

Dan Hoffman ([00:05](#)):

Hello, and welcome to another edition of Rouss Review. I am Dan Hoffman, your City Manager here in Winchester. And with me as always is Amy Simmons, your communication director. Hello, Amy.

Amy Simmons ([00:17](#)):

Hello.

Dan Hoffman ([00:17](#)):

So, what is on your mind today?

Amy Simmons ([00:22](#)):

[Laughing]

Dan Hoffman ([00:25](#)):

Complete blank. Amy was just complaining that she never knows what she should say when I throw it to her. Why? Why did you stop it?

Amy Simmons ([00:30](#)):

I haven't stopped it, yet.

Dan Hoffman ([00:31](#)):

Oh, good. Don't stop it. We will take care of this in editing. Uh, all right. We're not starting over. Rouss Review soldiers on. First off, we have a great show today. It's Black History Month. We're going to talk to a local historian about some figures of interest from here in the community.

Amy Simmons ([00:53](#)):

Yes, and I have also a quiz for you that is not necessarily black history-related.

Dan Hoffman ([00:58](#)):

History related.

Amy Simmons ([00:58](#)):

History related.

Dan Hoffman ([01:01](#)):

I have been reading a book, The History of Winchester, by a guy named Morton that Mr. Wilkins of the shoe store downtown gave me, so we'll see if I'm up to the challenge. First off, we're going to cover a few bits of business. We have a Council meeting tomorrow. It's going to be, I don't want to jinx us, I think it's going to be a relatively brief meeting. That being said, you never know with a Council meeting. So, let's roll. I'm gonna roll through the agenda just so everyone knows what's going on, and this will be brief. We have a second reading on a text amendment change. Nothing really of note there. If you're into urban planning, give it a look. It just allows for some additional bonus density for folks that creates certain improvements on their property. We are going to talk about the appointment process for interim City Councilors. We just recently did this with Interim Councilor, Richard Bell, with the seat that

was vacated by Bill Wiley. And I realized that we don't really have a formal process for doing that. So moving forward, we want to have a very defined process to follow. And then, almost a perfunctory second reading on a change to the school board election calendar. That's the regular meeting. So that should be quick. Work session has one item on it of note. And I even that's even a stretch to say. This is just an ordinance relating to the abatement of taxes on buildings destroyed by fortuitous happenings.

Amy Simmons ([02:43](#)):

Now, what does that mean?

Dan Hoffman ([02:43](#)):

One of my favorite titles I've ever seen on an agenda item. I promise you it's actually not as exciting. So, the City currently, if you're building a new building, we begin taxing you on the value of that building once it's substantially complete. This is almost a companion to that, which allows for a tax abatement if your building has been destroyed by fortuitous happenings. Now, I don't know what...

Amy Simmons ([03:13](#)):

What is a fortuitous happening?

Dan Hoffman ([03:15](#)):

You know, I don't think it's fortuitous if a hurricane or a tornado knocks down your house, but evidently this is the proper use of the word fortuitous. And I trust my City Attorney. I think this is some, you know, government parlance that means by accidents.

Amy Simmons ([03:33](#)):

Crazy things happen.

Dan Hoffman ([03:36](#)):

Crazy things happen. This allows you to get tax abatement if your building is partially destroyed. So that is, that. The only thing I'm going to mention, not related to the Council meeting tomorrow, last week we had some more snow, of course, seems to happen every week. You might notice if you get our alerts that we have different snow plans. Snow Plans A, B and C. A means we're just treating roadways as necessary in accordance to our route schedule. You should use caution drive only when necessary, you know, it's a small event type. That's Plan A. Plan B means we're actually getting out, we're plowing roadways in the proper route schedule. That means we do main arteries first, making sure that emergency routes are cleared, the big roads. Then, we get to some of the secondary roads. And then after that, there's a lot of other smaller alleyways and other places that are public right of way that we clear. If you ever wonder why does one road get plowed before another road? It's because it's probably deemed a major arterial and your neighborhood street might not be. It's not because somebody important lives on one street and you feel that you're not important to others. There's a very defined route as to when these get done and in Snow Plan B, you should always, of course, use caution, do not park along designated Snow Emergency Routes. I had someone call me this morning, very mad that the plow pushed snow up against his vehicle. His vehicle was parked in a Snow Emergency Route. He's probably a little lucky that his vehicle wasn't towed. So, please, when you see Snow Plan B move your car off of the Snow Emergency Routes. And of course, clear your sidewalk. Be a good neighbor, clear your sidewalk. Now, there is a third plan, Snow Plan C. This is for a slightly bigger event. Police close the

parking lots, parking on all city streets where snow is to be removed is, you know, just don't park on the street. Do your best to find another place to park so that we can clear the roads efficiently.

