

WE ARE WINCHESTER

AUGUST 2024

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KATIE JORDAN

  
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# Genesis Primitive Church

731 Fox Drive, Winchester

You Are Cordially Invited to Walk the Religious Path Travelled By Winchester's Founders; That Path is Historic Christianity

Within Winchester's Central Blocks Stands 9 Historic Churches Serving as Monuments to Winchester's Early Faithful Christians

Prior to Winchester's Birth In 1744, In 1517 In Wittenburg, Germany, Martin Luther Nailed His 95 Theses, to a Catholic Church Door Effectively Starting the Greatest Protestant Church Reformation Ever Known to Mankind

Thank You, Pastor Dan Nicholson  
Phone: 540-327-4693  
[www.genesisprimitivechurch.org](http://www.genesisprimitivechurch.org)



## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

I moved to Winchester after a friend created a campaign entitled "Winchester- Making Dreams Come True" as a way to showcase why I should want to live here. She took me to a private chef's dinner at Le Papillon Day Resort. We dined at eM. We danced at the Summer Soirée at the MSV. We experienced Apple Blossom. I fell in love with this city because Winchester offered arts, entertainment, architecture, history, myriad dining options, and a small town feel. Fast forward a decade and now I'm the one on a mission to share how great Winchester is. Our goal for OldTownist is to highlight local businesses, nonprofits, community leaders, and events so you can continue to fall in love with Winchester. Please help us with our mission by sharing the magazine with friends and family. Message us with content ideas and follow us on social media. See you around old town!



*Misty Weaver  
& Katie Jordan*

## WE ARE WINCHESTER



## WINCHESTER TALES: FIRST PRISONER

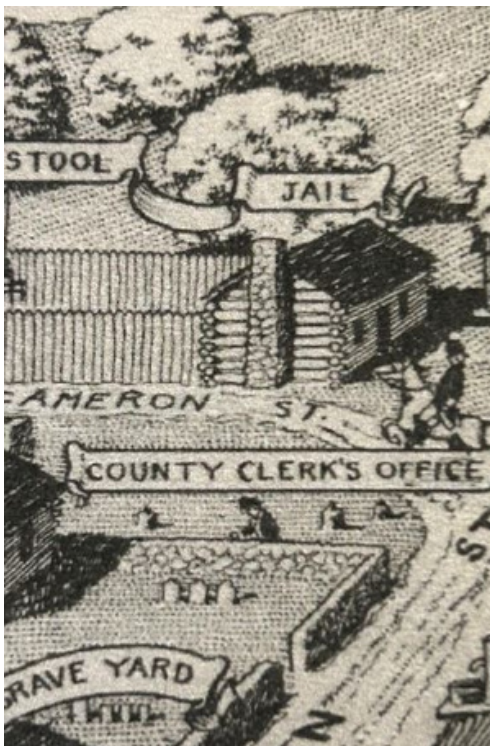
By Mike Robinson  
Author of Winchester Tales book series

In the 1750s, James Wood hired Duncan O'Guillion to construct a log jail on the east side of the public square (Boscawen and Cameron Streets today). O'Guillion was one of the early Irish immigrants brought to the valley in the second wave of Joist Hite's settlements along Opequon Creek.

O'Guillion began building the jail and planning the construction of a massive wooden and iron door. He hired a blacksmith to forge the lock, hinges, straps, and keys. After many days of labor, O'Guillion completed the first jail in Winchester.

However, just a few days later, O'Guillion consumed copious amounts of whiskey, and was arrested for public drunkenness. He was the jail's first prisoner ....confined within the very walls he had just built!

The large Gaol (jail) door was saved and now resides on the 2nd floor of the Joint Judicial Center on Cameron Street. The original jail door key is on display at Washington's Office Museum on Cork Street.



# UNIQUE HOOPS: BUILDING COMMUNITY



Since its founding in 2009, Unique Hoops has been more than just a basketball program. Spearheaded by Chris Rhone, this youth initiative has grown into a cornerstone of the community, fostering not only athletic prowess but also personal development and lifelong skills. As we spoke in the parent viewing room of the location they took over from East Coast Gymnastics it was inspiring to look through all of the photos of students lining the walls, many of whom my own children played with over the years in local programs.

Unique Hoops began as a vision to fill a void in youth basketball training in the Winchester, Virginia area. After graduating from Shenandoah University and playing at a high level, including Northwestern Oklahoma, Rhone returned to his roots in D.C. with a desire to make a difference. "I felt like in this area, there was a missed opportunity as far as teaching basketball the right way," he recalls. Rhone initially partnered with a friend to franchise a program called "Hoop Dreams," but logistical challenges led him to establish Unique Hoops independently. What started as an after-school program quickly evolved into a comprehensive basketball academy.

