

WE ARE WINCHESTER

JULY 2023

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SUMMER ACTIVITIES

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

I clearly remember my first trip out to Winchester to search for a potential home. At the time I worked in DC and lived in Springfield, and I fell in love with the horse farms and wide open views as we traversed route 50 to see a home that was built in 1790 and had no running water or electricity. It didn't matter, I was smitten with the town and the potential.

Nearly 25 years later I not only get to introduce real estate clients to the town I love, but I get to share all of the things I love about the area with thousands of readers each month. Each time we sit down with a local resident to discuss their business I'm awe struck again at how we all come together to help each other grow, using our individual strengths.

Katie finds the people, and I find the hidden gems we need to explore and craft their story. We hope you'll share your issue with a friend so we can continue to grow together!



*Misty Weaver
& Katie Jordan*

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

WINCHESTER GHOST TRIVIA

- Which building is said to be haunted by the ghost of a young girl named Lucy?
- What is the name of the housekeeper ghost believed to haunt the George Washington Hotel?
- Which historic house in Winchester is rumored to be haunted by the spirit of a young girl named Mary Hite?
- What is the name of the plantation located near Winchester that is said to be haunted by a Confederate soldier?
- Which Winchester location is believed to be haunted by the ghost of a Civil War soldier known as "The Gray Ghost"?

40 Days of Summer in the Shenandoah Valley

The picturesque Shenandoah Valley offers unlimited activities to enjoy nature, taste new things, support local, and fall in love all over again! We have compiled a list of 40 incredible things to do, sorted into various categories, to ensure you have an unforgettable summer experience.

From outdoor adventures to cultural delights, there's something for everyone in the Shenandoah Valley.

1. Hike the Appalachian Trail

Embark on an epic adventure and hike a portion of the world-renowned Appalachian Trail, offering stunning views and a chance to connect with nature.

[Appalachian Trail Conservancy](#)

2. Explore Shenandoah National Park

Discover the beauty of Shenandoah National Park by hiking its scenic trails, observing wildlife, and marveling at breathtaking waterfalls. [Shenandoah National Park](#)

3. Go Canoeing on the Shenandoah River

Grab a canoe and paddle along the peaceful Shenandoah River, surrounded by lush greenery and serene landscapes. [Shenandoah River Outfitters](#)

4. Take a Hot Air Balloon Ride

Experience the Valley's natural beauty from high above with a memorable hot air balloon ride, offering panoramic views of the rolling hills. [Blue Ridge Balloon Company](#)

5. Go Horseback Riding

Saddle up and enjoy a horseback ride through the picturesque countryside, immersing yourself in the region's rich equestrian heritage. [Fort Valley Stable](#)

6. Visit Monticello

Explore Thomas Jefferson's magnificent estate, Monticello, and delve into the life and accomplishments of one of America's founding fathers. [Monticello](#)

7. Tour Luray Caverns

Discover the mesmerizing underground wonders of Luray Caverns, featuring stunning rock formations and a fascinating history. [Luray Caverns](#)

8. Wander through Historic Downtown Winchester

Stroll along the charming streets of Historic Downtown Winchester, lined with unique shops, galleries, and historic landmarks. [Old Town Winchester](#)

9. Attend a Vineyard Tour and Tasting

Indulge in the flavors of the Shenandoah Valley by embarking on a wine tasting journey along the Shenandoah Valley Wine Trail. Visit picturesque vineyards and wineries, sample a variety of award-winning wines, and learn about the winemaking process. [Shenandoah Valley Wine Trail](#)

10. Explore Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Step back in time and explore the historic town of Harpers Ferry, where the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers converge. [Harpers Ferry National Historical Park](#)

11. Visit the Virginia Safari Park

Take your family on a thrilling safari adventure at the Virginia Safari Park, where you can drive through and interact with various exotic animals. [Virginia Safari Park](#)

12. Enjoy a Picnic at Natural Chimneys Regional Park

Pack a picnic and spend a leisurely day at Natural Chimneys Regional Park, known for its towering limestone chimneys and beautiful surroundings. [Natural Chimneys Regional Park](#)

