



# WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS!

ALSO INCLUDES 7 PAGES OF **Community News!** STARTING ON PAGE 10

SEPTEMBER 2020

## *Celebrating Our Achievements!*

### **A Back to School like No Other: FAQs for Our Learning Community**

*By Emily Hecker, Communications and Development Director*

#### **Our Purpose:**

- Safely reopen WSD schools for all students, staff and families
- Build in-person, hybrid and remote learning models

#### **Our Guiding Beliefs:**

- Student and staff health, safety, and wellbeing first for ALL
- Put equity at the center
- In person education is the preferred mode of delivery
- Learning can be even more rich, flexible and personalized if we incorporate lessons from the pandemic
- School reopening is an important piece of the economic recovery puzzle so parents/caregivers can work
- Decision-making will be guided by health science data
- Flexibility in all aspects is essential
- Timely, clear and accessible communication is essential

#### **When is school opening?**

- School is scheduled to open **September 8**

#### **What does reopening look like this year?**

- To watch a video with details about what daily check-ins and classrooms will look like this year, visit [bit.ly/WSDVideos](http://bit.ly/WSDVideos)

#### **What learning model are you using?**

- We are using a hybrid learning model, which means a mix of in-person and remote learning. Students are also able to choose a full remote option if desired. Read more about our reopening plans here: [bit.ly/WSDReopening](http://bit.ly/WSDReopening)

#### **How will you be working around the ongoing construction?**

- There are three entrances to the building. Students will be assigned groups as to which entrance they will be using. Details will be shared

- with families. Parents and visitors will park in the front lot as they did last year, with the front circle drive reserved for busses and drop-off only.
- Outdoor green spaces will continue to be available to students for recess and activities.
- Visit the Capital Project website at <https://cp.winooski.org/>

#### **Things are changing so quickly, where can I get the latest information about school matters?**

- Visit our website at [wsdvt.org](http://wsdvt.org)
- Like our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages for regular updates
- Reach out to your school's administrators or send an email to [info@wsdvt.org](mailto:info@wsdvt.org) with questions or concerns.

*Here are our expectations for families and students to keep our learning community healthy during the pandemic.*



### **Having HEART during COVID-19**



Help everyone stay healthy. Keep your child home if they have fever, shortness of breath, cough, or flu-like symptoms.

Everyone must wear a mask at all times. Our nurses will work with students and their families whose needs prevent them from wearing a face covering.

Alert our school nurses immediately if your child has COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 by calling **(802) 556-2243** & comply with the Vermont Department of Health contact tracing protocols.

Requirements: masks, hand washing and physical distancing.

Trust our nurses to make the right decisions for everyone's health. If they call, you must pick up your child within 30 minutes.

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## NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE

August 21, 2020



**WINOOSKI SCHOOLS**  
*We are the future.*

### **Welcome Back!**

*By Sean McMannon, Superintendent of Schools*

Dear WSD Families,

I hope you are all well. Our teachers and staff are back for inservice this week, and while things feel and look very different this year, we are all very excited to welcome students back to our learning community on Tuesday, September 8th. I thank you for your patience and support during these uncertain times.

Governor Phil Scott, Secretary of Education Dan French, and Vermont State Epidemiologist Patsy Kelso have been making a strong case to reopen schools for full in-person learning, particularly at the grades K-5 level.

In late August, 16 school districts covering Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties, the Champlain Valley Superintendents Association (CVSA), agreed to assess the hybrid learning model after four to six weeks of school. WSD will work closely with the CVSA, the Vermont Department of Health (VDH), and the Agency of Education (AOE) to determine whether to stick with the hybrid model, move toward more in-person instruction or transition to more remote instruction.

We will certainly be following our local and statewide COVID-19 data based on symptoms, cases and hospital readiness in order to make the safest and healthiest decisions for our students and staff. With the current low numbers of COVID-19 cases in our area, we believe transitioning to full in-person learning is possible. The Department of Health has shown expertise in responding to positive cases of COVID-19, helping to build confidence for our students and staff to return.

We will be using the first four to six weeks of school to learn the COVID-19 health expectations and procedures, our A/B pod routines, and assess social-emotional, literacy, math and other essential skills.

Following guidance from the AOE and VDH, our measured approach allows for schools to minimize risk and develop new routines. If our district is able to safely phase into a fully in-person learning environment, full remote learning through the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC) will still be offered for families who choose that option. So far, we have about 70 students across the K-12 continuum who have selected this option.

This planned phased approach will only be attainable if the spread of the virus can remain contained and the guidance from the AOE and the VDH does not change.

The criteria to phase-in more students to in-person instruction:

- Sufficient staffing levels
- No or low COVID-19 activity in our community
- The ability to maintain compliance with the guidance from VDH/AOE
- New routines must be efficient and adjusted to meet the needs of our students and staff

The WSD leadership team will work in close collaboration with the VDH, using their guidance based on a number of factors, including the level of community transmission and other indicators used to assess the status of COVID-19 in our area during every step of the phased-in planning process. All communications and school reopening plans can be found on our website: [www.wsdvt.org/covid19/](http://www.wsdvt.org/covid19/)

Lastly, please continue to take care of yourself and everyone in Winooski by following social distancing precautions, wearing masks when you go out, wash and sanitize your hands frequently, contact your doctor if you are sick, and stay positive. We will get through this together and be stronger because of it.

Thank you for working with WSD to benefit our students!