Unique Hoops serves a wide range of ages, from toddlers to college athletes. The "Little Ballers" program introduces children as young as three to the basics of basketball through fun, engaging activities that develop motor skills and fundamental concepts. As children grow, the training becomes more focused and intense, preparing them for competitive play and instilling core values. "We teach confidence, mental toughness, and discipline," Rhone explains. "It's not about making the shot; it's about having the confidence to take the shot."

While the program's primary focus is basketball, its benefits extend far beyond the court. Rhone emphasizes the importance of

academic performance and personal growth. "We build student-athletes who understand the value of education and hard work," he says. Unique Hoops partners with local schools to provide tutoring, ensuring that participants excel both in sports and in the classroom. The program's commitment to fostering holistic development is evident in its impressive outcomes. Many alumni have gone on to play professional basketball and graduate from college, maintaining a 96% graduation rate among its college athletes since 2011.

The community aspect of Unique Hoops is palpable. Rhone and his team cultivate a familial atmosphere, where long-term relationships are built, and alumni frequently return for guidance and support. "It's a cycle of developing kids and maintaining relationships that last," Rhone notes. One of the unique aspects of the program is its intimate setting. "Our games are standing room only, creating a hyped, up-close, personal experience," Rhone describes. This environment not only motivates the players but also fosters a sense of community pride and involvement.

As Unique Hoops continues to grow, Rhone remains committed to innovation and excellence. He constantly seeks new ideas and methods to enhance the program, ensuring it remains a premier training ground for young athletes. For Rhone, the journey is as rewarding as the destination. "I'm doing what I love, and I'm making a difference in these kids' lives," he says. "That's what keeps me going." In a world where youth sports can often become overly competitive and stressful, Unique Hoops strives for balance, offering rigorous training and personal growth in equal measure. Chris Rhone's vision has not only transformed young athletes but also strengthened the community, proving that with the right guidance and support, the possibilities are endless.

Learn more at [UniqueHoops.com](http://UniqueHoops.com)

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ENHANCES WINCHESTER'S VIBRANCY

One of my favorite newsletters to read when it hits my inbox comes from the Winchester Economic Development Authority (EDA). Like many institutions in the area, most of us don't fully understand the extent of their efforts to make our town thrive and grow. So, I was delighted to sit down with Vanessa Santiago and Jeff Buettner to learn more about their individual contributions and how the EDA serves as a valuable resource for residents and business owners alike.

Vanessa Santiago's journey with the EDA began after her tenure at Virginia Career Works, where she focused more on individual support to local residents. She started with the EDA as the Business and Community Development Manager and was quickly promoted to Deputy Director last year. Her experience in connecting with local businesses has helped her to implement broader initiatives that impact the entire community. Projects such as the EDA newsletter and proactive outreach to businesses ensure that they are aware of all the benefits the EDA offers, significantly increasing the impact of available funds.

This broadened focus has led to a more inclusive approach, extending support beyond the downtown area to encompass a wider range of businesses throughout Winchester. The city now boasts a more substantial presence at various events, ensuring that businesses are aware of the support available to them. From ribbon-cutting ceremonies to social media engagement, Vanessa and her team strive to make their presence known, reinforcing the message that they are there to assist.

The EDA's creed states: "The Economic Development Authority facilitates economic development activity to maximize the use of industrial and commercial land. This enables the city to help the workforce develop to its fullest potential and minimize the burden on the individual taxpayer. The EDA takes into account the need to preserve the social, environmental, architectural, and cultural fabric of the community."

Vanessa and Jeff's work involves not only supporting existing businesses but also fostering new ones. They collaborate closely with the Small Business Development Center, connecting entrepreneurs with resources and guiding them through the initial stages of their business journey. This includes helping them navigate permits, taxes, and other bureaucratic processes that can often be daunting for first-time business owners. Recently, the EDA has helped Knead Bread and the new owners of Snow White Grill navigate the process to open and determine what, if any, local funds they were eligible to use.

Staying connected to local real estate agents to know available commercial spaces, and educating on tax incentives, special financing programs, and grants are at the forefront of helping local businesses get off the ground, expand, or make improvements. This support has positively affected the area in many ways. Most residents admire local murals, like the one on Paladin's exterior facade on Piccadilly Street, without realizing that EDA programs funded the work. The exterior improvement grant, which provides up to \$20,000 for painting, awnings, and signage, has benefited many businesses, increasing the attractiveness of Winchester.