Amy Simmons ([05:58](#)):

And that's because we're actually having to haul the snow away because there's so much of it.

Dan Hoffman ([06:03](#)):

Yeah, there's so much of it that we would be blocking sidewalks. As everybody knows, when you've got a big mound of snow, it takes forever to melt. We still had some mounds of snow from the previous snow lingering around last week. Please keep all that in mind, always go to the City website if you want to know more. Obviously snow also affects trash pickup. Be sure you're checking social media or the City's website. If you're wondering, 'Hey, is my trash going to get picked up' and it's actively snowing outside, there's a good chance it's not going to get picked up. So don't be surprised. People always seem to be surprised. You know, their trash isn't picked up. Well, there's five inches of snow on the ground. A lot of the same folks that pick up trash also plow your snow for you. So, be patient with us. We have an amazing snow team that clears things out really quickly and then we get to trash as quickly as we can, as soon as it's safe. You can sign up for alerts. Amy, tell them how to do that.

Amy Simmons ([07:03](#)):

Yeah, we will send you a text, an email, or a phone call whenever that happens. If it's snowing, if it's a holiday or there's some other reason why we can't pick up trash or a long list of other things, we will send you that notice and you don't have to worry or wonder anymore. So the type of subscriptions you can get when you're creating account is for trash and recycling collection changes, when we activate or deactivate a snow plan, whenever we close government facilities, you can even get weather warnings from the NWC, the National Weather Service, and you can set quiet periods, which is very nice. They're not emailing you or texting you in the middle of the night.

Dan Hoffman ([07:41](#)):

That's really a nice feature.

Amy Simmons ([07:42](#)):

Yes. And then we can also, if we are made aware of a scheduled road closure, we will send that out if you want to receive those kinds of alerts. And also when our WinTran routes are rescheduled, for any reason, we will send a text, an email, or a phone call to a cell phone or landline. So, you just have to sign up for that service and we will get you notified as soon as possible.

Dan Hoffman ([08:04](#)):

Sounds great. Alright, like I said we are talking black history this month or for this podcast this month. We have with us a special guest. Tyson, thank you for joining us. You are local historian. Came to us recommended by several people to talk to us about Black History Month. Introduce yourself to folks.

Tyson Gilpin ([08:26](#)):

I'm Tyson Gilpin. I'm an attorney in Winchester and I'm the Education Chair for the NAACP in Winchester. And I've been doing that for oh, a number of years. I know you've taken up Thomas Laws

and you've taken up John Kirby, as far as African-Americans in the community in the past. And, there's one more that's equally significant in many ways. It's Howard Walker.

Dan Hoffman ([08:50](#)):

That's excellent. That one is new to me. I know we've been doing these videos over the course of the month. We've been putting them on social media. We've done Spottswood Poles, Robert Orrick. We did Ruth Jackson, and next week is the Douglas School. You've got some more folks you want to talk to us about today, right?

Tyson Gilpin ([09:07](#)):

Right. Yeah. Well, Thomas Laws and John Kirby are just exceptional people. I mean, nationally, internationally for jazz and then for the heroic efforts as a spy, that was Thomas Laws. But Howard Walker is the third story that I think is so significant. He was a black man who went to Douglas School, and he was born around 1920. In high school, he was a star football player for the black school. And, you hear these tales about Handley's undefeated team then, and Douglas had an undefeated team. They never played each other, but these tales of a secret matchup...

Dan Hoffman ([09:47](#)):

Really?

Tyson Gilpin ([09:47](#)):

I don't know, I don't think it ever happened, but it might've partially happened, but the stories go that they had a secret matchup between the two teams. Anyway, Walker was kind of well known in the community and he had a tragic ending. But what happened with him is he was dating a white woman. He was about 25 years old. She was just out of high school. She was married and the war was starting, World War II. And, he was dating her, the woman's husband was in India in a campaign, and Walker got to know her. He was hired by the family to drive her to Fort Belvoir to see her husband before he shipped out. And so this relationship was, it was kind of scandalous. He was a very flamboyant guy, everyone knew who he was and very popular. And I talked to some old residents about 15 years ago, white residents who remember seeing him play football. He had huge hands. He could carry the football on one hand, he usually did.

Dan Hoffman ([10:48](#)):

What position did he play?

Tyson Gilpin ([10:50](#)):

Quarterback, but pretty much everything on the team. And anyway, this relationship disturbed the black community immensely. They, they were warning him to not continue. And the white community, of course, began to be aware of it. What happened was he lived on Peyton Street, well, that's where his girlfriend lived, the white girl, and she lived with her mother-in-law. We think the mother-in-law found out and he would sneak in the window at night. I've been over there on Peyton Street. The house is still there.

Dan Hoffman ([11:26](#)):

Where on Peyton Street? Over by the library?