# School Board Update

By Alex Yin, Board of School Trustees

I loved watching super hero movies as a kid, thinking one day, I would be one too. Of course, I never developed any powers such as flying or super speed, so my days of becoming Superman or Spiderman were numbered. Yet my days of becoming a good neighbor were not numbered and I did the next best thing: I joined the Winooski School Board. When I ran for school board, I thought my life experiences had prepared me for this work. As a community, we are doing great things such as the capital project, while also being reflective and learning how to strengthen our soul to be more inclusive through our students' and alumni's lived experience and their research on creating an anti-racism community. It is refreshing to see them use their voice to challenge us to be better.

I was prepared to do the aforementioned work. Never did I imagine that I would be brought to my knees begging for mercy by a virus. I am trained as an engineer and educator and even though every problem has constraints, there is at least an optimal solution. As we think about reopening the Winooski schools for the fall, I find for the first time in my life a problem with no optimal solutions (from in-class to hybrid to remote instruction). I appreciate the community members who write to the school board asking for the school to go remote instruction while others want the

schools to do 100% in-class instruction. The difficult part is that both sides cite the same reasons for their position. It seems like whatever is proposed is a lose-lose proposition especially when you consider that we must take care the well-being of our students, staff, and teachers. The issue of reopening schools is made worst when you consider the conditions are ever changing, which made an already challenging problem almost impossible to solve. The COVID-19 pandemic has either caused a sense of hopelessness or fear as we try to protect the people we love. No doubt, these emotions are true for me every time I visit my mother.

After working four-years with the Winooski School District Leadership Team, I trust that from a procedural standpoint they will make the best decision for the community. Being a Yin (see my last name), in situations like these, I am reminded to look at the Yang of things. What if we reexamine the issue of reopening of schools not from a position of fear and hopelessness, but from a position of compassion and empathy? In looking at our history, these are not novel approaches to the problem as Franklin D. Roosevelt reminded the country that there is “nothing to fear but fear itself” in his inaugural address as the United States was in the height of the Great Depression and John F. Kennedy challenged a nation with “Ask not what

your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country” for all to see the importance of civic action and public service.

In using a compassionate and empathetic lens, I realized that it was important to listen to recognize that we are living in scary times. I am reminded then that people have different fears and concerns from me and that is fine too. I also recognized that we all have special skills and strengths and some way we can all contribute in a fashion to get through these scary times. I have seen neighbors helping each other get groceries, donating to the food pantry, making masks, wearing masks, supporting local businesses, or placing teddy bears in windows to make walks more enjoyable for families. The hardest part about the pandemic is that in social distancing, which we should be doing, it created an environment that makes it feel like we have to fight this pandemic alone. That is the furthest from the truth as it is in these times we need to unite as a community. As individuals, we need to find our unique strengths, recognize our comfort levels in dealing with the pandemic, not be afraid to ask for help, and recognize we can contribute to this community in some fashion. There is a reason why heroes do not emerge in good times, but instead

*(continued on page 4)*

## WINOOSKI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[www.wsdvt.org](http://www.wsdvt.org)

### Superintendent of Schools

**Sean McMannon:** 655-0485  
smcmannon@wsdvt.org

### John F. Kennedy Elementary School

Principal: **Sara Raabe**  
802-655-0411  
sraabe@wsdvt.org

### Winooski Middle and High School

Co-Principals:  
**Kate Grodin and Jean Berthiaume**  
802-655-3530  
kgrodin@wsdvt.org  
jberthiaume@wsdvt.org

### Board of School Trustees

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ayin@wsdvt.org

### WSD ENDS STATEMENT

All students will graduate from the Winooski School District (WSD) college and career ready at a cost supported by a majority of the Winooski community. WSD students will lead healthy, productive and successful lives and engage with their local and global community.

### ABOUT OUR DISTRICT

The Winooski School District is a PreK through 12 system that is housed in one educational center. At press time, there were 490 students attending JFK Elementary (grades PreK-5) and 396 attending Winooski Middle/High School (grades 6-12).

As one of the most diverse school districts in the state of Vermont, Winooski's teachers and staff are highly involved in professional development programs that help increase student achievement, address the needs of a diverse student population, and allow students to thrive in an engaging environment with high expectations.

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## ALEX YIN - SCHOOL BOARD *(continued from page 3)*

emerge in desperate ones. Let this be a time to let your inner hero shine. Through these acts we will see the soul of our community is beautiful.

To the Winooski students, I know you will step up to this

## Off-Site Meal Distribution Continues

While students continue to attend school remotely for several days a week, the Winooski School District will continue to distribute meals in three locations in the community. Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

Meals will be provided, at a first come, first serve basis on **Wednesdays from 9:00-10:00am at the following locations:**

- Winooski Family Center, 87 Elm Street
- O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Avenue
- Winooski School District, 60 Normand Street

Families will be able to pick up **three days worth of meals** on Wednesdays. Students who are doing full remote learning will be able to pick up **five days worth of meals** at the WSD pick up location on Wednesdays.

More information about the meal menus and social

challenge. I already saw the heroic acts by the Winooski Students for Anti-racism, as they stood together to share their experiences with the community. Your strength is why I have hope that we will not only survive this pandemic, but we will emerge as a better Winooski for all.

distancing requirements at meal pick-up sites can be found on the school district's website at [www.wsdvt.org/meal-distribution](http://www.wsdvt.org/meal-distribution).

