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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

We are closing in on our first year and excited to bring you more good news about Winchester! One of the exciting things we are adding are the Faces of Winchester - interviews with the everyday people that make a difference.

We want to introduce the great people of our community to each other and the world, one smiling face at a time. Please join us in celebrating our community through The Faces of Winchester. Submit your nominations here:

<https://forms.gle/X6GvBjsRUDphm6X59>



*Misty Weaver
& Katie Jordan*

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THE GABLES

One of the most iconic homes in Winchester, is actually an apartment building. The Gables, located at 5 S Washington St is an imposing Queen Anne Victorian built circa 1899. Extremely detailed, one can stand staring at it for hours and notice new small details. The octagonal three story tower with an oblong copper roofed dome demands attention. But what about the inside?

The Gables started life as a single family home designed by Franklin Barber for W. H. Baker, famously sued for trademark infringement by W. Baker's Chocolate Company. After staying in the family until the 1920's, it was sold several times until it ended up being used as an Inn, and then sold to investors who dismantled the original staircase and chopped the home up into apartments, damaging much of the interior. But then a miracle happened in the 2000's.

One of the prior investor's daughter made a call telling the current owners she knew where the famous staircase was located. It had remained in a barn for 50+ years being passed down to family members. The owners of the Gables were able to reinstall the staircase and began taking the floor plans back to the original layout over time. Read more of the history of the Gables here:

<http://www.gables.info/History.html>



DESTINATION: NIGHT OUT

My favorite Facebook messages and texts are friends, clients, and associates asking me for a restaurant recommendation because they have guests in town and know I will have the perfect suggestion. Call it a gift, call it a coping response to executive functioning issues surrounding cooking meals, I call it a win-win. I now have an excuse to try every restaurant, as if I needed one.

Whether they are looking for an elegant spot with low conversations being murmured in comfortable sofas, or they really need to find the scant places that offer catfish, I'm always up for the task. So I've put together a few suggestions for a date night, girls night out, or time together with loved ones right in Old Town in case you find yourself short on ideas or craving a new spot.



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Winchester, Virginia

ADVENTUROUS

Perfect for a group of friends or a couple looking for a night of excitement and trying new things.

Awabi - On Wednesdays, Awabi offers Korean street food, a great chance to expand your palate! Past offerings have included Korean corndog, Korean fried chicken and tteokbokki.

Chasin' Axe - Axe throwing will get your heart pumping and if you are anything like me, you'll be giggling in no time flat at the ridiculousness of the endeavor.

World's Away Escape - Looking to use your brain instead of your brawn? Put your heads together to escape a themed room in under an hour!

NIGHT ON THE TOWN

Ready to dress up with your love or celebrate something special?

Taylor Wine Room - Start the evening cozied up on the purple velvet couches or toasting at the open garage doors overlooking the pavilion with a glass of your favorite bubbly, wine or cocktail.

Antica Trattoria - A hidden gem further down Indian Alley you'll find authentic Italian food and comraderie, and owner Piera is ready to help make any celebration even more special.

The Monument - Dance the night away with live music from some of the regions favorite bands. When you need a break head out to the patio beer garden to relax fireside together.

HISTORICAL TOURS AND FOOD

Discover historic facts about our city that are right under your nose!

Architecture or African American Tour - The Visitors Center has put together several self guided tours that explore the history of Old Town, perfect for a long meandering time together.

Tropical Island Cafe - The perfect spot to start or end the architecture tour, overlooking the exquisite Handley Library, we highly recommend the jerk chicken or oxtail.

T-Bones Bar and Grill - North Kent St holds a lot of African American history, and Terry Sloane offers soul food in a neighborhood and building graced by Ray Charles, Fats Domino and more legends.