Tyson Gilpin ([11:29](#)):

Yeah, behind the library. Anyway, the mother-in-law apparently called him out and called the police. And it's one of these southern stories where the family was mortified, embarrassed, the white family. It started out that he was accused and he was in a lineup. And then he was charged and in 60 days he was executed in Richmond.

Dan Hoffman ([11:53](#)):

Oh, wow.

New Speaker ([11:54](#)):

Electric chair. It was quite interesting. The NAACP started in 1944 when Walker was charged. They started this chapter of our NAACP and in 30 days, or within 60 days, it was up to 200 members, which is pretty amazing. The story has so many twists and turns. I mean, the judge was Bur Harrison, who was politically ambitious. The defense attorney was Elliott Marshall, who became a judge later. And, Elliott Marshall pled him guilty. The Commonwealth Attorney was obviously in on it with Elliott Marshall to be merciful. So the Commonwealth Attorney made no recommendation, which is pretty telling when you're an attorney and you're trying to get your client off. I've done some defense work and you get the Commonwealth Attorney to say, I have no opinion, judge. Its kind of indicates 'Judge, be lenient'. And the judge ordered him executed. I often think, I knew Marshall really well, and often think I never talked to him about it. No one ever talked about this case until about 15 years ago and then all the story came out. Marshall must've just been floored when that [happened]. It never happened to me. It doesn't happen to many attorneys when you work on a guilty plea and then expect some leniency and your client is executed.

Dan Hoffman ([13:34](#)):

That's pretty astounding.

Tyson Gilpin ([13:36](#)):

It's pretty dramatic and the whole community was involved in such a southern typical, southern way. The Whites were afraid of a Black mob. The Blacks were afraid of a White mob and there was a White mob. So they had to move, Walker down to Shenandoah County to keep him protected from being lynched or taken out of the jail.

Dan Hoffman ([13:54](#)):

And what year was that?

Tyson Gilpin ([13:56](#)):

[19]44. Yeah.

Dan Hoffman ([13:59](#)):

You hear the story and absent a date, you almost think this must have happened back in the 1800s, or this must have happened in, you know, during reconstruction or something along those lines. But this happened, like there are people alive today in this community, not a 120-year-old person. There are folks in this and plenty of folks in this community today alive that were alive for this event, which is, uh, I think it really drives home just how recent a lot of this was.

Tyson Gilpin ([14:33](#)):

Yeah. It's cause people don't talk about it and it's an aspect of African-American life. I mean, the whole community life that should be talked about because you are so shocked that these things really happened. You, tend to ignore things, I think, like this.

Dan Hoffman ([14:50](#)):

Yeah, Black history or any kind of education of these issues. I grew up in rural South Carolina and none of it, I got none of that. Growing up in school, we just didn't talk about it. You know, there's a very glossed over, or kind of rosy picture painted of what was happening, not just during the Civil War and kind of revisionist history about the Civil War, but also, the Jim Crow era, you know, things again, in our lifetimes that happened.

Tyson Gilpin ([15:27](#)):

It was done so quickly and so smoothly, in typical Virginia procedure. Judge dotted all the I's and before you knew it, it was a done deal.

Dan Hoffman ([15:40](#)):

Well, let's talk about a different era. We'll go back in time a little bit more. Talk a little bit about Thomas Laws.

Tyson Gilpin ([15:46](#)):

Well, Thomas Laws was kind of a self-effacing 48 year old vegetable farmer. He lived outside of Berryville right near the old chapel. I don't know if you know Clarke County, you probably haven't been around down there/.

Dan Hoffman ([16:00](#)):

Not much, no, not yet.

Tyson Gilpin ([16:02](#)):

Yeah. You leave Berryville and you head toward Boyce and there's an old stone chapel and there's Chapel Hill Farm. He had a cabin right there with a road. Pretty much in the road 'cause it was expanded and it was torn down, his house. But he lived there and he became a spy, going through the lines for Sheridan. Here was this guy, married, a churchgoer, a trustee of his church in Berryville, taken by scouts to meet with Sheridan in Martinsburg. Here's a slave, sitting with a Major General and the information that Laws gave Sheridan got Sheridan his first big victory. He got him noticed it made his career. It also had something to do with getting Lincoln elected. The victory, that Sheridan [had].

Dan Hoffman ([16:47](#)):

Yeah. I've heard a bit of that story.

Tyson Gilpin ([16:49](#)):

Incredible impact. This is a humble guy. Then he went back to Berryville. No one knew much about him after that. He never got found out. But despite that, the Yankee troops came out in 1885, I think, the six core who did most of the fighting and the third battle of Winchester. They were looking for him and they

found him and they took him into DC. He met the Quaker woman who helped get him the information. And she identified him because they wanted to find the man who did this.

Dan Hoffman ([17:21](#)):

That's awesome.