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027), found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter to the USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442 or
- (3) Email :[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider*

## WSD Alumni Profile: Brianna Robare

*Winooski School District prepares students to lead healthy, productive and successful lives. The paths our students take after graduating can be as different — and interesting — as our incredibly diverse students themselves. So, we created a place to celebrate the work WSD grads are doing in Winooski, in Vermont and around the world. If you know someone we can feature, please email Emily Hecker, [hecker@wsdvt.org](mailto:hecker@wsdvt.org).*

### What are you doing now?

After graduating from Winooski High School in 2013 I went on to pursue my Doctorate in Pharmacy from the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island. Upon graduation in 2019, I began working as a Pharmacist for Hannaford Food & Drug. I currently serve as a floating Pharmacist who travels around Vermont serving at various pharmacies from Rutland to Essex. This past year I also worked as a Girl's Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach at WHS.



*Brianna Robare, PharmD  
Class of 2013*

### How did WSD prepare you for your current success?

While attending WHS, I had the ability to not only participate in sports, but also be involved in band, marching band, Life Smarts, Business Club, and many more. Growing up in Winooski allowed me to explore each of my interests which eventually led to the realization that I wanted to explore a career in the medical field. I was able to take classes that specifically led me toward pharmacy, and even if WSD didn't offer those classes, it was always made possible through VTVC, CCV, and UVM. Another way the WSD community helped shape me was by all of the amazing relationships I formed. From teachers to coaches and my peers as well, I always felt comfort and security knowing there were people in my corner who pushed me even in tough moments. Winooski is a special place and will always have my

heart and my roots as I would not be where I am today without all of the incredible people in my life.

### Advice for current students?

Embrace how small the school is. Take advantage of all the opportunities the size of the school gives you. It allows you to make strong connections with your teachers and support staff. It allows you to get to know each one of your classmates of which you might even develop lifelong friendships. I have lived in Winooski my whole life, and I am thankful to be able to know so many people from so many different backgrounds. WSD also allows you to join every group imaginable, from sports to band to theatre, so take advantage! Leaving Winooski and going to a state university for pharmacy school was terrifying at first, but due to my experiences in WSD I felt confidence and solace in reaching out, asking for help when necessary, and making friends!

### Fondest memory of WSD?

A memory that I am attached to is winning the 2012-2013 Division 3 Basketball State Championship. That team felt just like family to me and to share something so special that no other women's team had done at our school was remarkable.

### Why do you heart WSD?

I truly see WSD as my home, and the community members as my family. I will always try my best in giving back to the community, whether that be coaching basketball or attending another band concert! Winooski has given me memories of my childhood, adolescence, now adulthood, and for that, I am so grateful.



*Architectural rendering of the future WSD facilities. Image courtesy of TruexCullins.*

## **Capital Project Updates**

*By Emily Hecker, Communications and Development Director*

There is a lot going on at our school this month. As our district opens up for in-person learning, the ReArch construction team is continuing their incredible progress. In September they will be tackling underground utilities, finishing up sitework, putting up structural steel installations for the new additions, pouring concrete slab-on-grades, creating the foundation and concrete slab for the exterior maintenance building, and putting up masonry walls for the new gym! It's going to be a constructive month!

### **Winooski School District Receives \$57.8 Million Direct Loan Investment from Federal Program**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$57.8 million to build a new campus for the Winooski School District (WSD).

USDA Vermont State Director Anthony Linardos announced the project earlier today. "The new school and essential infrastructure repair will benefit the children, parents, and teachers of Winooski for generations to come, and we are extremely proud to be a part of it," Linardos said.

Funds will be used to renovate the existing educational facility infrastructure to modern educational standards and expand to serve one of the fastest-growing student populations in the state of Vermont. Through its Community Facilities

Direct Loan & Grant Program, USDA Rural Development will provide and secure funding for the initiative.

The Winooski School District team comprised of WSD Superintendent Sean McMannon, Finance Manager Nicole Mace, Owner Project Manager Tom Barden, as well as leaders at ReArch and TruexCullins, worked closely over a span of several months with USDA Rural Development VT/NH Community Programs Director Eric Law and the team from the USDA to complete the process to qualify for the financial support.

"This team of dedicated leaders spearheaded a collaborative approach to complete a complicated process and brought an incredible finance package that will bring significant long-term savings over the life of the loan to Winooski taxpayers and secures a safe, healthy and modern learning environment for Winooski students," said McMannon.

WSD Finance Manager Nicole Mace reported that the district will be saving approximately \$11 million over the life of the loan compared to initial calculations, due to the historically low interest rate they were able to secure through the USDA program. "These savings mean students will be in a building that will match the excellence of the learning that is taking place inside, while also keeping the cost of the project more affordable to Winooski residents," said Mace.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Supporting Wellness During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Many, if not most, Americans are feeling deepened anxiety, loneliness, and uncertainty about the future, all of which takes a heavy toll on daily life and Vermonters are no exception.

To help alleviate the emotional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in our state, we would like to announce the launch of COVID Support VT.

This program offers brief crisis counseling through Vermont 2-1-1 beginning Fall of 2020, self-help tips, wellness resources, and a way to connect to existing mental health and community services, all of which promote resilience, empowerment and recovery. The services available through COVID Support VT are designed to help those suffering from the pandemic by connecting them to:

- resources for mental and emotional well-being,
- local and national helplines, most of which are available 24/7,
- accessible and easy-to-access education and helpful tips on coping with the effects of the pandemic, and
- connections to community organizations that provide crucial services.