15. Attend a Family-Friendly Festival or Fair

Check out the various festivals and fairs happening throughout the summer in the Shenandoah Valley, offering entertainment and activities for the whole family. [Shenandoah Valley Festivals](#)

16. Enjoy a Live Performance at Blackfriars Playhouse

Immerse yourself in the world of Shakespeare and enjoy a live performance at the Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, a replica of the original Globe Theatre. [American Shakespeare Center](#)

17. Visit the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

Discover the rich history and artistry of the region at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, featuring diverse exhibits and beautiful gardens. [Museum of the Shenandoah Valley](#)



9. Attend a Vineyard Tour and Tasting

Indulge in the flavors of the Shenandoah Valley by embarking on a wine tasting journey along the Shenandoah Valley Wine Trail. Visit picturesque vineyards and wineries, sample a variety of award-winning wines, and learn about the winemaking process. [Shenandoah Valley Wine Trail](#)

13. Ride the Roller Coasters at Massanutten Resort

Get your adrenaline pumping by riding the exhilarating roller coasters at Massanutten Resort's WaterPark, offering fun for all ages. [Massanutten Resort](#)

14. Explore the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum

Engage your children with interactive exhibits and hands-on learning experiences at the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum in Winchester. [Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum](#)

18. Attend an Outdoor Concert

Experience the magic of live music under the stars by attending an outdoor concert in one of the Valley's scenic venues. [Music Venues in the Shenandoah Valley](#)

19. Explore Local Art Galleries

Stroll through the numerous art galleries in the Shenandoah Valley, showcasing a wide range of artistic styles and mediums. [Art Galleries in the Shenandoah Valley](#)

20. Participate in a Pottery Workshop

Unleash your creativity and join a pottery workshop to learn the art of creating beautiful ceramics. [Local Pottery Studios in the Shenandoah Valley](#).

21. Attend a Theater Performance

From classic plays to contemporary productions, you'll have the opportunity to witness talented actors bring stories to life on stage. [Shenandoah Theatre Summer Music](#)

22. Explore Local Farmers Markets

Taste the flavors of locally grown produce, savor artisanal cheeses and bread, and discover unique handmade crafts. Engage with local farmers, artists, and artisans while supporting the region's economy and sustainable practices. [9 Incredible Farmers Markets](#)

23. Attend an Art Workshop or Class

Unleash your artistic side and enroll in an art workshop or class offered in the Shenandoah Valley. Learn various techniques such as painting, drawing, sculpture, or photography from experienced instructors. [Shenandoah Valley Art Center](#)

24. Visit the Shenandoah Valley Music Festival

Enjoy the serene ambiance of outdoor concerts or the acoustics of indoor venues, creating memorable musical experiences. [Shenandoah Valley Music Festival](#)

25. Explore Local Craft Studios

Witness artisans in action, crafting exquisite pottery, glassware, jewelry, textiles, and more. [Sunspots Studios](#)

26. Discover How Chips Are Made

Take a tour and watch how Route 11 potato chips are made through kettle-cooking. [Rt 11](#)

27. Blandy Experimental Farm

Get closer to nature and explore trees, birds, and fun events like the Firefly festival, outdoor movie nights, star gazing tours, native plants and more. [Blandy Experimental Farm](#)

28. Take a Scenic Drive on Skyline Drive

Experience the beauty of the Shenandoah Valley from the comfort of your car on Skyline Drive. This scenic roadway stretches for 105 miles through Shenandoah National Park, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains, valleys, and forests. [Skyline Drive](#)

29. Go Camping in George Washington National Forest

Choose from a variety of campgrounds nestled amidst the tranquil woods, and spend your days hiking, fishing, stargazing, and roasting marshmallows around a campfire. [George Washington and Jefferson National Forests](#)



30. Visit Natural Bridge State Park

Take a leisurely walk along the Cedar Creek Trail, which winds beneath the bridge and showcases the surrounding beauty of forests, streams, and rock formations. Explore the nearby Monacan Indian Living History Village to learn about the region's Native American heritage. [Natural Bridge State Park](#)