Looking ahead, Vanessa and Jeff are enthusiastic about several hands-on transformative projects. The introduction of neighborhood design districts aims to stimulate growth in targeted areas by making zoning and development processes more business-friendly. These projects promise to enhance the city's infrastructure and foster vibrant, walkable communities. They are rethinking ways to ensure projects can not only get off the ground faster and at less expense but also ensure green space is usable, infrastructure is thoughtfully pre-planned, trails are connected throughout the city, and the culture and architecture fit within our vibrant neighborhoods.

New businesses are also eligible for the Growing Business Development Program waiver, which covers fees for either chamber membership with the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber (TVRC) or a class administered by TVRC to help them network and grow. Additionally, the third annual Fiddles and Fifts is planned for September. This signature event features regional bluegrass bands and bourbon tastings. This year will feature bands in three music venues throughout Old Town instead of a single stage, creating more of a festival feel.

Learn more about the EDA, grants, and sign up for the newsletter at [DevelopWinchesterVA.com](http://DevelopWinchesterVA.com)



# SEE *August events* BE SEEN

## 2 BRIDGERTON TEA

Dearest Readers,  
You are cordially invited to attend what I'm sure will be the ball of the season. This is a new era for us, for we have only embraced the joys of the afternoon, never had engaged in such a nocturnal soiree. [The Tea Cart](#)

## 24 HUNGRY FOR HISTORY

Join us for this unique event that explores our area's history, but also ties in something that EVERYONE loves – food! Museums and historic sites in our community will offer a variety of programs and special events. Multiple days! [Visitor Center](#)

## 24 WATERMELON WINE FEST

Dive into our refreshing watermelon wine slushies, and enjoy a selection of local beers. Food trucks, crafts, music, games and more for the entire family to enjoy. [James Charles Winery](#)

## 24 GREEK FEST

Sample our legendary Greek cuisine and experience our renowned Greek music and dance. [Greek Orthodox Church](#)

## 31 PATSY CLINE BLOCK PARTY

An old-fashioned style block party, the day celebrates Patsy Cline's Birthday and contribution to American culture. Food, tours, music and more! [Patsy Cline House](#)



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# ARE'S 30 YEAR IMPACT IN THE NSV



For over three decades, AIDS Response Effort, Inc. (ARE) has been a beacon of hope and compassion in the Northern Shenandoah Valley. From its humble beginnings to its recent accolades, ARE has consistently transformed lives and championed health, acceptance and community support for the LGBTQ+ community and marginalized individuals in our region.

ARE was founded in 1993 by a group of passionate individuals who recognized the urgent need for HIV/AIDS services in our community. Since then, ARE has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of marginalized individuals affected by HIV and other health disparities. Here are some key highlights:

## **HIV/STI Testing and Prevention**

ARE's commitment to prevention is unwavering. "Roughly 1.2 million people are living with HIV in the U.S., and 13% of them do not know their status," notes ARE Executive Director Katie Vance. "Through community outreach, education and testing initiatives, we have empowered countless individuals to get tested, practice safe behaviors and seek early treatment." ARE offers free testing at its LGBTQ+ Center at 124 W. Piccadilly St. and at the clinical office at 1104 Amherst St. Suite 200 in Winchester as well as remote testing sites across the valley, ensuring that no one is left behind.

## **HIV Medical Case Management**

"Navigating the complexities of HIV care can be daunting," says Sara Jenkins, an ARE medical case manager. She and three other case managers provide personalized support, connecting clients to medical services, housing, medications, mental health support and other resources they need to thrive. "ARE's case managers are the compassionate bridge between diagnosis and well-being, ensuring that everyone receives the care they deserve," adds Vance.

**ARE established the first LGBTQ+ Center in the City of Winchester and the second in the NSV. Its goal is to provide health services and resources, education, advocacy and empowerment for the growing LGBTQ+ community in our region.**

"I was surprised and in shock when I discovered that I had already contracted HIV while attempting to get on PrEP," recalls one client. "I truly had no clue what to do or where to start my journey, and felt completely alone in the world. ARE immediately got me set up to start the journey to living a life with an undetectable status, and they have been with me every step of the way since day one."

