

Dan Hoffman ([00:06](#)):

Welcome everybody to another episode of the Rouss Review. I'm your City Manager, Dan Hoffman and with me is Amy Simmons, Communications Director. Hello, Amy.

Amy Simmons ([00:14](#)):

Hello. How are you doing today?

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

It's a little chilly today.

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

I know. I don't care for that.

Dan Hoffman ([00:18](#)):

I do not care for it at all.

Amy Simmons ([00:19](#)):

We've got the blossoms, we've got the spring coming and now it's cold again.

Dan Hoffman ([00:24](#)):

I know. My very lackluster gardening attempts are going to be foisted by this, I just know it. Anyways. So we've got a good topic. Actually today is as much a request of our residents as it is a topic for discussion. Today, we're gonna be talking about the strategic plan and how you can participate and provide your input into the strategic plan. But first let's talk a little bit about the agenda. Tomorrow we've got a pretty reasonably-sized agenda.

Amy Simmons ([00:56](#)):

Yeah, some good stuff on there.

Dan Hoffman ([00:57](#)):

Some good stuff on it. This is good, good government meaty work of the people kind of stuff. I'm going to scroll through the agenda real quick. Just call out the highlights. We do have a batch of, for second readings, related to some land use things. Go take a look at those. A lot of them might be in your neighborhood or relevant to your neighborhood. So do take a look at those. The other thing we have at second reading, which will be a public hearing, is to set the real property tax rate for the next calendar year. So, I've proposed 93 cents. Council's going to be entertaining that rate as well as 90, 91 and 92. Of course, at this point, they could not vote for 93 and we start over with a different rate. We still have plenty of time to adopt it, I'm going to be bringing a presentation to Council tomorrow to talk through why I'm recommending 93 cents. It's important for our City employees, for the health of the city. Then, they will do their deliberation and discuss.

Amy Simmons ([02:07](#)):

And 93 is our current rate.

Dan Hoffman ([02:10](#)):

Regardless of what you might read in places, this is the same tax rate as last year. So, if you hear it referred to as a tax rate increase, that is incorrect. This is the same tax rate. The tax rate is 93 cents right now and if adopted, the tax rate next year will be 93 cents. Your taxes, your property taxes, may be going up because of your appraisal. The amount you pay will increase. And let me be clear, the amount you pay at 89 cents would still go up. So 99% of homes, even if we lowered the tax rate by four cents, which would be our revenue neutral rate, everyone would still see an increase. The difference between going back to the 89 cent rate, which would be incredibly bad for the financial health of the city. And I'll just take a few seconds to talk about why that is. First off, it would threaten our AAA bond rating. That is, if we cannot cover our costs. And some of those costs are increases to retirement funding that we have to pay; contractual increases; increases in the radio maintenance contract; some natural increases related to our tipping solid waste tipping fees. If we can't just keep up with the basic cost of doing business, which to be honest with you, we can't do at 89 cents, the bond, the rating agencies will look at us very poorly. So, that's one thing to keep in mind.

Amy Simmons ([03:49](#)):

And for those who don't know, why is it so important to have that high rating?

Dan Hoffman ([03:53](#)):

Oh, that saves us millions of dollars because we're always borrowing money for a new this or to renovate something. The vast majority of cities always carry some degree of debt. Just like everybody listening to this, probably carries some degree of debt. A little bit of debt is not bad. It's actually healthy for a lot of places. And right now, it cost very little money for us to borrow money. We recently saved about a million dollars just by refinancing some old debt. So, carrying some debt is completely healthy. If our AAA bond rating were to go down, let's say it got reduced to AA or AA+ or something along those lines, they've got a lot of different categories, it could potentially cost us hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars, over the long haul in terms of debt payments. It's not something to be taken lightly. One of the first things people look at for a city's financial health is what is their rating with accrediting agencies. Just as you want to have a high credit score, we want to have a high credit rating.

Amy Simmons ([05:06](#)):

And AAA is as high as you can get.