31. Go Rock Climbing at Seneca Rocks

Challenge yourself and embark on a thrilling rock climbing adventure at Seneca Rocks. Known as a premier climbing destination on the East Coast, this towering formation offers a range of routes for climbers of all skill levels. [Seneca Rocks](#)

32. Explore the Luray Valley Museum

Step back in time at the Luray Valley Museum and learn about the rich history and culture of the Shenandoah Valley. Discover artifacts, exhibits, and interactive displays that showcase the region's heritage, from Native American settlements to the Civil War era. [Luray Valley Museum](#)

33. Take a Scenic Bike Ride on the Valley Pike

Hop on your bike and pedal along the historic Valley Pike (Route 11), which winds through the Shenandoah Valley. [Bike The Valley](#)

34. Explore Patsy Cline's Home

Discover where Patsy Cline spent her teenage years exploring music and the memorial park that is being built nearby. [Patsy Cline House](#)

35. Ride the Virginia Scenic Railway

Let the breathtaking scenery unfold before your eyes as you indulge in a nostalgic train ride that captures the essence of a bygone era. [Virginia Scenic Railway](#)

36. Chocolate and Cheese Tastings

Delight your taste buds with cheese and chocolate tastings offered by local creameries and chocolatiers. [Shenandoah Fine Chocolates](#)

37. Dine at Farm-to-Table Restaurants

Savor the flavors of the Shenandoah Valley. From quaint bistros to upscale dining establishments, the Valley offers a range of culinary experiences to suit every palate. [L'Auberge Provencale](#)



38. Visit Craft Breweries and Distilleries

Visit local breweries and distilleries, tour their facilities, and sample a variety of handcrafted beers, ciders, and spirits. Engage with passionate brewers and distillers who are dedicated to producing high-quality libations that reflect the flavors and character of the region. [Beer Werks Trail](#)

39. Attend Food and Wine Festivals

Celebrate the culinary delights of the Shenandoah Valley by attending food and wine festivals that showcase the region's finest offerings. [Shenandoah Valley Wine and Jazz Festival](#)

40. Create Your Own Food Tour

Embark on a food tour creation of your own in any of Shenandoah Valley's downtown locations! Sample an array of flavors as you visit local eateries, bakeries, and specialty food shops, while learning about the city's history and culture along the way. We suggest picking up a local walking guide to sample the local history, and then pop into 3-4 restaurants and cafes to sample their most popular item. In Winchester you could start with a scone at [Knead Bread](#), followed by gambas at [Kasbah](#), a brisket empanada at [Gringo Gordo's](#), sushi or Korean street food at [Awabi](#) and finish up with ice cream at [Red Fox Creamery](#). So many flavors to explore!

We are blessed to live in the Shenandoah Valley and have access to so much history, and activities for everyone to enjoy, we hope you'll venture out and tag us in your new discoveries this summer! @oldtownist



From Pump to Plate: The Rise of Gas Station Eateries and the Reinvention of American Dining



As America grapples with abandoned architecture, homeowners and business owners are reimagining what old, decaying gas stations could become. Most of us used to think of gas stations as a large candy aisle where we could fill up before a long journey. A few local chefs have recognized the potential for innovation and have begun to change attitudes by installing little restaurants within operational stations or taking over abandoned places and converting them into full dining facilities.

Classically trained chefs are also getting in on the action, such as Brian Pellatt of Bonnie Blue Southern Market & Bakery in an old Esso service station, which serves brisket, pulled pork, local fried apples, and distinctive gourmet meals.

"What can I say but it was some amazing good ole southern cookin!" - Bonnie Blue Review

Because the effect has been so positive, active gas stations have given rise to eateries with loyal followings. Winchester has seen a more distinct rise in fare than most old towns, with everything from fried chicken at Neer's Market to healthy options like oat milk smoothies and bubble tea at Bucha Canna, homemade tortillas and Mexican dishes at Delicias Mexicanas and Salvadoran specialties at Restaurante La Flor Blanca Salvadoreno, to Texas Twinkies and Amish potato salad at Riley's Chicorkfish.