COVID Support VT complements the mental health and community services that already exist throughout Vermont. This program is another resource to help ensure Vermonters are supported and can thrive during such unusual and trying times. Funding is provided through a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Vermont Care Partners (VCP) is administering the crisis counseling grant under contract with the Vermont Department of Mental Health.

For more information and resources, visit [covidsupportvt.org](http://covidsupportvt.org), call 802-828-7368 or email [info@covidsupportvt.org](mailto:info@covidsupportvt.org).

### Join the Winooski Front Porch Forum

It's a free and easy online way to get on the local grapevine, connect with neighbors, and build community. You can post and read about block parties, neighborhood watches, lost dogs, plumber recommendations, helping neighbors in need, free furniture, and all kinds of good stuff. Check it out at [www.frontporchforum.com](http://www.frontporchforum.com)



### Early Childhood Program Update

By Martina Kerkering



Howard Center's Early Childhood Program is here to support you during the COVID-19 health crisis and throughout the school year! Until playgroup starts again, I am available to offer any of the following services:

- Child yoga sessions with your family by Zoom
- Storytime sessions reading books with your family by Zoom
- Parent support through phone or Zoom check-ins
- Craft, movement, or other activity ideas for children
- Simple craft or activity "kits" that you can do with your child at home
- Articles on child development or challenges you may be facing as a parent
- Back to school support (for parents, caregivers, and children)

Please reach out to Martina: [mkerkering@howardcenter.org](mailto:mkerkering@howardcenter.org) or 802-624-6405.

## YOUR LOCAL MEDIA

Watch local programs, events, and meetings on cable TV and online.

Learn how to make community media.



- [VERMONTCAM.ORG](http://VERMONTCAM.ORG) + Channels 1074 (Comcast), 15 (BT), HD 215 (BT)
- [RETN.ORG](http://RETN.ORG) + Channels 1094 (Comcast), 16 (BT), BTV-HD 216 (BT)
- [CH17.TV](http://CH17.TV) + Channels 1087 (Comcast), 17 (BT), 317 (BT)



# Winooski has HEART, Especially during COVID-19!

By Emily Hecker, Communications and Development Director

Here are our expectations for families and students to keep our learning community healthy during the pandemic.



## Có HEART trong đại dịch COVID19



Help - Giúp mọi người không bị lây bệnh. Giữ con em ở nhà nếu chúng bị sốt, khó thở, hay có triệu chứng như bị cúm.

Everyone - Mỗi người phải mang khẩu trang trong mọi lúc. Học sinh không có khẩu trang sẽ được cung cấp. Nếu từ chối mang khẩu trang trở thành vấn đề, học sinh sẽ bị gửi về nhà. Y Tá sẽ làm việc với học sinh và gia đình đã ngăn cản con em mang khẩu trang.

Alert - Thông báo Y Tá lập tức nếu con em bị nhuộm phải COVID-19 hay lân cận với người bị COVID-19, xin gọi điện thoại qua số (802) 556-2243 và tuân theo các cách thức truy tìm nguồn gốc liên lạc của Bộ Y Tế Vermont.

Requirements - Đòi hỏi phải mang khẩu trang, rửa tay và tránh xa. Chúng ta phải làm phần của mình!

Trust - Tin tưởng Y Tá có quyết định đúng. Nếu họ gọi điện thoại, xin quý vị đến trường rước con em trong vòng 30 phút.



## Kuwa na Moyo wakati wa COVID19



Saidia kila mtu kukaa na afya. Weka mtoto wako nyumbani ikiwa ana homa, upungufu wa pumzi, kikohozi, au daliili kama za homa.

Kila mtu lazima avae mask, " kifunika uso" kila wakati. Wanafunzi bila masks watapewa mask. kutakuwa na shida Ikiwa uta kataa kuvaa mask, na watoto watarudishwa nyumbani. Madaktari wetu wa shule watafanya kazi na wanafunzi na familia zao ambazo mahitaji yao inawazuia kuvaa vifuniko vya uso.

Julisha daktari wetu wa shule mara moja ikiwa mtoto wako ana COVID19 au amekuwa karibu na mtu aliye na COVID19 kwa kupiga simu (802) 556-2243 na ufuate maagizo ya idara ya Afya ya Vermont.

Mahitaji muhimu ni kama yafuatayo: ku vaa masks, kunawa mikono na pia ku kaa umbali mbali na watu wengine. Lazima sote tufanye sehemu yetu!

Waamini madaktari wetu kufanya maamuzi sahihi kwa afya ya kila mtu. Ikiwa watakupigia simu, lazima ukuje kumu chukua mtoto wako kati ya dakika 30.



