



Mayor David Smith's

ANNUAL REPORT



2021

City of Winchester,
Virginia



Welcome.

The past year has been one of challenges as well as opportunities.

Despite our biggest challenge being the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, I'm proud of the work that our City employees have accomplished to get our community back on track and running smoothly.

Let's take a look back at 2021.

Mayor & Council



The City of Winchester operates under the Council-Manager form of government.



Mayor & Council

The City of Winchester's Common Council is dedicated to working with community partners.



Strategic Plan

Adopted the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan

COVID-19

Honored Shenandoah University, Valley Health, and the Lord Fairfax Health District for vaccination clinic

Community

Launched joint effort with downtown businesses and organizations to increase programming in Old Town

Finance



The City's Finance Department is responsible for developing an annual budget, bond management, accounts payable and receivables, purchasing, and real estate reassessment.



Finance

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Awards

For the 29th consecutive year, the City received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Reporting for the FY20 CAFR. For the 9th consecutive year, received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

Standard & Poors

The City's AAA Bond Rating (the highest possible rating) was confirmed for the 6th time



Finance also distributed the FY22 Budget in Brief

COVID Relief Funds

Finance worked with the United Way of the Northern Shenandoah Valley to disperse federal COVID relief dollars to those effected by the pandemic



Public Services



The City's largest department, Public Services includes Public Works, Facilities Maintenance, Transit, Utilities, and Engineering.





WinTran
began offering
free fares through
June 2023 thanks
to a grant

**Refuse &
Recycling**
implemented a
city-wide
standardized
trash cart
program

**Facilities
Maintenance**
installed new
automated
equipment at the
City's four
parking garages



Offered two utility bill assistance programs to assist those impacted by COVID-19



Released **2020 Water Quality Report** - the City's water meets all state and federal requirements



Accepted the Virginia Department of Health's **2020 Virginia Optimization Program Gold Award** for the Percy D. Miller Water Treatment Plant's high quality drinking water treatment



Completed dam repairs at the City's water supply intake on the Shenandoah River



The Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) in the north fork of the Shenandoah River (City's water source) didn't cause any drinking water issues.



Completed the North Loudoun infrastructure improvements from Fairax Lane to Wyck Street



Completed the Amherst Street infrastructure improvements



Began the Valley Avenue/Hope Drive Extension/Tevis Street projects



Closed Tevis Street permanently to build a stormwater management pond and convert Tevis to a cul-de-sac



Hope Drive



Opened Crossover Boulevard in conjunction with Frederick County



Continued city-wide sidewalk repair program



Completed Wentworth Drive *Safe Routes to School* project



Finished Phase III of the Green Circle Trail extension on Jubal Early Drive



Development Services



The Development Services Department includes Economic Development, Old Town, Zoning & Inspections, and Planning.





Former Winchester Towers Site



Proposed Cameron Square

\$32 million

Investment by TFC Poultry secured

Plus 111 jobs created in the North End at 801 N Kent Street

- Sold parcel at the corner of North Cameron and Piccadilly Streets to Lynx Ventures for a 174-unit mixed-use project spanning from Piccadilly to Baker Street
- Worked with developers on approvals for 200 units targeted toward students; a second phase of the Meadowbranch apartments; and the redevelopment of the former Frederick County Middle School property into a mix of 320 for-sale and rental units
- Secured the commitment of Vibrissa Brewing for a production brewery facility and tap room
- Saw the Kent & Piccadilly Streets site go under contract with Aiken's Development for the creation of for-sale townhouse development



Old Town

- Continued Old Town Vibe programming
- Added Old Town Spirit component to event weekends
- Implemented new DORA license

Tourism

Tourist spending surpassed 2019 pre-COVID numbers

Planning, Zoning, & Inspections

- Updated the Comprehensive Plan
- Conducted city-wide housing study
- Welcomed new Zoning Administrator, Alfredo Gutierrez Velasquez

Winchester Public Schools



The Winchester Public School system welcomed all students back for in-person learning during the 2021-2022 school year.





Douglas School Historic Renovation

Demolition work began on the Douglas School, which is being converted into Winchester Public Schools' central offices and a community center.

Shihadeh Innovation Center

The Shihadeh Innovation Center renovation was completed and opened for the 2021-2022 school year.