Taking over and fully redesigning existing stations has resulted in jewels such as Pizzoco, Virginia's only pizzeria to reach Yelp's list of the best pizza in the US, and Shaffer's BBQ, which is featured in many local weddings. Consider your options the next time you need to refuel!



GAS STATION GRUB

Neer Food Market
1856 Valley Ave

Shawnee Springs Market
1488 Senseny Rd

Shaffer's BBQ
8140 Valley Pike

Riley's Chicorkfish
2765 Northwestern Tnpk (50W)

Bonnie Blue
334 W Boscawen St

Jordan Springs
741 Jordan Springs Rd

Pizzoco
501 N Loudoun St

Restaurante La Flor Blanca
Salvadoreno
1709 Berryville Pike

Greenwood Grocery & Deli
1893 Senseny Rd

Bucha Canna
1216 Berryville Ave

Which is your favorite?



@OldTownist

SEE AND BE SEEN

July events

3 ROCKIN' INDEPENDENCE EVE

Old Town celebrates the 4th!
Look for Middletown and Stephen City shows as well on July 4th!

7 ERAS EVENING

Join us tonight for all things Tay-Tay. We'll have special pieces, silk screens, trivia, and treats. Reserve your \$5 ticket now, price of pottery not included. [Polka Dot Pot](#)

8 CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA

We challenge you to design, construct, and navigate boats made from cardboard! [Parks and Rec](#)



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8 DAYLILY DAZE

Cheers! To Charity and Digging Daylilies Farm are partnering again for another fundraiser! The farm has a field of over 1,000 varieties of Daylilies. You pick 'em, and we dig 'em! Fun for the whole family! [FB Page](#)

15 CHILDREN'S BUSINESS FAIR

Our young entrepreneurs present their unique products and/or services. Cash prizes awarded to our top entrepreneurs taking home their profits for the day.

[Sportsplex](#)

14-23 HELLO DOLLY

Matchmaking meddler Dolly Levi seeks a match of her own – millionaire, Horace Vandergelder. [Shenandoah University Theatre](#)

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!

Children's Museum Embarks on Exciting Upgrades and Change

Winchester's beloved children's museum is gearing up for a series of exciting upgrades and changes, driven by Executive Director Dawn Devine's commitment to providing an engaging and dynamic experience for children of all ages. In an exclusive interview, the museum's passionate director shared their vision for transforming the exhibits and engaging the local community in preserving the region's history and culture.

The Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum has long been a staple in Winchester, having opened its doors in 1996. However, upon arrival, the director discovered that the exhibits had remained unchanged since 2014, prompting a deep desire for transformation. Recognizing the importance of catering to different age groups, the director embarked on a journey to research and identify new areas of interest for children aged six to ten. With the help of local organizations and sponsors, new exhibits are designed and built off site during the busy season so they can be installed quickly during a one week closing each fall. Dawn says "our age groups are sort of grouped from birth to 8-10 years old, and while the younger children love things they can predict, the older kids want different things to explore as they age."

Extensive research revealed a growing need for hands-on learning in the trades, aligning perfectly with the region's booming building industry. The director saw this as an opportunity to introduce interactive exhibits focusing on trades, providing children with valuable experiences and knowledge. Additionally, an exploration of the valley's history highlighted the significance of farming and apples. Combining local history with fun and interactivity, the museum decided to revamp their offerings and create a vibrant farm-themed exhibit to be launched in 2023.



To maintain a fresh and engaging experience, the Discovery Museum has adopted a strategy of annual mini overhauls. By involving local funders and partners, the museum ensures that each exhibit reflects the interests and needs of the community. Engaging teenagers and young adults in the exhibit design and construction process fosters a sense of ownership and pride in contributing to their future children's enjoyment. Dawn is also proud to sit on various boards and help their organizations through the museum, such as collecting baby shower items to be donated to Froggy's Closet recently.

The Discovery Museum has also extended its commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. The "Museums for All" program allows individuals with active EBT or WIC cards to access the museum for a nominal fee of \$2 per person, making it accessible to all members of the community. In addition, the museum hosts free First Fridays, sensory-friendly nights, and other initiatives to ensure that everyone can enjoy the enriching experiences it offers.