PREPARING YOUR GARDEN FOR FALL: A GUIDE TO ENSURE A BEAUTIFUL TRANSITION

As summer wanes and the first hints of autumn's crispness fill the air, it's time to shift our focus from the vibrant blooms of summer to the preparations needed to embrace the changing season in our gardens. Fall is a crucial period for garden care, as proper steps now can lead to a healthier, more vibrant garden in the coming spring. Here's a comprehensive guide to help you prepare your garden for fall:

Clear Out Summer Debris: Begin by removing spent annuals, weeds, and any other debris that accumulated over the summer. This clears the way for new growth and prevents diseases from overwintering in the remains.

Trim and Prune: Pruning dead or diseased branches from trees and shrubs not only enhances their appearance but also encourages healthy growth. Perennials that have finished blooming can also be trimmed back to ground level, promoting new growth in the next growing season.

Divide and Transplant: If your garden has overcrowded perennials, fall is an excellent time to divide and transplant them. This promotes better growth and blooming in the coming years.



Mulch: Apply a layer of organic mulch, such as straw or compost, around the base of your plants. Mulch helps retain soil moisture, regulate temperature, and suppress weed growth. It also provides nutrients as it breaks down over time.

Plant Fall Bulbs: Now is the time to plant spring-flowering bulbs like tulips, daffodils, and crocuses. The cooler weather allows them to establish their roots before winter.

Plan for Spring: As you prepare your garden for fall, take notes on what worked well and what didn't during the current growing season. Use this information to plan your garden layout, plant selections, and any desired changes for the following spring.

By investing time and effort into preparing your garden for fall, you're not only safeguarding your plants through the colder months but also setting the stage for a stunning display of life and color when spring emerges. With these steps, your garden will be poised for a smooth transition from one season to the next, ensuring a beautiful and flourishing landscape.

LOCAL FLOWER FARMS

Need a little flower pick-me-up? Visit one of our local flower farms where you can pick your own bouquets to add warmth to your home!

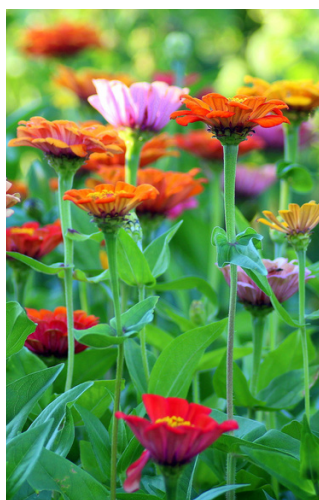


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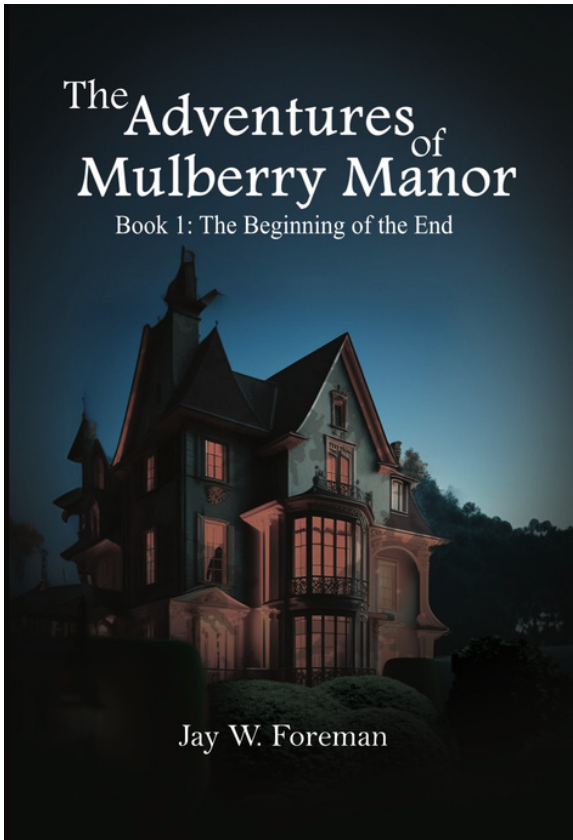
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THE ADVENTURES OF MULBERRY MANOR



The Adventures of Mulberry Manor, the first novel in author Jay Foreman's projected five-volume series, is already making waves. Foreman's book has earned him a nomination for an Outstanding Creator Award, and it is currently being adapted into a screenplay with the intention of becoming a film or streaming series.