Dan Hoffman ([05:08](#)):

We've got the highest one you can get, because the City is very financially sound. The difference between 89 cents and 93 cents, which is the current rate, would be that for the average resident--let's say you own a \$250,000 home. Now, if you rent, there is no impact on you. You don't pay property taxes. If you rent, it is possible that a landlord might try to pass it along to you. But if you have a lease, they've got to work within the confines of that lease. So, let's say you own a \$250,000 home. The difference between 89 cents and 93 cents is about a hundred dollars for the entire year. It goes into your mortgage payment, we're talking nine bucks, about nine bucks a month. That's the difference. I just want to stress to folks that this is not an incredibly high increase. I know right now for a lot of folks...

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

Right, little bit's a lot.

Dan Hoffman ([06:08](#)):

A little bit might be a lot, but we are looking at other things to try to help trim. This budget has been put together with an eye towards cutting where we can and overall our operating costs have been cut, but there are some things that we just cannot avoid. Last year, our employees got 0% increase. I cannot recommend another budget where our employees get 0%. That's just unpalatable to me and it's not in line with what every other jurisdiction around us is doing.

Amy Simmons ([06:39](#)):

I was going to point that out--Frederick County, Clarke County, all of them.

Dan Hoffman ([06:43](#)):

I'm not even proposing an increase as high as what's happening in our neighboring jurisdictions and that pains me. I think at this point at 93 cents is what I'm going to be sticking with his recommendation. But Council will debate and we'll see what they do. Moving on. Then on the agenda, you'll have some committee chair reports. We'll be appointing a few folks to different boards. We will be bringing back the right of way permit fee item. That's been bounced a couple of times, but that's coming back for a vote. Second reading on a change to our City Code, just to clean up a few items related to our agendas. Then we're going to go through four items all related to public safety. Last Wednesday, we had a meeting of the Public Safety Committee to try to address some issues related to homelessness. Some of them related to vagrancy, some of them related to just quality of life issues down on the walking mall. We looked at some trespassing ordinances. We looked at issues related to noise and people using amplified sound on the walking mall. Some ordinances we're actually repealing. There are actually six ordinances that we are repealing because either they've been tested in other places and found to be unconstitutional, or we don't believe they'll hold up under constitutional scrutiny. And there's another one about curfew and loitering that we're also repealing for the same reason. The one action of the four that I'm particularly pleased about is the noise ordinance. I think right now, we need to protect the walking mall. That area, that stretch is really the heart of the city. We've got plenty of other different shopping and entertainment and dining options around the city. This is not to put one over another, but the walking mall is unique to Winchester. We need to make sure we protect it. That's the regular meeting. And then on the Work Session, we have an Executive Discussion and then, we do have a presentation about the roll-off containers, the trash containers. We'll be reporting out to Council the success of that program. We talked a little bit about that on a previous podcast with Mr. Neese. That's been very successful and in this budget, we are looking to roll that out city-wide. That's going to be a huge positive for the city.

Amy Simmons ([09:17](#)):

Is this where he's presenting the survey results to Council?

Dan Hoffman ([09:20](#)):

Yep.

Amy Simmons ([09:20](#)):

Okay.

Dan Hoffman ([09:21](#)):

Survey results and some of the lessons learned. I want to stress and emphasize to everybody, this might be new to us, but we are behind the curve here. I have not worked in a jurisdiction yet where people go buy their own trash cans and they put out their own trash cans, or sometimes they don't, they just put loose bags of trash out on the street. First off, it's not safe for our workers. It's not healthy. It creates litter. We're moving to a system that is much more standardized, professional, efficient, and I'm going to be proposing on Tuesday a system where if you waste less, if you generate less trash, you're going to pay less than somebody else.

Amy Simmons ([10:02](#)):

Composting, recycling.

Dan Hoffman ([10:04](#)):

In the future, I want to get to composting, I want to get to recycling. We're going to start recycling our glass again, if I have anything to do with it. So, keep an eye out for that. A lot of positive changes on the horizon when it comes to solid waste.

Amy Simmons ([10:16](#)):

Very exciting.