Tyson Gilpin ([17:22](#)):

And then they offered him a job and he said, no. He went back to Berryville and disappeared. I mean, that was his life there, you know?

Dan Hoffman ([17:28](#)):

Wow. And now Mr. Kirby, this one, this is a name I've actually heard before. So let's talk a little about Mr. Kirby.

Tyson Gilpin ([17:37](#)):

Well, Kirby was born, I think 1908 in North End on Kent Street. Interesting, the key artistic figures in Winchester are Kirby and Patsy Cline. If you talk about artistic contributions, Kirby on the North End of Kent Street and Patsy Cline on the south end.

Dan Hoffman ([17:56](#)):

That's interesting.

Tyson Gilpin ([17:57](#)):

Kirby was there and he was mentored by the school principal. I forget his name, slips my mind, but a wonderful man who mentored so many African-American kids in the Frederick Douglas School. Kirby then went to Baltimore when he was 15 then to New York. He married a famous singer, black singer. No one would know her now, but she really was on the top of the charts. He had a famous band, everyone knew. He's in the band hall of fame. Then he died in 1952.

Dan Hoffman ([18:31](#)):

He was only 43 when he died.

Tyson Gilpin ([18:32](#)):

Yeah. He was in a car. His career had kind of taken a nose dive. His music, his band actually had Miles Davis and Charlie Parker, they pass through it. He kinda developed a strange style of classical kind of formulations for jazz. Very precise in the 1940s, early forties. And then he had a concert at Carnegie Hall. It just was a flop. Then he ended up in Los Angeles and jazz was in turmoil. Then, it was going to bebop and he was just out of sync and he died in his car. It was kind of a sad ending, but two of his children, one lives in Winchester and one lives in Norfolk and has written a book about him. We have a Kirby Day, several Kirby Days where we celebrated him in the spring with Shenandoah University. We had this guy, Rusty Mason who was a minister and a jazz man who grew up on Kent Street about 20 years after Kirby. But he used to walk by Kirby's house. Have you ever seen a picture of Kirby's house? It's on Kent Street.

Dan Hoffman ([19:37](#)):

I've walked by it up there.

Tyson Gilpin ([19:38](#)):

Yeah, it has a plaque outside of it on the porch. Kirby was brought up by Reverend Washington and his wife. Rusty Mason, they'd love to get him on the radio. We'd have Kirby Day and they get Rusty on the radio. He loves to talk. He was a minister and a great jazz player. But he talked about walking up Kent Street where Kirby walked 20 years later and there was Reverend Washington and his wife who were the foster parents of Kirby sitting on their little porch smoking. They had corncob pipes and the Reverend would chase Rusty. Go back home, back to school, where are you supposed to be idling around. Chase him a little bit and Rusty would move on. But, Rusty celebrated our Kirby Days for a couple of years, got a band together.

Dan Hoffman ([20:27](#)):

Well, post-COVID, that's going to have to be something we look into to bringing back. I think there's gonna be a lot of pent up energy post-COVID to go back to celebrating.

Tyson Gilpin ([20:35](#)):

People are just bursting out of their houses.

Dan Hoffman ([20:37](#)):

Absolutely. Yes. Trust me. I think it's worth pointing out that a few of the folks that we've mentioned today or talked about today, they have ties to that North Kent area and for a part of the city that has been, unfortunately, in some ways overlooked over the years, it's an area that I'm actually very optimistic is going to see a lot of positive change in the coming years. A ton of Winchester history and I know the city is going to be making some pretty significant investments in that area over the coming years. I'm feeling very upbeat about the future of that neighborhood. You've got the investments that are being made in the Douglas School.

Tyson Gilpin ([21:28](#)):

That's huge.

Dan Hoffman ([21:29](#)):

That's huge. It's going to really anchor that end of the neighborhood. I know we're going to be making a lot of street improvements along Kent Street, possibly some new parks. So I'm pretty positive about what's going to happen in that neighborhood. And, you know, I think one of our responsibilities as City public administrators and local historians and community members is making sure that these stories are woven through those improvements.

Tyson Gilpin ([21:56](#)):

Yeah. Because that's the real goal there. the history of the, I mean, you know, Fats Domino and Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway, they all played there. The building's still there where they played and there's a hotel. Now, I'll have to really test you here. Do you know where Sharp Street is?

Dan Hoffman ([22:15](#)):

Yes. There's the hotel.

Tyson Gilpin ([22:18](#)):

Ah, the Dean Hotel.

Dan Hoffman ([22:19](#)):

Yes. Where is that though?

Tyson Gilpin ([22:22](#)):

It's right up near the railroad tracks on that end of the street.

Dan Hoffman ([22:24](#)):

Yes. Okay.

Tyson Gilpin ([22:25](#)):

And it was in the Green Book, you know?