## **Comprehensive Harm Reduction**

ARE's new Comprehensive Harm Reduction (CHR) program is a lifeline for those struggling with addiction. By providing education, naloxone distribution and other vital prevention resources, ARE is reducing the spread of HIV and STIs as well as preventing overdose deaths. "We meet people where they are without judgment," says ARE CHR Coordinator Cheryl Franklin. "This approach fosters trust, allowing individuals to seek help without fear."

## **The LGBTQ+ Center: A Beacon of Acceptance**

Established in late 2023, ARE's LGBTQ+ Center is the first of its kind in the City of Winchester. It is a safe haven for the LGBTQ+ community, offering support groups, counseling and resources. Located in an old bank building on West Piccadilly Street, the center will soon undergo a transformation to expand its space and services, creating an even more vibrant hub of affirmation and empowerment.

In 2023, ARE received the prestigious Winchester Star Award for Best Nonprofit. Earlier this year, it was a finalist for a Greater Good Award from the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce. Many businesses and other nonprofits also recognize the great need for ARE's services and have become community partners, including Navy Federal Credit Union, United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley, Winchester Book Gallery and Home Depot to name a few.

"ARE, and especially the new LGBTQ+ Center, are community treasures deserving of our support," says Augie Grabenstein, the volunteer library coordinator for the Center. "Our community finally has a place to call home."

To learn more about ARE and ways to support its vital work in our community, visit [AIDSresponseeffort.org](https://AIDSresponseeffort.org).

# THE SUMMER SCOOP

From classic flavors to innovative creations, the ice cream parlors in Old Town Winchester offer a sweet escape that caters to every taste bud. We highly suggest you take a tour of these delightful dessert destinations including our old favorites and some new spots that have been popping up this summer!

## Red Fox Creamery

146 N Loudoun St

The quintessential ice cream shop located on the walking mall, owner Kathy Lewis is a treasure not only for her handmade ice cream, but her soups, sandwiches, and chicken salad.

## Bonnie Blue Ice Cream Hut

334 W Boscawen St

One of the newest, this little hut features Country Creamery Ice Cream from Pennsylvania, with fun toppings, including bacon bits - would you expect less from a hut right next to the smoked goodness of Bonnie Blue bacon?

## Kimberly's Market

135 N Braddock St

The gourmet market has now expanded into ice cream! With cute market tables on the front porch and open until 7pm during the summer, it's the perfect spot to relax after a visit to the library with your favorite scoop.

## MORE OPTIONS

Let Old Town just be your starting point to explore ice cream!

## CD's Coffee and Cream

2953 Northwestern Turnpike

## Mattie's Frozen Custard

2430 Valley Ave

## The Sugar Shack at The Homestead Farm

2502 N Frederick Pike

## Pack's Cones-n-More - Multiple locations

522, 50, and 11

## The Dairy Corner

177 Dairy Corner Pl

## Newtown Creamery

320 Fairfax Pike, Stephens City



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

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## Winchester Book Gallery Recommends:



A sweeping, evocative debut novel following three generations of Vietnamese American women reeling from the death of their matriarch, revealing the family's inherited burdens, buried secrets, and unlikely love stories.

When Ann Tran gets the call that her fiercely beloved grandmother, Minh, has passed away, her life is already at a crossroads. In the years since she's last seen Minh, Ann has built a seemingly perfect life—a beautiful lake house, a charming professor boyfriend, and invites to

elegant parties that bubble over with champagne and good taste—but it all crumbles with one positive pregnancy test. With both her relationship and carefully planned future now in question, Ann returns home to Florida to face her estranged mother, Hương.

Back in Florida, Hương is simultaneously mourning her mother and resenting her for having the relationship with Ann that she never did. Then Ann and Hương learn that Minh has left them both the Banyan House, the crumbling old manor that was Ann's childhood home, in all its strange, Gothic glory. Under the same roof for the first time in years, mother and daughter must face the simmering questions of their past and their uncertain futures, while trying to rebuild their relationship without the one person who's always held them together.

Running parallel to this is Minh's story, as she goes from a lovestruck teenager living in the shadow of the Vietnam War to a determined young mother immigrating to America in search of a better life for her children. And when Ann makes a shocking discovery in the Banyan House's attic, long-buried secrets come to light as it becomes clear how decisions Minh made in her youth affected the rest of her life—and beyond.

Spanning decades and continents, from 1960s Vietnam to the wild swamplands of the Florida coast, *Banyan Moon* is a stunning and deeply moving story of mothers and daughters, the things we inherit, and the lives we choose to make out of that inheritance.

[WinchesterBookGallery.com](http://WinchesterBookGallery.com)

| 7 N. Loudoun St

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