## Having HEART During COVID-19



सबैलाई स्वस्थ रहन सहयोग गर्नुहोस्। तपाईंको बच्चालाई घरमा राख्नुहोस् यदि उनीहरूलाई ज्वरो, सासको कमी, खोकी वा फ्लू जस्तो लक्षणहरू छन् भने।

सबै जनाले हरेक समयमा मास्क लगाउनुहोस्। मास्क बिनाका विद्यार्थीहरूलाई मास्क प्रदान गरिने छ। यदि मास्क लगाउन अस्वीकार गरेमा समस्या उत्पन्न हुने छ र बच्चाहरूलाई घर पठाइने छ। हाम्रो नर्सहरूले विद्यार्थीहरू र उनीहरूका परिवारका संग काम गर्नेछन् जसको कारणवश उनीहरूलाई अनुहारमा मास्क लगाउन रोक्दछ।

यदि तपाईंको बच्चामा COVID19 छ भने तुरुन्त हाम्रोस्कूल नर्सहरूलाई सचेत गराउनुहोस् वा कुनै COVID 19 भएका व्यक्ति संग सम्पर्कमा आएमा (८०२) ५५६-२२४३ मा सम्पर्क गर्नुहोसर भर्मान्त स्वास्थ्य विभागको ट्रेसिंग प्रोटोकलको पालना गर्नुहोस्।

आवश्यकताहरूमा मास्क, हात धुने र शारीरिक दूरी समावेशछ। हामी सबैले आफ्नो जिम्मेवारी पुरा गर्नु पर्दछ।

सबैको स्वास्थ्यको लागि सही निर्णय लिन हाम्रा नर्सहरूलाई विश्वास गर्नुहोस्। यदि तिनीहरूले कल गरेमा, तपाईंले ३० मिनेट भित्रमा आफ्नो बच्चालाई पिक अप गर्नु पर्छ।



## لنعمل من القلب

## خلال فترة كوفيد 19

لنساعد في الحفاظ على صحة الجميع. تأكد من بقاء ابنك في البيت إذا كان لديه درجة حرارة مرتفعة. صعوبة التنفس، سعال أو أعراض الانفلونزا.

على كل الأشخاص ارتداء الكمامات طوال الوقت في المدرسة. أن الطلبة الذين ليس لديهم كمامة سنوفر لهم كمامة. إذا رفض الطالب ارتداء الكمامة سوف يبعث للبيت. ممرضة المدرسة سوف تعمل مع الطالب وعائلته في حال لديهم أي صعوبات في ارتداء الكمامة أو غطاء للوجه.

أندر ممرضة المدرسة مباشرة في حال ان ابنك أصيب بالفيروس كوفيد 19 أو كان بالقرب من شخص مصاب بالفيروس من خلال رقم الهاتف 802-556-2243 واتبع تعليمات وزارة الصحة الفيرمونتية بشأن متابعة الأشخاص الذين كانوا معك و احتمالية إصابتهم.



المتطلبات (الشروط) تتضمن ارتداء الكمامات، غسل اليدين وكذلك التباعد الاجتماعي. يجب علينا جميعا القيام بواجبنا تجاه الآخرين.

ثقوا ب ممرضة المدرسة عندما تتخذ القرار السليم بشأن صحة الجميع. عندما تتصل بكم الممرضة يجب عليكم الاجابة على اتصالها ونسألكم باصطحاب ابنكم من المدرسة خلال 30 دقيقة من اتصالها.

## Avoir du COEUR pendant COVID19



Aider tout le monde à rester en bonne santé. Gardez votre enfant à la maison s'il a de la fièvre, un essoufflement, une toux ou des symptômes de grippe

Tout le monde doit porter un masque en tout temps. Les élèves sans masque recevront un masque. Si un élève refuse de porter un masque, cela devient un problème, est les enfants seront renvoyés chez eux. Nos infirmières vont travailler avec les étudiants et leurs familles avec des cas qui les empêchent de se couvrir le visage.

Alertez immédiatement nos infirmières scolaires si votre enfant a le COVID 19 ou a été exposé à une personne avec le COVID19 en appelant le (802) 556-2243 et conformez-vous aux protocoles de recherche des contacts du Vermont Department of Health.

Les exigences comprennent: la porte des masques, le lavage des mains et la distance sociale. Nous devons tous faire notre part!

Faites confiance à nos infirmières pour prendre les bonnes décisions pour la santé de chacun. S'ils appellent, vous devez récupérer votre enfant dans les 30 minutes.

## Furitaanka quluubta inta lagu gudajiro Covid19



Ku caawi qof walba inuu qabo caafimaad. Iilmahaaga ku hay guriga haddii ku aragto qandho, neef yaraan, qufac, ama astaamo u eg hargab.

Qof kasta waa inuu xirtaa maaskaro marwalba. Ardayda aan maaskaro haysan waa la siin doonaa. Haddii arday diido inuu xirto maaskaro guriga ayaa loo diri doonaa. Kalkaaliyayaashayada ayaa la shaqeyn doona ardayda iyo qoysaskooda ay dhibka ku tahay xirashada maaskaraha.

Sida uga dhaqsiyaha badan u ogeysiis kalkaaliyayaasha iskuulka haddii ilmahaagu qabo COVID19 ama uu la macamilooday qof qaaba COVID19 adoo wacaya (802) 556-2243 una hogaansan Waxda Caafimaadka Vermont borotokoolkooda.

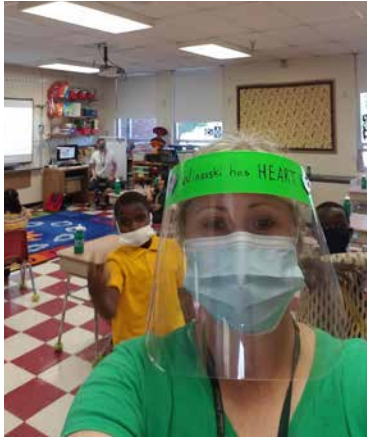
Shuruudaha waxaa ka mid ah maaskaro, gacma dhaqashada iyo kal fogaanshaha. Dhamaanteen waa inaan sameynaa qaybteena!