Public Safety



The Winchester Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department, and Emergency Management Department all work together to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors.



Police

Department Firsts

- Acquired therapy K-9 Leo to assist Special Victims Detective and Peer to Peer Team
- Implemented the Department's first motorcycle unit

Awards

- Received 3CMA Award of Excellence for the *DEFROST* Podcast
- Award of Valor presented to Sgt. Sean O'Connor by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police



Therapy K-9 Leo

Community Outreach

1

Color with a Cop

The popular event returned in 2021 and was held on Election Day at the Apple Blossom Mall

3

Fight the Fraud Inferno

Relaunched the Fight the Fraud Inferno crime prevention campaign with efforts including community meetings, local distribution of print materials, and social media blasts

2

CORE

WPD partnered with the Winchester NAACP to launch **CORE**: Community members will **O**rganize and **R**espond by increasing communication with law enforcement while being **E**ducated on police practices and policies



Released the **2020 Use of Force Report**



Named the Piccadilly Street roundabout in Officer Hunter Edwards' honor and unveiled a new memorial outside of Timbrook Public Safety Building



Deputy Chief Kelly Rice retired after a distinguished 26-year career with the Winchester Police Department



Expanded the Executive Leadership team to include two Deputy Chiefs resulting in the promotion of D.C. Amanda Behan and hiring of D.C. Paul Cleveland

Fire & Rescue

Mission Lifeline Award

For the 4th consecutive year, received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Plus Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures to treat patients who suffer severe heart attacks



45%

Resuscitation Rate in 2020

Up 7% over 2019





Appointed Jon Henschel as Fire & Rescue Chief



Restructured Fire Marshal division to
Community Risk Reduction



Formalized memorandum of understanding with
volunteer companies



Addressed items identified in the **ESCI** study as
needing improvement including placing two
personnel on each in-service suppression
apparatus



Implemented Fire & Rescue Department **5-Year
Plan**



Community Paramedicine Program

Community paramedicine had been under consideration for Winchester for some time as part of an enhanced community healthcare model. Chief Jon Henschel interacted with jurisdictional members that had programs in place to evaluate their successes and failures while determining our overall program goals and objectives. City Manager Dan Hoffman also brought insight from his former jurisdiction which had a successful program in place. He prompted our department to move forward with pursuing this as a new program. The WFRD anticipates a full program rollout in early 2022.



Parks & Recreation



City Parks provide green space and a diverse range of recreational programs and classes for residents' enjoyment.





Projects

- Completed renovation of Indoor Pool
- Hosted ceremony with the Host Lions Club of Winchester to commemorate opening of Sensory Trail
- Upgraded Dog Park with more square footage, concrete walkways, pavilion-style seating, dog water stations, additional fencing, and new sod



Personnel

Welcomed new Director, Chris Konyar



Programs

Launched free basketball leagues and cheerleading for city youth as part of an initiative funded by the memorandum of understanding with Shenandoah University

Baseball & Softball Field Renovations

Shenandoah University completed improvements at Bodie Grim and Henkel Harris Fields in time for the 2021 John Handley High School baseball and softball seasons. Shenandoah also broke ground on both Bridgeforth and Rotary Fields to begin the renovation project to convert both fields to synthetic turf.



One more thing

The year was full of exciting happenings.





Tunnel to Towers

made its first stop in Winchester and was welcomed with a parade in Old Town



Information & Innovation Services

launched two new self-serve payment kiosks at City Hall and in the Creamery Building. Residents can pay utility or personal property tax bills with cash or credit/debit cards (more payment options coming soon).



City employees

participated in United Way Day of Caring 2021



Civil War Trails

interpretive markers were installed at City Hall to expand the story of how the Civil War impacted our community, especially the local African American troops who fought in the war

In Memorium

Judy McKiernan

Councilwoman Judy McKiernan passed away suddenly on November 30, 2021.

“Judy was a friend to many, a dedicated team member, an advocate for the underserved, and a true public servant. As a representative on Council, she was a community champion, often going above and beyond to ensure residents have a voice in their local government. She made an incredible impact on our city....”

- Mayor David Smith



Read the [Resolution of Sorrow](#)



THANK YOU



2021

**City of Winchester,
Virginia**