The story follows siblings Jade and Teddy Nicholson as they are dropped off at Mulberry Manor, a family friend's home, while their father hunts for their mother. The brother and sister are immediately in danger and must discover the secret of the house in order to survive. This mystery/sci-fi thriller is a page-turner that keeps you guessing and differs from Foreman's previous 16 works, which were largely children's books.

When Jay Foreman was a child, he was inspired to become a novelist after writing a letter to his favorite childhood author, Judy Blume. Foreman wrote to Blume, expressing to her how much he enjoyed reading *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* and suggesting a new book she should write. Foreman was surprised to receive a signed 8x10 photo of the author, along with a handwritten message thanking him for the kind words and book idea. She suggested that Foreman write his narrative concept and become an author himself. Jay has kept that letter for inspiration to this day.

Jay Foreman is also a leadership development trainer and the former Chairman of the Frederick County School Board, which he presided over during the Covid epidemic. He feels that the best leaders are self-assured and content. He believes that strong leaders make the best judgments they can with the facts they have for the greatest number of people. Chuck Guffee, the owner of the local Chick-fil-A franchises, taught him the leadership lesson of understanding when to break the rules for the greater good. This lesson, he claims, has stayed with him throughout his career.

The Adventures of Mulberry Manor is available on Amazon.

Faces of Winchester Nominations



Join us at Dazzling Diva Fitness - the area's premier pole + aerial studio! Let us show you how fitness CAN be fun - and life-changing!

New Student Special - 3 Beginner Pole/Beginner Lyra classes only \$33! [DazzlingDivaFitness.com](https://www.dazzlingdivafitness.com)
121 Weems Ln, Winchester

Know someone amazing in Winchester? We want to highlight the people that are making a difference in Winchester, from teachers, to neighbors that are always there when someone is in need. Nominate them here so we can reach out and learn more about them!

<https://forms.gle/X6GvBjsRUDpHm6X59>



SEE AND BE SEEN *September events*

9 FROGS ABNORMAL FORMAL

In addition to putting smiles on the faces of local children in need, your ticket INCLUDES: live band & dancing, open bar (wine, beer, rail drinks), & heavy hor d'oeuvres. [Froggy's Closet](#)

9-10 16 SHENARTSFEST FIDDLES AND FIFTHS

An immersive art experience of unparalleled quality for selected exhibitors and festival visitors alike. Showcasing established, emerging and unrepresented artists. [Old Town Mall](#)

Get ready for an unforgettable weekend with a tribute to the great Appalachian tradition of bluegrass music and VA bourbon! [Old Town Mall](#)



23 CELEBRACION

Come enjoy the culture, music and food in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. [Old Town Mall](#)

23 HANDLEY 100TH

Plan to attend the Craft and Vendor Fair to stock up on Handley merchandise and crafts, especially in preparation for October's special celebrations of Handley's 100th. [Handley HS](#)

29 OLD TOWN OKTOBERFEST

Join us for an evening filled with refreshing brews, live entertainment, and a festive atmosphere, all while supporting literacy in our community. [Old Town Mall](#)

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!

OLD TOWN WINCHESTER
September 9 & 10



Shenandoah Valley's premier fine arts festival on the Loudoun Street Walking Mall. Experience the region's best fine art, music, and a flash mob.

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PROJECT CONNECT

A well oiled machine greeted us as we were shown around Project Connect, a yearly resource fair that connects residents to needed community services. Residents are provided a guide that gets to know the individual or family personally in order to connect them immediately to services that can help with housing, employment, health, banking, family services like childcare subsidies, and even on site basic needs like haircuts, cleaning supplies, and food boxes.