Dan Hoffman ([10:17](#)):

Very exciting. Okay. So that's the [agenda] for tomorrow? Today's topic, though, really is our strategic plan. We are due, in fact, we probably should have been updating our strategic plan last year, but

Amy Simmons ([10:31](#)):

Yeah, it's, COVID. [laughs]

Dan Hoffman ([10:32](#)):

It's COVID, so what are you going to do? COVID, new guy shows up. There were a lot of different reasons to not update the strategic plan last year. But now, the light's kind of at the end of the tunnel. We're seeing it. We still got a ways to go. COVID ain't over yet people, but it's time to really start looking at what the next two, five, 10, 20 years should look like with the city.

Amy Simmons ([11:02](#)):

Yeah, because of the last one we have was created in 2016. So much has changed since then.

Dan Hoffman ([11:09](#)):

Absolutely, if it weren't for COVID, the plan would only be about five years old. It would already be due for an update. You don't put these things in stone. This isn't the constitution, a document that has to stay, that's very difficult to change. These are living documents that should be looked at regularly. So, throw the fact in that we also had COVID and it really is a good time for us to look at the plan, validate what's in it, and look for areas to change. So, that's the process that we have undertaken.

Amy Simmons ([11:52](#)):

And we have a consultant to help us this time.

Dan Hoffman ([11:54](#)):

We do. Erima Fobbs. We're going to be talking with her in just a minute. We'll talk about why cities hire consultants do this kind of work. But real quickly, this is a plan that is not just Dan Hoffman's vision for the city. If it was, it would be a bad plan cause anything I put together would just be my own perspective and it wouldn't have input of the residents. It wouldn't have input of our staff or the Council. So, we are going through a great effort, especially in COVID time to try to gather information from as many people as possible. The best way that you, as a resident in the city, can provide your feedback is to go online and take the survey. Amy, where can people find the survey?

Amy Simmons ([12:44](#)):

We have it under our latest news section and also under our master plan section, you can find the strategic...I can never say that word, strategic plan. They are under the master plan section under government, the government tab, and also on our latest news.

Dan Hoffman ([13:01](#)):

Or outright on the homepage.

Amy Simmons ([13:02](#)):

Homepage, also.

Dan Hoffman ([13:04](#)):

Homepage. When you're looking at the homepage, you see a big, pretty picture of Winchester. Wait a second, it'll scroll, or you can just click and another pane will show up and it'll say, strategic plan, click here. Do it. We've made it intentionally brief, general. I think there are probably 15 questions on there. Only takes you a few minutes to do. There's spots within it to provide general comment. We look at every single response, individual comments that are made. We look at them. Of course, if beyond the survey, you want to provide some feedback about the plan, you've got many different options at your disposal. You can always just email me. Go to the website. My email is on the website. You can call our office. You can...

Amy Simmons ([14:05](#)):

Send a letter.

Dan Hoffman ([14:06](#)):

Send a letter if you're still in that mode of communication.

Amy Simmons ([14:09](#)):

We also have the online form now on our Open Town Hall.

Dan Hoffman ([14:11](#)):

Exactly. There's online forums and you can always show up to a City Council meeting. We're in person again at City Hall tomorrow, you could show up. You got three minutes to say your peace to the Council. You can show up and say, I'm here Mayor and Council, to talk about the strategic plan and what's important to me. And you can pontificate for three solid minutes about what's important to you. When

it's all said and done, when this plan is complete, if you sit back and say, well, does this really reflect the residents? Or I didn't really get a chance to provide any feedback or the survey, I never got the email about the survey. I'll be honest with you, you just weren't paying attention. There are many, many chances. You can call individual Councilors. They're very good. This Council is very good about responding to emails, responding to phone calls. They'll forward it all to me and all of it's taken into consideration. We take all those raw materials, the survey results, the interviews with Councilors, the focus groups with residents. We take all of that, all those raw materials, and we distill it down into a bunch of data and a bunch of information that we'll be bringing to the Council at a retreat on May 14th. Also, open to the public. You can watch them in action. So, plenty of ways for you to participate, but right now, the best way you can participate, add your perspective via the survey. Please go there, take the survey. I would greatly appreciate it. Let's go ahead and give a Erima a call and chat with her about the plan.

Erima Fobbs ([16:09](#)):

[phone ringing] Good morning.

Dan Hoffman ([16:10](#)):

Hello Erima.

Erima Fobbs ([16:12](#)):

Hello. How are you?