Dan Hoffman ([22:27](#)):

In the Green Book. Yes. Cause it was all part of the circuit back in the day, right?

Tyson Gilpin ([22:30](#)):

Yeah. And so, Kent Street had more stuff going on than anywhere in town. I mean, as far as good music and talent. It was quite a place. Yeah. I think this is important. This is good.

Dan Hoffman ([22:43](#)):

Excellent. Absolutely.

Amy Simmons ([22:45](#)):

And then there was Ruth Jackson on South Kent.

Dan Hoffman ([22:47](#)):

Yeah. Ruth Jackson on South Kent. Yeah, absolutely.

Tyson Gilpin ([22:50](#)):

That was on the Green Book too.

Dan Hoffman ([22:53](#)):

Yeah, and we just put a park there. My goal is, as we look at some of these places, whether it's the Old Stone Lodge or places where we still have some structures, try to keep them, preserve them. Granted you can't preserve every building just because it's older, but the ones that have a story, the ones that have a history to them.

Tyson Gilpin ([23:12](#)):

Yeah. The Dean Hotel, you know, the desk book is out there. Supposedly, Dr. Brooks who owned it, he died, but the desk book had the names on it. Cab Calloway and Duke Ellington signed in. Now, and this may be another myth, but it's supposedly out there, we can maybe get.

Dan Hoffman ([23:31](#)):

I do like a treasure hunt.

Amy Simmons ([23:31](#)):

Yes you do.

Dan Hoffman ([23:32](#)):

I know, I would love to be Indiana Jones one day. The idea of hunting down these lost artifacts of Winchester excites me. Well, Tyson, thank you very much for joining us. This has been very interesting. I know we could go on for a very long...

Amy Simmons ([23:52](#)):

An hour.

Dan Hoffman ([23:52](#)):

Oh, for at least an hour.

Tyson Gilpin ([23:52](#)):

Three hours on each one of these guys easily.

Dan Hoffman ([23:57](#)):

Absolutely. Unfortunately podcasts, we try to keep them to nice digestible chunks, but if people want to learn more, where can folks go to find out more. Are there chapter meetings that if somebody wanted to attend? I know COVID is throwing everything off now, but how would someone learn more about these folks?

Tyson Gilpin ([24:16](#)):

Well, that's a good question. I mean, the NAACP, we're the education committee, we meet one Saturday a month, second Saturday. But you may be one of the only places that's got a hold on this right now. And now, Sharon Dixon has started to document some stories and she has those, but you raised a good question. Where do we keep this? Handley Library has the Howard Walker story. They got all the court, the court had all the stuff in the files, the knife, supposedly. They were supposed to have gotten rid of it and by 1965, they still had it five years ago, which is great. So we got the artifacts and the court proceedings at the Handley Library and a lot more. So Handley Library. Yeah, that's probably the only other place, but yeah, that's a great start. It has more than anything, I think.

Amy Simmons ([25:18](#)):

We just tried to start a Black history web page as well. It's got just bullet points, but it's at least a short overview and we're looking to grow that.

Dan Hoffman ([25:26](#)):

Well again, thank you very much for joining us. It was a pleasure to meet you. Hopefully we can have you back at some point, and then we can dive into one of these stories a little bit more. Stay warm out there, and be safe on your travels. Very interesting. We've got all these figures in town, and I know some of these folks might not have heard of, for example, Howard Walker. He might not rise to the level of a historical figure.

Amy Simmons ([25:56](#)):

What a sad story.

Dan Hoffman ([25:57](#)):

But it's such a sad story.

Amy Simmons ([25:59](#)):

Awful.

Dan Hoffman ([25:59](#)):

A lot of times, we focus on the individuals during Black History Month, but you know, it's called Black History Month, this was their experience. A lot of it is the history of the Black experience, which obviously, I can't begin to even imagine what that experience has been like. It's not been my experience, of course, but a lot of it is these stories that you don't know about. People having to live in fear. That didn't feel welcome in a place like City Hall because, you know, City Hall, our courts, they were not a place where people found service. They were not a place where people found justice depending on where they might be.

Amy Simmons ([26:45](#)):

Even the library.

Dan Hoffman ([26:46](#)):

Even the library. I mean, still to this day, I hear a lot of people not feeling comfortable going to City Hall. They don't feel like it's for them. So, if there's anything I can do as a City Manager, anybody that's listening to this, if there's anything I can do as a City Manager to make you feel like City Hall is for you, if you don't feel like this place is welcoming, please, please let me know what we can do differently.

Amy Simmons ([27:12](#)):

Absolutely.

Dan Hoffman ([27:13](#)):

Alright. So, moving right along, you had some questions for me.

Amy Simmons ([27:18](#)):

Yes. We're going to test your knowledge since you've been here for...

