to violent and electrifying consequence. Finally, as each prepares for an uncertain future, the group heads to a cabin to bid goodbye to their former lives—a moment of reckoning that leaves each of them irrevocably altered.

A novel of intimacy and precarity, friendship and chosen family, *The Late Americans* is Brandon Taylor's richest and most involving work of fiction to date, confirming his position as one of our most perceptive chroniclers of contemporary life.



WinchesterBookGallery.com | 7 N. Loudoun St



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121 Weems Ln, Winchester



Reaching Out Now is hosting its 3rd annual YES (Youth Empowered for Success) Conference this summer. The conference is open to rising Juniors and Seniors across the Shenandoah Valley. This year's theme is "The Power of Vision" and is focused on providing skills and resources needed to succeed in personal, academic, and professional spheres of life.

Reaching Out Now is a Warren County based nonprofit that serves under-resourced youth. Its mission is to enable young people to be the best version of themselves with preparedness to face the world with hope, purpose, and optimism. Serving students and their families in need of support in the school system through engaged community partners and a volunteer network. Through its programs, Reaching Out Now provides opportunities and experiences for all involved to reach their full potential.

"We are excited and honored to be hosting the YES Conference again this year and thankful for the partnership with Shenandoah University that makes it possible," says Samantha Barber, Co-Founder and President of Reaching Out Now. "Participation continues to grow as word is spreading through the area about this opportunity. This is our 3rd year and I'm hopeful we'll get to a 30th, and then some."

The YES Conference engages students in a series of presentations and interactive panels around wellness, networking, leadership principles in action, and much more. Students will also have an opportunity to tour the university campus. Winchester Public Schools Superintendent, Jason Van Heukelum, is confirmed as an event speaker and more names will be added to the event webpage as additional speakers are confirmed.


For more information about how Reaching Out Now, including how you can become involved or support their mission of youth empowerment, visit www.reachingoutnow.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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