Dan Hoffman ([16:13](#)):

I'm good. So everybody, Erima is our facilitator. She is a consultant that we've hired to help us put together the strategic plan. Now, a lot of times folks, you know, we get this occasionally, especially around budget time. 'Why do you have to hire a consultant for it? Can't you just do it yourself?' I think a lot of folks don't quite realize that it's actually kind of a bad idea for me to try to facilitate my own plan because, I've got a lot of my own opinions, thoughts, feelings, and it's really difficult to keep those in the background, to be objective when the plan should reflect the interests and desires and perspective of a lot of different people. So, we bring in folks like Erima to help us be objective, to make sure that the plan is reflective of the group and that folks like myself aren't dominating the conversation. So Erima, could you take just a few minutes to talk about why do cities, in the different organizations and cities you've worked with, why do cities actually undertake strategic planning?

Erima Fobbs ([17:18](#)):

It's really just, as you said, bringing particularly with bringing an outside facilitator to ensure that there really is a participatory process. Cities engage in strategic planning so that they can envision a future to be achieved in the city. They can examine their strengths, they can look at what needs must be attended to. They can really consider what might block achieving that vision, and then get down to the nuts and bolts of what they should do to achieve that vision in the next five years, specific strategies, actions, accountability, the metrics, the cost, and the resources. I would say that the process that Winchester is undertaking, you really approached this as a participatory, transparent and inclusive process. At the same time, we've been very focused on ensuring that you have input from residents. You have input from the Council, from all of the City staff, and that you're considering both the quantitative and qualitative data. I think it's just really helpful for cities to be strategic about forward-looking, and then come back to reality and weigh the pros and cons and look at resources and accountability.

Dan Hoffman ([18:47](#)):

A lot of times people see these plans, these big, big vision, big strategy plans that cities put together and they go sit on the shelf and collect dust. What kind of pitfalls should we be avoiding after the plan is done to make sure that it becomes a reality?

Erima Fobbs ([19:06](#)):

I think the process that we're doing is, while it does include dreaming, it's actually very practical and, we're following it all the way through to aligning it with annual work plans for the City. I think that's where you see a misalignment between the dreaming, and then it's not actually carried through to implementation planning. That's the plan that sits on the shelf. Or if it's really unrealistic and it's not tethered to actual needs and interests and resources in the City, that's where it sits on the shelf. But I think in this process, every step of the way it's been very concrete. It's involved a reflection on the last few years. It's involved in acknowledgement of the challenges particularly of the time we're in, and then allowing just really practical, informed, expansive contribution of that forward thinking to the vision. And then the stakeholders are at the table and the folks that are going to be implementing the plan are at the table. So, that actually makes it quite practical and not something that would sit on the shelf. And then also having the metrics in place to enable that monitoring and that review at different intervals that will ensure that it won't sit on the shelf.

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

You talked a little bit about metrics, performance, what are going to be some of the things that we develop towards the end of the plan. We've got this retreat coming up with Council on the 14th [of May], where we'll do a lot of the vision and strategy. What kinds of things do we need to make sure when we're looking at performance measures that will go into the plan?

Erima Fobbs ([20:58](#)):

The process that we'll be undertaking, we'll look at a two-year smart, specific, measurable, achievable, realistic time-bound outcome measures. What will increase, decrease be changed by what scope over two years, and then also, what are the accomplishments we want to see in place after a year and how will we measure that? Putting in some measurement indicators for those accomplishments that are concrete, that are quantitative, that are actually measurable and transparent. So, metrics are built into this process.

Dan Hoffman ([21:44](#)):

Got it, got it. So you and your associate, Carla, have been helping us with this for a little over a month now, I believe. We've got a retreat coming up with Council and these retreats are public meetings, are open to the public. I'm sure members of the media are going to be there. What are some things that you're going to be looking for to make sure that this retreat is a successful and great use of everybody's time? Cause it's gonna be a bunch of folks involved. What kind of things do you look to instill in order to make sure the retreat is successful?

Erima Fobbs ([22:16](#)):

We are seeking consensus on the big ideas.

Dan Hoffman ([22:20](#)):

We are, or we are not?