Ku kalsoonow kalkaaliyayaasha si ay u gaadhaan go'aamada saxda ah ee quseeya caafimaadka qof walba. Hadday ku soo wacaan, waa inaad ku soo wadataa ilmahaaga 30 daqiiqo gudahood.

## JFK Summer School

By Suzanne Skaflestad, 21C Director, and Allie Monahan, Special Educator

Winooski JFK elementary students have been learning about how to be back at school and be physically distant during both our virtual and in person summer school sessions. Students were excited to connect online or to see each other back at school. In both the virtual and in person sessions they have learned about social justice and community in addition to learning more about COVID-19 and physical distancing. In school, students looked forward to their daily freezer pops! Thank you to all the staff that made JFK Summer School possible.



**WINOOSKI SCHOOLS**  
*We are the future.*





# 21C Summer Program - Community Justice Student Leadership to Continue into Fall 2020

By Heather Win

For four weeks this summer, a group of curious, community-minded middle and high school students participated in the Community Justice Student Leadership offering from 21C.



The group met online twice a week with co-facilitators Mohamed Diop, Heather Win, and Stephanie Hackett, all WMHS teachers. Each meeting included a guest speaker who shared about their work in the community, answered questions, and helped students get a broader perspective on how they could be involved in bringing about racial justice and equity for all of Winooski's community members. The students and teachers would like to offer special thanks to our guests--Aden Haji and Susmita Mangar - Spectrum Youth & Family; Multicultural

Youth Program; Ali Dieng - Burlington City Councillor; Indra Acharya - Winooski Students for Anti-Racism; Kayla Loving - Spectrum Youth & Family - Restorative Justice Coordinator; Kristine Lott - Mayor of Winooski; Margaret Bass - Winooski City Youth Interventionist and WSD Board Member; Patrick Brown - UVM Faculty/Community Activist, Beckett Pintair- Williston Youth Restorative Justice Board.

Through talking with these guests, students grappled with issues such as symbolic demonstrations vs. action-oriented systemic changes, criminal vs. restorative justice practices, and how to be an ally to marginalized groups. The core group of students plans to continue



the program in the fall and is looking to add more members and take on action projects in conjunction with local community organizations. Each of the summer members received a certificate of honor for their honesty, curiosity, and commitment to doing whatever it takes to make Winooski a community where all are welcome and all can succeed. If you're interested in joining this group in the fall, please reach out to Mohamed, Heather, Stephanie, or any of our committed summer members: Albina Rai, Aden Jelle, Logan Erwin, Rahmah Alchaderch, Moseka (Don) Kiputa, Gabriella Lothrop-Penn, Mohamed Jelle, Damian Stoddard, or Alexis Blend.

## Sewing Her Way Through Uncertainty

In July Winooski Middle School student, Ivy Resmer, reached out to WMHS Co-Principal Kate with a question. She said that she had been making cloth face masks since the beginning of the pandemic, and had currently made over two-hundred. She wanted to know if Winooski schools had enough face masks to start the school year, because if not, Ivy wanted to chip in with her homemade creations.

The district had already ordered a large supply of cloth face masks but Co-Principal Kate said that it would be wonderful to have student-made masks that were designed for and made by students.

Ivy agreed, and figured that in the months leading up to school she could make a lot of masks for students and teachers.

Ivy's generosity sparked another great idea. What if the school offered a student-led workshop to teach students and community members how to make masks? Ivy found the experience empowering, trying to focus on a helpful

task during tumultuous times, and she felt other students might feel the same way. At the time of this publication, a series of mask-making workshops is planned for the last week in August. Many thanks to Ivy and her mom, Cathy, for helping to keep our learning community safe during these uncertain times.

We asked Ivy a few questions about her mask-making project:

### Where did you learn how to sew?

I learned how to sew a few years ago, but I didn't find it too interesting, and back then my mom had a very old, clunky, hard to use sewing machine, so I just couldn't get into it. I



sewed a coaster or two before I lost interest.

### Where did you get the idea to start creating masks?

I got the idea to start sewing masks from my mom, who, from the get go, was sewing masks for her coworkers at UVMMC using a youtube video for help. She taught me a few weeks later, and it stuck. A big game changer was the new sewing machine.

### Did it help you pass the time while you were quarantined?

Yes. I spent hours and hours sewing masks. It gave me something useful to do that I knew was desperately needed.

### How many masks have you made so far?

So far I have made 260 masks.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Municipal Update September 2020

By Paul Sarne, Communications Coordinator



**COVID-19  
Information  
& Updates**

### Municipal Services

The City of Winooski is following up-to-date guidance from the CDC and the State of Vermont to continue to provide municipal services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Winooski City Hall is open to the public, M – F, 9 AM – 3 PM where:

- members of the public are required to wear a mask or face-covering - masks are available for those without them
- stanchions, dividers, and standing points are installed to facilitate a socially distanced line that may be extended outdoors if needed
- a log of all individuals will be maintained by the City Clerk's Office
- the land records vault is only open by appointment - call 802 655 6410 to schedule
- a maximum of two individuals will be allowed in the vault at a time
- no more than 10 staff will be present at any time
- online business is strongly encouraged - visit [winooskivt.gov](http://winooskivt.gov) to learn more.

#### Police, Fire, and Public Works

- Services remain fully operational.