Dan Hoffman ([27:21](#)):

Five months.

Amy Simmons ([27:22](#)):

Five months. Let's see how much you've learned. We're going to start with a really easy one. What famous country music singer was born in Winchester?

Dan Hoffman ([27:29](#)):

Oh, Patsy Cline.

Amy Simmons ([27:30](#)):

It's so easy.

Dan Hoffman ([27:30](#)):

So easy.

Amy Simmons ([27:31](#)):

Okay.

Dan Hoffman ([27:33](#)):

But let's be real. How long did Patsy Cline actually live here?

Amy Simmons ([27:37](#)):

Probably not long. I don't know the new year.

Dan Hoffman ([27:40](#)):

I don't know exactly, but I'm pretty sure it's a lot less than some people might think, but we do have a house. We'd have a Patsy Cline house.

Amy Simmons ([27:46](#)):

It's a pretty cool museum.

Dan Hoffman ([27:46](#)):

I look forward, I have not visited it, yet. There's a very nice, I think it's still there at our tourism and visitor center. There's a very nice little exhibit over there. Uh, check it out if it's open.

Amy Simmons ([27:59](#)):

It should be open. Yeah. They're accepting visitors. Okay. So who founded Winchester? I can give you multiple choice if needed.

New Speaker ([28:06](#)):

Oh, okay. So, I know Lord Fairfax had a role in it, but there was somebody else that he then deeded the land to. Give me multiple choice.

Amy Simmons ([28:15](#)):

Think of the names of the schools around here. So, there's Johnny Appleseed.

Dan Hoffman ([28:20](#)):

It's not Johnny Appleseed.

Amy Simmons ([28:20](#)):

Obviously not Johnny Appleseed. [Laughs] George Washington.

Dan Hoffman ([28:23](#)):

No, not George Washington.

Amy Simmons ([28:24](#)):

We already mentioned Lord Fairfax, and then James Wood.

Dan Hoffman ([28:26](#)):

James Wood. It was James Wood.

Amy Simmons ([28:28](#)):

Yes.

Dan Hoffman ([28:29](#)):

There we go.

Amy Simmons ([28:29](#)):

Okay. So question number three. When was Winchester founded?

Dan Hoffman ([28:33](#)):

1744.

Amy Simmons ([28:34](#)):

Yes. Some people think of 1752.

Dan Hoffman ([28:37](#)):

Why is that? Cause I've seen that as well.

New Speaker ([28:39](#)):

Because 1752, I wish Tim was here, he couldn't really explain this.

Dan Hoffman ([28:44](#)):

Well, Tim as there then, right? If you had put Tim Youmans as one of the options, I might've picked that.

Amy Simmons ([28:49](#)):

That's funny. 1744 was when it was founded. 1752 is when it was incorporated. Yes. The city was incorporated then.

Dan Hoffman ([28:59](#)):

So it's funny. The city I just came from also had one of its big anniversaries and there was this big controversy of, well, is this the anniversary of its founding or its incorporation? I like to go with the older one because it sounds cooler. 1744, we'll go with that.

Amy Simmons ([29:14](#)):

We'll go with that. Okay. So how old was George Washington when he first came to Winchester?

Dan Hoffman ([29:18](#)):

16.

Amy Simmons ([29:18](#)):

Yes. But do you know what job he was doing when he came to Winchester?

Dan Hoffman ([29:21](#)):

He was a surveyor.

Amy Simmons ([29:22](#)):

Very good.

Dan Hoffman ([29:23](#)):

[Laughs] I am on fire.

Amy Simmons ([29:24](#)):

[Laughs] I've read somewhere a really interesting story about him when he came here and why he came here. I wish I knew where I saw that, but it was very interesting.

Dan Hoffman ([29:33](#)):

You know, what his teeth were actually made of?

Amy Simmons ([29:35](#)):

It wasn't wood.

Dan Hoffman ([29:36](#)):

Wasn't wood. Ivory.

Amy Simmons ([29:37](#)):

Oh, okay.

Dan Hoffman ([29:38](#)):

History channel.

Amy Simmons ([29:39](#)):

Hmm. I wonder where he got that.

Dan Hoffman ([29:42](#)):

Do you get ivory teeth from an elephant, from elephant tusks, or is there other places, are there other sources of ivory?

Amy Simmons ([29:49](#)):

It doesn't sound like it would be, but I don't know.

Dan Hoffman ([29:52](#)):

It's kind of gross.

Amy Simmons ([29:52](#)):

Yeah.

Dan Hoffman ([29:53](#)):

I'd almost rather have wood in my mouth.

Amy Simmons ([29:55](#)):

Okay. Moving on.

Dan Hoffman ([29:56](#)):

Moving on.