Erima Fobbs ([22:21](#)):

We are, absolutely, speaking consensus on the big ideas. We also want everybody's ideas. We structure a process for individual thoughts, small group work, large group report out, and discussion at the front end. Then, we structure more of a working meeting, where you're really getting down to the nuts and bolts of the work plan. And as I mentioned before, smart objectives, one-year accomplishments, what will be done by this quarter and that quarter. And should we not get to that, because that's a tough thing to do, have that working session, should we not get to that, there are going to be follow up meetings. That's really where the departments that are going to be involved in implementing those areas bring in more of the pragmatism and finalize those work plans. The process will be really inclusive. A lot of discussion, a lot of input, structured in the way that there is equity of voice among all of the participants. And then, reality checks at the end of the day, as well. Informed reality checks to develop those work plans.

Dan Hoffman ([23:39](#)):

Got it. So, you and Carla have worked with a bunch of different organizations, different jurisdictions. Not asking you to a heap any praise upon us, but, give us your observation about the City as an organization thus far. Any takeaways that either set us apart? It can be constructive. Anything that you've seen so far in your dealings with our senior staff, with our Council, that kind of leap out at you.

Erima Fobbs ([24:12](#)):

I would say you have challenged us because you have been very inclusive all along the way. You have a steering committee, you have, encouraged a broad or upfront assessment. All the interviews we did with Council, the survey of the community. So, I would say that that has been a much more in-depth process than a lot of the other strategic planning initiatives than we have done. You're definitely aimed at making it an informed strategic plan. So, I think that's the outlier at this point.

Dan Hoffman ([25:01](#)):

Good to hear. Well, Erima, thank you very much. Thanks for letting us give you a buzz. Any other final thoughts to add before we move along?

Erima Fobbs ([25:11](#)):

No. I would say, we've been really excited to be involved. The preliminary feedback, people really reflect very positively on the City and, on the leadership and we're just, excited to help you meet your goals of developing a solid strategic plan that can guide the City over the next five years.

Dan Hoffman ([25:36](#)):

Well, Erima, thanks for joining us. Looking forward to finally meeting you in person, hopefully in a few weeks. I know you just got your second shot. I think all of our team has, so we're looking forward to actually meeting you in person.

Erima Fobbs ([25:49](#)):

All right. Well, good luck with everything and, I'll see you soon. Thank you.

Dan Hoffman ([25:53](#)):

Thanks. Bye-bye

Amy Simmons ([25:57](#)):

She's been so great.

Dan Hoffman ([25:58](#)):

She's lovely. I'm really pleased, so far. I mean, still a lot of work to be done, but, so far her demeanor, her professionalism, it's been a good experience thus far.

Amy Simmons ([26:13](#)):

And she didn't mention the stakeholder meetings that we're holding as well. We have two groups of community members that are getting together to talk to her about the future of Winchester.

Dan Hoffman ([26:24](#)):

Folks could probably compare those to focus groups in essence. And those focus groups involve a pretty wide cross section of people from around the community. A lot of community leaders are in those focus groups. Shenandoah University's represented, Valley Health is represented, schools. So, this plan, think of it what you will, whatever the final product turns out to be, but I don't think anybody can argue that we didn't try to hear from everyone. So, that is very exciting.

Amy Simmons ([26:57](#)):

Yeah. And the survey is still going on til April 30th.

Dan Hoffman ([27:00](#)):

So still time, like we said earlier, and like, I'll probably say again three more times during this podcast.

Amy Simmons ([27:05](#)):

And in other podcasts.

Dan Hoffman ([27:07](#)):

Go fill out the darn survey.

Amy Simmons ([27:07](#)):

Please.

Dan Hoffman ([27:09](#)):

Alrighty. Let's go ahead and move on and wrap up with a couple of items that are coming up in the next few weeks.

Amy Simmons ([27:17](#)):

Sure. Well, coming up this, starting this weekend, actually the parking authority is going to be installing new automated gates and payment equipment in our four downtown garages. So they'll start actually at

Braddock Autopark this weekend, and then they'll move along the week with others. And that's going to hopefully be a little bit more convenient process for people who rent spaces in the parking garages. And also those who want to pay for hourly parking. They'll have two different ways to do that now or soon. And, are you clueless about composting?

Dan Hoffman ([27:50](#)):

I'm not clueless...