#### Public meetings

City Council, board, commission, and committee meetings will continue to hold their meetings remotely via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Participation information is shared with each meeting warning. Sign up for our meeting notices and email updates at [winooskivt.gov](http://winooskivt.gov)

#### Parking and Code Enforcement

Parking enforcement began on July 6th. We encourage people to use the ParkMobile app as much as possible, available at [parkmobile.io](http://parkmobile.io). Parking kiosks will be sanitized daily.

#### Utility Disconnections

All disconnections due to utility non-payments are canceled for the quarter.

#### Code Enforcement Residential and Commercial Inspections

Following public health guidance, we plan to restart inspections in the Fall. Housing complaints will continue to be processed.

#### Zoning Permit Application Submission

To the extent possible, applications for zoning permits including any supporting documents should be sent via email to [evorwald@winooskivt.gov](mailto:evorwald@winooskivt.gov).

#### Building Permit Application Submission

To the extent possible, applications for building permits, including any supporting documents should be sent via email to [lkeating@winooskivt.gov](mailto:lkeating@winooskivt.gov).

#### Winooski Memorial Library



While the library remains closed to the public at this time, we are still offering pickup and home delivery. Please call 802 655 6424

or email the Library: [winooskilibrary@winooskivt.gov](mailto:winooskilibrary@winooskivt.gov), to request materials, schedule a pick up, or request an at-home delivery. All due dates have been extended and we never charge late fees. Patrons can also view our remote resources at [www.winooskivt.gov/library](http://www.winooskivt.gov/library)

#### Thrive After School Program

Thrive is the City's state-licensed, 3 STAR childcare/enrichment after school program. Through our partnership with the Winooski School District, we provide after school services where children in grades K-5 explore, learn, and grow during their after school hours. During Thrive, students engage with creative arts, STEM and Makerspace activities, literacy skills, cooperative and socio-emotional learning, outdoor play, and more. For more information and to enroll, please reach out to Kate Anderson, Thrive Program Manager: [thrive@winooskivt.gov](mailto:thrive@winooskivt.gov) / 802 233 8188

#### Public Parks

Following State guidance, parks and trails remain open for safe, responsible use.

- If you are feeling sick or have been exposed to someone who is sick, please stay home
- Masks or face coverings are required when near others
- Please respect 6' physical distancing and maintain small group sizes and do not congregate/gather - especially in our parking areas
- The softball field at Landry Park is "open" for informal use by groups of 10 or fewer, however no leagues or organized events will be occurring at this time
- Portalets at Landry Park will not be provided, so please plan accordingly

Your City Officials	Email addresses	Telephone
Mayor Kristine Lott	<a href="mailto:klott@winooskivt.gov">klott@winooskivt.gov</a>	802-766-1988
Councilor Hal Colston	<a href="mailto:hcolston@winooskivt.gov">hcolston@winooskivt.gov</a>	802-922-2908
Councilor James Duncan	<a href="mailto:jduncan@winooskivt.gov">jduncan@winooskivt.gov</a>	802-310-7103
Councilor Amy Lafayette	<a href="mailto:alafayette@winooskivt.gov">alafayette@winooskivt.gov</a>	802-598-7704
Councilor Mike Myers	<a href="mailto:mmyers@winooskivt.gov">mmyers@winooskivt.gov</a>	802-355-5348
City Manager Jessie Baker	<a href="mailto:jbaker@winooskivt.gov">jbaker@winooskivt.gov</a>	802-655-6410

Visit the city website at [winooskivt.gov](http://winooskivt.gov) or call 802-655-6410.

Keep up to date with announcements and news:



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK We are "City of Winooski - Government"

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER We are @winooskivt

## Municipal Service Information

For current updates, resources, and municipal service information please visit [winooski.vt.gov/covid-19](http://winooski.vt.gov/covid-19) or dial 802 655 3908. At this site, you'll find many links and resources organized by topic, including:

- Businesses and Employees
- Families and Childcare
- Federal/State/Local Support
- Food Security
- Health and Safety
- Multilingual/Translation
- Seniors & Older Vermonters
- Volunteering
- Winooski School District

Seniors and older Vermonters can call our dedicated support line: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10am-2pm / 802 655 6425 / Voice Mail 24/7.

## Our Community Services

**Department** has provided remote resources for community members during this difficult time. They include everything from health and safety resources to education and entertainment offerings. We've got a little something for everyone, organized by department:

- Children and Family Programs
- Recreation and Parks
- Senior Programs
- Winooski Memorial Library

To view our remote resources, visit: [winooski.vt.gov/remoterresources](http://winooski.vt.gov/remoterresources)

We also encourage you to go to the Vermont Department of Health for regular state-wide updates, data, and resources: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19>

## Wear a Mask or Face Covering in Winooski



Governor Phil Scott's Statewide mask mandate began on Friday, August 1, 2020. The amendment requires all Vermonters to wear masks or cloth facial coverings any time it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet with others from outside their household.

Those who are not required to use masks include those exercising outdoors, those under the age of 2, those with a medical or developmental condition that is complicated by a facial covering and those with difficulty breathing. Businesses and other entities may require customers to wear masks, including signage explaining mask requirements and denial of entry or service to those who decline to wear masks.