The Discovery Museum is on the cusp of an exciting transformation, driven by a steadfast commitment to providing children with an ever-evolving, interactive, and educational experience. By embracing trades, farm culture, and local history, the museum aims to captivate young minds, instill a sense of pride in the community's heritage, and inspire a love for learning. With annual updates and strong community engagement, the Discovery Museum is poised to remain a cherished gem in Winchester for years to come.



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Naked Ambitions: A Property Viewing to Remember

Picture this. It was a sunny Wednesday afternoon, and I was brimming with confidence, ready to show my clients, a beautiful, contemporary three-story house in the city. The homeowner had assured me the property would be empty and ready for the showing. Little did we all know, this wouldn't be your typical house tour.

The clients were particularly interested in the luxurious master suite that boasted city views and a private balcony. As we climbed the stairs, I prepared to deliver my well-rehearsed lines about the ensuite bathroom's rainfall shower and the bedroom's walk-in closet. The anticipation was palpable.

I swung open the bedroom door with a flourish, ready to reveal the room of their dreams. Instead, we were greeted with quite the spectacle: there, in the middle of the room, was the homeowner, completely naked, and unabashedly practicing yoga. Time froze. The homeowner looked up, startled, but not startled enough to cover up or stop his downward facing dog. My clients turned a shade of red I hadn't known was humanly possible, and I stood there, mouth agape, frantically trying to conjure up any form of sensible dialogue.

Summoning all my professional prowess, I stuttered out an apology, rapidly backing out of the room and gently pulling the horrified clients with me. The naked yogi, meanwhile, didn't seem too fazed, and actually waved at us with a genial, "Namaste, folks!" In the end, we all had a good laugh (after the shock wore off), and the homeowner sincerely apologized for his mix-up with dates. The clients, surprisingly, ended up buying the house, noting that they were looking for a place with "good energy" - and what could be better energy than a committed naked yogi?

From then on, I made it a strict policy to triple-check my appointment times with homeowners and agents. Because in real estate, surprises can come in all shapes, sizes, and levels of undress. And let's face it, some views just don't help sell houses.



**I promise to always arrive
fully clothed to home
showings ~ Misty**

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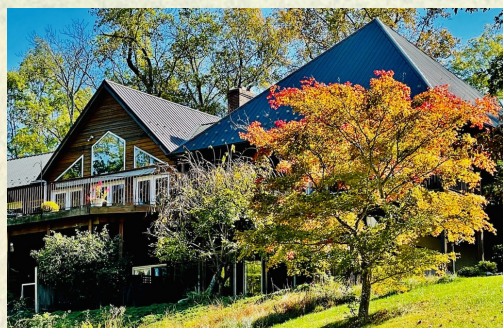
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TO EXPLORE THE
GROUNDS AND TO
EXPERIENCE THE PEACEFUL
CULTURE YOU'VE CREATED.**



When it comes to travel, settling for the ordinary is a notion of the past. Today, discerning adventurers seek more than just a place to lay their heads; they crave a uniqueness, and memories that will linger long after the journey ends. If you're among those seeking an extraordinary escape for your next gathering, we invite you to discover two hidden local gems: Pembroke Springs Retreat and the Renovated 1920's Gas Station apartment.

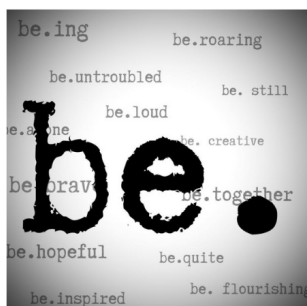
PEMBROKE SPRINGS RETREAT

Pembroke Springs Retreat, an idyllic haven nestled amidst 175 acres, with 3.5 miles of nature trails, a private tennis court, and fishing pond backing the landscapes of the Shenandoah Valley's northern reaches caters to groups as a whole house rental. Step into a realm where the artistry of Japan converges with nature's splendor, and an air of tranquility permeates every corner. This lavish house rental beckons with its five meticulously designed rooms, each a sanctuary of serenity. From the moment you set foot inside, you will be captivated by the harmonious fusion of Japanese aesthetics and the panoramic vistas that surround you.