Amy Simmons ([27:53](#)):

[Laughs] I'm clueless.

Dan Hoffman ([27:53](#)):

I am not an expert by any stretch. I know you put a bunch of stuff in a barrel of some sort, and then it goes from rotten rotten to good. And then you use it. I'm going to try to learn, though.

Amy Simmons ([28:07](#)):

Well, I'm completely clueless. So there is a new workshop coming up, a virtual workshop. It's Sustainability Matters and the City have partnered together to offer these virtual workshops. The first one is Composting for the Clueless and it's open to anyone. It doesn't matter where you live and will be held on May 6th at 7:00 PM. It's free. And you can register at [compost dot everbright dot com](http://compost.dot.everbright.com). Not ever bright. What am I thinking? Event bright. That makes much more sense [compost.eventbright.com].

Dan Hoffman ([28:36](#)):

Yeah. I think I might have to push a Lindsay in that direction.

Amy Simmons ([28:40](#)):

She'll like it.

Dan Hoffman ([28:40](#)):

Yeah. We were trying to garden. Do you garden?

Amy Simmons ([28:43](#)):

No. Completely brown thumbs.

Dan Hoffman ([28:45](#)):

You don't? That's why you're clueless about compost. Yeah. It doesn't surprise me at all. You don't seem like a gardener and don't think that as a bad thing.

Amy Simmons ([28:52](#)):

I don't mow. I don't weed eat.

Dan Hoffman ([28:54](#)):

It's dirty, right?

Amy Simmons ([28:54](#)):

Yes.

Dan Hoffman ([28:55](#)):

Exactly. Okay. I've got you pegged.

Amy Simmons ([28:56](#)):

That's why it surprised me when my petite little daughter said, 'mom, you know, I don't like ballet class?' Cause I was a dancer and I put her in ballet class. I said, 'no why?' She says, 'because I can't get dirty.' So she's a softball player.

Dan Hoffman ([29:10](#)):

There you go.

Amy Simmons ([29:11](#)):

She likes to play in the dirt, apparently. I don't know where she got that. Winchester Parks and Recreations all-day summer camp will be offered this year. Exciting news. And we were very limited last year. This year, hopefully, it's a little bit bigger, but it's still limited because of the restrictions. But registration begins May 3rd at 10:00 AM for city residents and May 4th for non-residents. So, register early, fills up really fast. And our four City-owned museums. Can you name them all?

Dan Hoffman ([29:40](#)):

We got the George Washington house.

Amy Simmons ([29:43](#)):

Headquarters.

Dan Hoffman ([29:44](#)):

Headquarters. Is it headquarters? I thought it was his office.

Amy Simmons ([29:47](#)):

Technically, it's his office, but we call it headquarters.

Dan Hoffman ([29:51](#)):

I'm gonna start calling my office my headquarters.

Amy Simmons ([29:53](#)):

Okay. [Laughs] I like that. Let's do that.

Dan Hoffman ([29:55](#)):

City Manager Headquarters.

Amy Simmons ([29:56](#)):

Yes.

Dan Hoffman ([29:57](#)):

We've got the Stonewall Jackson one.

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

That one is office. Yes.

Dan Hoffman ([30:02](#)):

That one's an office.

Amy Simmons ([30:03](#)):

[Laughs] I think they just wanted to be different.

Dan Hoffman ([30:05](#)):

Okay. Fine. Okay. Other museums, other museums. Do we have...Museum of the Shenandoah Valley's not ours.

Amy Simmons ([30:15](#)):

Nope.

Dan Hoffman ([30:15](#)):

So it's not a City-operated museum.

Amy Simmons ([30:16](#)):

No, it's not. It's just in the city.

Dan Hoffman ([30:18](#)):

Is City Hall considered museum?

Amy Simmons ([30:20](#)):

No.

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

That's weird.

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

Think a place where you live. That's really old.

Dan Hoffman ([30:25](#)):

My house isn't that old?

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

Not yours. [Laughs] Your house is close. Abram's Delight.

Dan Hoffman ([30:32](#)):

Abram's Delight? Oh, that's a City one?

Amy Simmons ([30:33](#)):

That's a City one. Oldest home in Winchester.