This personal service and the ability to complete multiple tasks in one place immediately solves a number of problems for residents. Having to take off work, lack of transportation, and financial issues can stand in the way of getting help that is available normally. This event makes it possible for people to access five, ten, or even more services all at once. This year there were over 60 resources available.

Shannon Roman of Roman's Beauty Academy in Front Royal was onsite giving haircuts, something she and her students do regularly to give back to the community and gain experience. One participant said "it has made me feel like a weight was lifted off my shoulders. I really enjoyed talking to everyone and finding the assistance I needed."

Senior Director of Community Investment at United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley Jennifer Hall remarked, "It is truly amazing to see how this event has grown over the years. It wouldn't be possible without collaboration from dozens of nonprofit partners and businesses who have embraced our vision of bringing services under one roof."

More than 500 people attended this years event which was the 4th annual. The team from United Way is working on recreating the event in the further counties of the Shenandoah Valley in order to help more residents in their local area. Learn more about volunteer opportunities or how your non-profit or business can get involved: UnitedWayNSV.org



- Project Connect 2023 Highlights:**
- 115 - Vision Screenings (Winchester Host Lion's Club)
 - 61 - Haircuts (Roman's Hair Empire & Beauty Academy)
 - 60 - Blood Pressure Screenings (Valley Health)
 - 60 - Food boxes distributed (CCAP)
 - 50 - Dental Exams (Dental Clinic NSV)
 - 11 - Naloxone Trainings (Lord Fairfax Health Dept.)

Should you waive a home inspection?

The competitive real estate market of the last few years has left some buyers feeling like they don't have much choice with asking for contingencies like home inspections in order to make their offer more enticing to the seller.

There are generally two issues involved in this decision. The first is what is best to protect your interests as the buyer. Virginia is a buyer beware state, meaning sellers do NOT have to disclose issues with a home. It's up to you as the buyer to inspect property and make a decision based on results of those inspections. The second issue is of course the desire to make an offer that is acceptable to the seller. The sellers goal is to get the most money with the least potential for risks, like a

buyer backing out due to inspection results. Those issues are diametrically opposed to each other! When representing buyers we never tell them to waive inspections. Using a void only contingency, meaning you won't go back to ask for repairs or renegotiate the price, can be a compromise that still protects the buyer in case major issues are found as the buyer can cancel the contract.

The other option is to bring an inspector to the showing with you to do a quick inspection for major issues before making an offer. While this can be a risk if your offer is not accepted, a little up front money can help you avoid large expenses down the line.



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T-BONES BAR AND GRILL - FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Where did Fats Domino, Ray Charles, James Brown, and Little Richard perform when they came to Winchester in the 1940-1950's? The Finley Recreation Center at 567 N Kent St. Opened by Dr. Taylor W. Finley in 1939, the town's only black dentist at the time, the building has gone from dental office to dance hall, skating rink to recreation center, restaurant to grocery store, playing center stage on North Kent St for almost 75 years.



Located across the street from the Douglas School, the city's only school for black children, students would sometimes skip school to attend daytime dance contests, and head there after school to spend their lunch money. Today Terry Sloane runs T-Bones Bar and Grill from the building, with plans to expand a grocery store in the rear. But a restaurant isn't the end of the story.

Better known as T-Bone since her basketball and softball days, Terry took it over after her father had a succession of businesses on the premises. Terry always loved cooking in the kitchen with her grandmother, putting their own spin on recipes in the time honored tradition of measuring by taste alone. The tradition continues with the T-Bones menu as Terry explains daily specials like Taco Tuesdays where they often feature curry and jerk

chicken tacos. Gathering help in the kitchen can be difficult since many recipes reside only in Terry's head.

As we ventured outside to take a closer look at the patio, Terry's story turned back towards the community as she shared the neighborhood events they help carryout. An annual Easter Egg Hunt, fundraisers they have done for services needed in Uganda where the local kids made bracelets to sell, bringing a horse and buggy for the kids to experience - some of whom had never seen a horse, opening the space for career club and other community activities, and feeding the homeless for example. As we stood talking about the larger neighborhood Terry's father George Sloane pulled up to check on things and regaled us with stories of how the area had changed over the decades.