Amy Simmons ([29:58](#)):

Who was not a benefactor, [laughs], benefactor of Winchester in this list? Charlie Rouss, John Kerr, John Handley or Garland Quarles. Which one was not a benefactor?

New Speaker ([30:14](#)):

Kerr.

New Speaker ([30:14](#)):

Incorrect.

New Speaker ([30:16](#)):

What? Was it Quarles?

New Speaker ([30:17](#)):

It was Quarles. Of course, obviously Handley and Rouss are benefactors, but not...

Dan Hoffman ([30:21](#)):

Quarles was an old superintendent, right?

Amy Simmons ([30:22](#)):

Yes. And teacher, I believe.

Dan Hoffman ([30:24](#)):

And teacher. Okay. Rouss is an obvious one, since this building's named after him. I walk by a big plaque, a statue of him every day. So, that one's not a surprise. And Handley, that's, seriously, that's a crown jewel. So it had to be that. Alright, you got me on one.

Amy Simmons ([30:41](#)):

Okay. Number six, which Winchester structure did Thomas Edison say was the most beautiful building he had ever seen. Or one of the most.

Dan Hoffman ([30:51](#)):

One of the most beautiful...Handley High School.

Amy Simmons ([30:54](#)):

No. Close. Handley Library.

Dan Hoffman ([30:58](#)):

Oh yeah.

New Speaker ([31:01](#)):

It's pretty beautiful.

New Speaker ([31:03](#)):

That is. Oh, man. Alright, I'm on a bad streak.

Amy Simmons ([31:06](#)):

It's only two. It's only two. Who was the Winchester resident that was the first victim of John Brown's raid in Harper's Ferry? Was it John Kirby, Oliver Brown, Heyward Shepherd, or Spottswood Poles.

Dan Hoffman ([31:25](#)):

Oliver Brown.

Amy Simmons ([31:26](#)):

No.

Dan Hoffman ([31:27](#)):

Oh, my goodness.

Amy Simmons ([31:28](#)):

Three in a row.

Dan Hoffman ([31:29](#)):

I know, if I miss one more, I'll have to resign.

Amy Simmons ([31:32](#)):

He was even in your notes I gave you.

Dan Hoffman ([31:33](#)):

You gave me notes.

Amy Simmons ([31:34](#)):

Yeah. That list of black history.

Dan Hoffman ([31:36](#)):

I didn't realize I had...

Amy Simmons ([31:37](#)):

Heyward Shepherd.

Dan Hoffman ([31:39](#)):

Heywood Shepherd. Oh!

Amy Simmons ([31:41](#)):

Read some tidbits.

Dan Hoffman ([31:43](#)):

Okay. Fine.

Amy Simmons ([31:47](#)):

[Laughs] Alrighty. Number eight, moving on. When did main street become a pedestrian mall?

Dan Hoffman ([31:54](#)):

Hmm. The walking mall?

Amy Simmons ([31:55](#)):

I can give you some dates.

Dan Hoffman ([31:56](#)):

Yes. Give me some dates.

Amy Simmons ([31:58](#)):

1972, 74, 76 or 79. Obviously it was in the seventies. So pick one.

Dan Hoffman ([32:06](#)):

Nineteen-seventy...four!

Amy Simmons ([32:10](#)):

It was '74? Yes.

Dan Hoffman ([32:12](#)):

Alright. Back on track.

Amy Simmons ([32:14](#)):

Okay. Yay. Where was a German prisoner of war camp located in Winchester during World War II.

Dan Hoffman ([32:20](#)):

Oh, they had the, I know this one. I know this one...during World War II?

Amy Simmons ([32:25](#)):

Yes. German prisoner camp.

Dan Hoffman ([32:28](#)):

Oh, I thought you were? Oh, I immediately went to the Civil War. World War II, man. This isn't in the book. I'm reading. It stops at 1924. [Laughs]

Amy Simmons ([32:38](#)):

[Laughs] So, I can give you multiple choice. Obviously, some of these are going to be out there. Apple Pie Ridge.

Dan Hoffman ([32:45](#)):

Uh, that's a road.

Amy Simmons ([32:45](#)):

Gainsboro.

Dan Hoffman ([32:45](#)):

Gainsboro. I don't know where that is.

Amy Simmons ([32:48](#)):

John Kerr Elementary School or Virginia Avenue Elementary School. Which one of those?

Dan Hoffman ([32:54](#)):

I'm going to say John Kerr.

Amy Simmons ([32:58](#)):

The other school. Virginia Avenue.

Dan Hoffman ([33:00](#)):

It's Virginia...Okay.

Amy Simmons ([33:02](#)):

It's up there by the post office. It's got that long lawn in front of it and we've got old pictures of those little tents everywhere in the lawn. And you put a German prisoner of war camp right in front of an elementary school. Crazy.