Prepare to surrender to absolute bliss as you indulge in the two cedar soaking tubs, inviting you to immerse yourself in warm, caressing waters while gazing upon the awe-inspiring valley.

Yet, Pembroke Springs Retreat offers more than just a picturesque setting; it embodies exclusivity and intimacy. With its commitment to hosting only one group at a time, it ensures that your special occasions, be it a small wedding, a long-awaited family reunion, or an intimate gathering of friends, are steeped in privacy and seclusion. From the sweeping vistas to the thoughtfully curated spaces, every detail harmonizes to create an unforgettable experience.

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Victoria Zabala

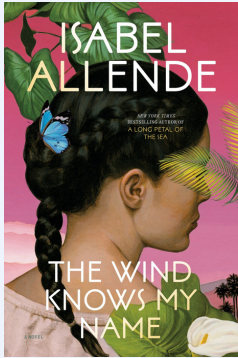
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Winchester Book Gallery Recommends:



This powerful and moving novel from the New York Times bestselling author of *A Long Petal of the Sea* and *Violeta* weaves together past and present, tracing the ripple effects of war and immigration on one child in Europe in 1938 and another in the United States in 2019.

Vienna, 1938. Samuel Adler is five years old when his father disappears during Kristallnacht—the night their family loses everything. As her child's safety seems ever-harder to guarantee, Samuel's mother secures a spot for him on a Kindertransport train out of Nazi-

occupied Austria to England. He boards alone, carrying nothing but a change of clothes and his violin.

Arizona, 2019. Eight decades later, Anita Diaz and her mother board another train, fleeing looming danger in El Salvador and seeking refuge in the United States. But their arrival coincides with the new family separation policy, and seven-year-old Anita finds herself alone at a camp in Nogales. She escapes her tenuous reality through her trips to Azabaha, a magical world of the imagination. Meanwhile, Selena Duran, a young social worker, enlists the help of a successful lawyer in hopes of tracking down Anita's mother.

Intertwining past and present, *The Wind Knows My Name* tells the tale of these two unforgettable characters, both in search of family and home. It is both a testament to the sacrifices that parents make, and a love letter to the children who survive the most unfathomable dangers—and never stop dreaming.

WinchesterBookGallery.com | 7 N. Loudoun St



1920'S GAS STATION

Venturing further, we unveil a hidden gem nestled within the heart of Old Town Winchester—the Renovated 1920's Gas Station. A testament to architectural grandeur on a small scale, this exquisitely refurbished gas station from a bygone era reimagines luxury in a realm where history meets modernity, where every element echoes the romance of yesteryear.

As you step inside, you see hints of the 1950's, without missing modern conveniences with vintage styled appliances and touches. The ethereal glow through working frosted garage doors illuminate the carefully curated interiors, and give guests the option to open the living area to the city. It's the perfect spot to unearth the city's vibrant soul as you stroll through the enchanting streets of Old Town Winchester.

Whether you seek cultural immersion or lively entertainment, this extraordinary space invites you to experience it all, creating a tapestry of unforgettable memories.

Embrace the allure of these two exceptional stays for your next gathering!

Full details at <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/43293802>



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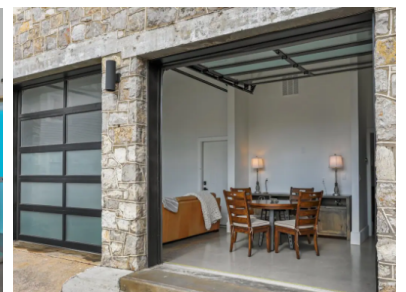
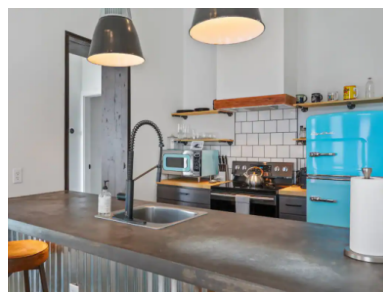
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SAMSON
PROPERTIES



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