It became clear during our time with Terry and George that T-Bones is more than just a restaurant. It remains a community hub, a place residents come to receive more than just a meal, but to connect with neighbors and nourish their soul.

Visit T-Bones at 567 N Kent St or [Facebook.com/Tbonesbarandgrill/](https://www.facebook.com/Tbonesbarandgrill/)



Top left - Victoria Kidd and Greg Armstrong Top Right - Joshua Lilly Bottom - Les Veach- City Council, Dick Kent-Signet Marketing, Winsome Sears-Lieutenant Governor, Katie Jordan, Misty Weaver, Justin Peucker, Kermit Gaither- Office of City Sheriff, and Brandan Thomas- Winchester Rescue Mission

Terry Sloane, Katie Jordan, Misty Weaver

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE HELPS HOMELESS



Because of the efforts of the Winchester Rescue Mission, Winchester is leading the way in innovative solutions to homelessness. Director Brandan Thomas shares that homelessness is not always a result of poverty. In fact, broken relationships are the leading cause of homelessness. Relationships are what hold us together when things fall apart, having someone to call, a place to rest our heads until we are back on our feet.

Those who suffer from mental health issues and substance misuse are prone to destroying their relationships, which often leads to families and friends distancing themselves, leaving people with no safety nets. According to Brandan, the path to chronic homelessness takes approximately seven years, leaving a lot of time to intervene and help on a community level with the right resources in place.

With this understanding, the Winchester Rescue Mission has rejected the traditional housing first paradigm which aims to get homeless people into affordable housing as soon as possible while ignoring mental health and substance misuse.

Instead, the Rescue Mission has created a trauma-informed model of care that is focused on long-term success. Employing ten people, including a certified counselor and a registered social worker, allows the team to create personal success plans. The system is based on behavior rather than time, allowing individuals to focus on themselves instead of a timeline that may be impossible to keep. "I want to be in the business of helping people dream," Brandan says. Other towns are acknowledging the Winchester Rescue Mission's program's effectiveness, with Brandan and his team being asked to go around the country to speak about their work.

A large part of the Winchester Rescue Mission is also community, rebuilding connections and skills so residents have a firm foundation when they graduate to their own housing.

The local homeless issue is significant. In June of 2023, the Rescue Mission distributed approximately 6000 meals. The Mission routinely turns away 10-15 people in need of housing each day, so a planned expansion on Valley Ave will house an additional 50 residents. In addition to the personnel, it requires 20-25 volunteers every day to run the facility and its programs. New volunteers are always needed and there is a monthly information session to learn how you can help.

If you want to help the Winchester Rescue Mission as a volunteer or a contributor, go to winrescue.org or stop by 435 N Cameron St.



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Winchester Book Gallery Recommends:



From the bestselling author of Ask Again, Yes, a masterful and "absorbing" (The New York Times) novel about a couple in a small town navigating the complexities of marriage, family, and longing.

Malcolm Gephardt, handsome and gregarious longtime bartender at the Half Moon, has always dreamed of owning a bar. When his boss finally retires, Malcolm stretches to buy the place. He sees unquantifiable magic and potential in the Half Moon and hopes to transform it into a bigger success, but struggles to stay afloat.

WinchesterBookGallery.com | 7 N. Loudoun St

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Misty Weaver & Katie Jordan

Values in Winchester rose on average another \$4k in the greater area last month, despite rising interest rates. We are seeing an increase in price reductions however as sellers over-value their property in this market with fewer buyers. Sellers that list on the lower end of their value range continue to see multiple offers, driving up their price with the competition rather than negotiating downwards by starting at the higher end of values. Buyers don't feel like they are getting a deal when they know sellers have over priced. Sellers end up taking less than if they had priced correctly as days on market climb leading buyers to think the home has issues. It's important to discuss how your argent markets and negotiates in order to get the highest price!



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