Dan Hoffman ([30:34](#)):

I did not know that. I thought that was on someone else's. Okay. Great. Abram's Delight, which is not a type of candy.

Amy Simmons ([30:44](#)):

No. It's not. [Laughs] That'd be nice though. If we had some.

Dan Hoffman ([30:46](#)):

We should make a Abram's Delight candy. It could just be Turkish Delight that we just cross off Turkish and write Abram's. You ever have Turkish Delight?

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

No.

Dan Hoffman ([30:54](#)):

It's actually pretty good. Don't be scared.

Amy Simmons ([30:57](#)):

[Laughs] I don't even know what that is.

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

Got nougat. It's got some nuts in it. It's, Turkish Delight, is actually quite tasty.

Amy Simmons ([31:03](#)):

Okay. Sounds tasty.

Dan Hoffman ([31:04](#)):

I'm going to bring some in next time.

Amy Simmons ([31:04](#)):

Okay. Well Abram's Delight, oldest home in Winchester, is a museum owned by the City. That little log cabin right next to it, across from the Visitor Center and right next to it is Hollingsworth Mill. So all of that is owned by the City.

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

What's the fourth museum?

Amy Simmons ([31:18](#)):

Hollingsworth Mill. There's a little museum you walk in and there is history about Winchester and there's really awesome. They changed the exhibit all the time.

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

Was there a Patsy Cline one?

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

Not that we own. No. We only own these four.

Dan Hoffman ([31:30](#)):

But, in the visitor center, there's a little museum.

Amy Simmons ([31:33](#)):

Yes.

Dan Hoffman ([31:34](#)):

So we have five.

Amy Simmons ([31:35](#)):

If you can call...yes. It's just an exhibit. I don't think you can call that a museum.

Dan Hoffman ([31:41](#)):

Is there a number of exhibits you have to have to be qualified as a museum?

Amy Simmons ([31:43](#)):

I would think it'd be more than that. It's a cute little exhibit, but it's not enough for a museum.

Dan Hoffman ([31:50](#)):

Amy says so. Sorry.

Amy Simmons ([31:50](#)):

It's really cool, though. Go check it out. Okay. So anyway, my point with this conversation was they're opening late this year. Usually it's April 1st, but it's May 10th this year. I assume because of COVID. You can visit WinchesterHistory.org for more information about those four City-owned museums, not Museum of the Shenandoah Valley.

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

Exactly. The ones that Amy says is a museum. If Amy says so, it's a museum.

Amy Simmons ([32:17](#)):

I'm only concentrating on the ones that are ours. Okay. So this week also is Arbor Day. Arbor Day is going to be on April 30th. Again, because of COVID, we're going to have to virtually celebrate this year again. So, we have a long list of videos that we're going to post on YouTube and Facebook, and we are going to be interviewing different and talking about trees and all the other things that they do.

Dan Hoffman ([32:41](#)):

We're a Tree City USA, right?

Amy Simmons ([32:42](#)):

We are for like 35 years.

Dan Hoffman ([32:44](#)):

Yep. Lot of big trees.

Amy Simmons ([32:46](#)):

Yep. And also this month's guest on publiCITY, our news show that we do every month, is our City Arborist, Sarah Mowery. So, that show will be posted on Wednesday at noon.

Dan Hoffman ([32:58](#)):

Excellent.

Amy Simmons ([32:59](#)):

That's all I have.

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

Alrighty. Well, for everybody, thanks for tuning into another episode of Amy says, so, uh, I mean Rouss Review.

Amy Simmons ([33:08](#)):

That would be awesome, we should do that.

Dan Hoffman ([33:10](#)):

I think we're going to have an ongoing segment: Amy Says So.

Amy Simmons ([33:13](#)):

Yes.

Dan Hoffman ([33:14](#)):

Uh, and it's just the world, according to you.

Amy Simmons ([33:15](#)):

I'm writing that down.

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

Okay. [Laughing] So, thanks everybody for listening to another episode of Rouss Review. Don't forget. Go take your survey. Go to the website, take your survey. It's going to close April 30th. By the time we chat again with you, it's going to be closed. We might even be talking about some preliminary results, so don't waste time. Do it now and I will see you around City Hall.