Dan Hoffman ([33:17](#)):

Wow.

Amy Simmons ([33:17](#)):

Yeah. Alright, last question. When did the town of Winchester officially become the city of Winchester? Town to city.

Dan Hoffman ([33:28](#)):

Oh, so not the 1752 incorporation.

Amy Simmons ([33:32](#)):

Nope.

Dan Hoffman ([33:33](#)):

Alright. What are my options?

Amy Simmons ([33:35](#)):

1840, 1865, 1874 or 1901.

Dan Hoffman ([33:40](#)):

Is this in my notes anywhere here.

Amy Simmons ([33:43](#)):

It is not. [Laughs] Now, see, it can't be 1901 because City Hall was built in 1901.

Dan Hoffman ([33:50](#)):

That's right.

Amy Simmons ([33:50](#)):

So it has to be before that.

Dan Hoffman ([33:53](#)):

So what are the other three options?

Amy Simmons ([33:55](#)):

1840, 1865, 1874. Hint. It is a hundred years after the pedestrian mall was built. Do you remember the answer for that one?

Dan Hoffman ([34:07](#)):

100 years after, you mean before?

Amy Simmons ([34:09](#)):

I mean before, oh God. So sorry.

Dan Hoffman ([34:13](#)):

1874.

Amy Simmons ([34:13](#)):

Yes. I was never good at math.

Dan Hoffman ([34:17](#)):

Okay. Well, I started off strong.

Amy Simmons ([34:19](#)):

Not too bad, though.

Dan Hoffman ([34:19](#)):

And then, I took a nose dive. I will have to work on that and we'll test me again in a future episode.

Amy Simmons ([34:27](#)):

Keep reading that book.

Dan Hoffman ([34:28](#)):

Thank you. Now you have some interesting activities coming up to tell people about.

Amy Simmons ([34:35](#)):

Sure. Parks and Rec is always trying to introduce new things. So, they have a new cookie decorating class for ages 16 and up. The first class begins on March 23rd and they'll go over the proper techniques to decorate cookies.

Dan Hoffman ([34:47](#)):

Alright. And I'm told the registration website will be working or is working now.

Amy Simmons ([34:53](#)):

Well, hopefully soon if it's not now because we had an upgrade and it took longer than we thought.

Dan Hoffman ([35:00](#)):

So, if not call Deputy City Manager, Mary Blowe, on her direct line.

Amy Simmons ([35:05](#)):

No, don't do that.

Dan Hoffman ([35:06](#)):

She oversees...no just kidding.

Amy Simmons ([35:07](#)):

No, the right number to call is (540) 662-4946. But the park also has another program coming up, I guess this is kind of ongoing, it's private music lessons and you can pick your day and time. They have guitar, ukulele, piano, and voice.

Dan Hoffman ([35:23](#)):

Cool.

Amy Simmons ([35:24](#)):

So just call the park in case the website's not working, or the online registration, and sign up, the next session begins March 15th. You might've heard that Virginia has a new statewide COVID vaccine pre-registration website and that's open to any Virginia resident and they can get on the waiting list, figure out which phase they qualify for. Then they will be contacted when it's their turn to schedule for the vaccine. And that is www.vaccinate.virginia.gov or 877-VAX-IN-VA. And that can get you all the information you need. There's also a drive-up COVID-19 testing site coming up at the Apple Blossom Mall. They're going to set up there in the parking lot somewhere, and it's not here yet, but there'll be open seven days a week from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. If you want to check for that, more updates or other sites testing sites, it's www.TestBeforeYouGo.com. Last but not least, the EDA has decided to go into a purchase sale agreement possibly, or begin that negotiation process, with the Aikens Group for the vacant property on the corner of Kent and Piccadilly Streets. So they are interested in building townhouses there and currently working on site plan. And, that kind of proposal, development is allowed by-right. Some more information on that to come. That's all I have.

Dan Hoffman ([36:38](#)):

Excellent. And earlier in the show, we talked about alerts and notifications, remind folks one more time, where to go to sign up for their alerts about snow plans, trash pickups, and whatnot.

Amy Simmons ([36:51](#)):

Yes. That is going to be your first line of defense for when things change. It's www.WinchesterVA.gov/getalerts.

Dan Hoffman ([36:57](#)):

Yep. It will literally call you on your phone.

Amy Simmons ([36:59](#)):

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Or text you.

Dan Hoffman ([37:01](#)):

Or send you a text message.

Amy Simmons ([37:03](#)):

Or email you.

Dan Hoffman ([37:04](#)):

Or email you.

Amy Simmons ([37:04](#)):

However you want it.

Dan Hoffman ([37:06](#)):

So, there's no reason to not be informed. We provide multiple ways. So, Winchester sign up. Alright, that's all we've got. Thanks for joining us and we'll see you around City Hall.