Please visit our COVID-19 page for full details regarding the mandate and view our comprehensive mask and face-covering resources: [winooski.vt.gov/covid-19](http://winooski.vt.gov/covid-19)

## Business Resources



We are proud and grateful to our business community in Winooski for taking good care of their customers and employees during this challenging time. Please continue to support our small business community if you are able! **Downtown Winooski** has created a "support Winooski businesses page" where you can find out how to help and support our business community: [downtownwinooski.org/support-winooski-businesses-during-covid-19](http://downtownwinooski.org/support-winooski-businesses-during-covid-19)

Business owners can also access their Winooski Business Portal for an extensive list of resources for businesses: [downtownwinooski.org/covid-19-winooski-business-portal](http://downtownwinooski.org/covid-19-winooski-business-portal)

In response to the profound impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Winooski business community, the City of Winooski has adapted the Winooski Small Business Loan (WSBL) Program to provide businesses with emergency loans to assist them in bridging this difficult time. The new Tier 4 COVID-19 Relief Loan through the Winooski Small Business Loan Program offers businesses a 0% interest rate for the first 24 months of the loan term through a City interest rate buy-down and defers the principal payments for the first four months of the loan. This proposed loan structure will allow businesses leeway while they remain under mandatory closure orders and is serviced by Opportunities Credit Union. To learn more about this program and to apply, visit [winooski.vt.gov/332/Small-Business-Loan-Program](http://winooski.vt.gov/332/Small-Business-Loan-Program)

## Housing Assistance for Homeowners, Renters, and Landlords

- ACCD Housing Assistance Programs - Governor Phil Scott, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Vermont State Housing Authority, and the Vermont Housing Finance Agency announced a new program connect to the federal CARES Act funding to provide relief for those tenants unable to pay rent, landlords suffering from a loss of rent payments, and those lower-income homeowners needing assistance in paying the mortgage. Learn more at [accd.vermont.gov](http://accd.vermont.gov)
- Rental Housing Stabilization Program - Landlords and tenants who have been affected by COVID-19 can apply for assistance through the Rental Housing Stabilization Program, provided by The Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA). This program will provide the VSHA Payment Standard or the actual amount due for the month(s) being claimed, whichever is less, per household at a single unit who meet eligibility criteria. The goal of this program is to prevent homelessness and to provide housing stability. Learn more at [vsha.org](http://vsha.org).

## Additional Resources

To help slow the spread of COVID-19, many resources are available through the Vermont Department of Health, the CDC, and the EPA. These pages, documents, and signs offer guidance and instructions that cover a wide range of subjects including health, safety, prevention, hygiene, sanitization, and more. Translated materials are provided.

- [accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/individuals](http://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/individuals)
- [healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/homeowners](http://healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/homeowners)
- [healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/landlords-renters](http://healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/landlords-renters)
- [healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/building-professionals-realtors](http://healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/building-professionals-realtors)
- [healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/resources](http://healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/resources)
- [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html)
- [epa.gov/coronavirus](http://epa.gov/coronavirus)

(continued on page 12)

## Message from Mayor Kristine Lott



Hello neighbors,  
Winooski City Council is seeking public input regarding our efforts to invite unheard voices into the local government process. We are looking closely at two initiatives:

- **All-resident voting;** where local voting (not state or federal) could be expanded to

every resident of Winooski regardless of citizenship status

- **Equity and inclusion** – where other government and community processes benefit from Winooski’s valuable diversity

The work and community outreach surrounding All-resident voting has been led by the City’s Charter Commission. At our August 3rd Council meeting, the Charter Commission recommended that City Council should present this option to the current voters of Winooski on the November election ballot this year. If the City Council makes this decision, several public hearings will take place before November where voters can learn more and discuss. For details, please visit [winooski.vt.gov/charter](http://winooski.vt.gov/charter).

Work to continue improvements through equity and inclusion moves forward. An important Equity Summit was held where City Council and staff met with the Winooski School District and a diverse representation of community leaders to engage on this topic. The most exciting outcome of the summit was the decision to pursue grant funding that would help us expand access to the decision-making process through different avenues, including the idea for community liaisons who would bridge existing cultural and multilingual barriers. An outcome report from the summit is available – to view this document, please email [communications@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:communications@winooski.vt.gov). I have been grateful to have support from the Winooski School District Home School Liaisons in organizing several meetings with new American families to hear their thoughts on these topics. The need for interpretation can make it more difficult for these residents to engage in City Council meetings and other traditional outreach, so these meetings have helped us include these valued voices. We received valuable feedback, and also heard concerns ranging from cost of living, housing, and community events. Other outreach opportunities will be happening in the coming weeks, including a direct survey going out to Winooski Housing Authority residents.

Your input is valuable and needed – we encourage everyone to attend our City Council, Charter Commission, and other public hearings regarding these topics. Sign up for our email news updates and public meeting warnings at [winooski.vt.gov](http://winooski.vt.gov) and click ‘subscribe to our updates.’ Please feel free to reach out with any questions or comments directly. My email is [klott@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:klott@winooski.vt.gov).

## Housing Liaison Update

By Councilor Jim Duncan

I serve as the City Council Liaison to the Housing Commission, which is charged with helping Council and staff “ensure a mix of quality housing that maintains and enhances Winooski’s unique sense of place and supports the needs of the entire community”.

After a long break, the Commission reconvened for the first time since February to talk about its work plan for the coming year and issues of housing stability in our community.

Looking ahead at its work plan this year, the Housing Commission will focus on finalizing and launching the Housing Trust Fund, which will provide home improvement funds, housing construction funds, and down payment assistance for low to middle-income residents. As this work is finalized, the Commission will recommend possible funding sources, review applications and track outcomes of the trust fund.

The ongoing economic impacts of the pandemic have a significant connection to housing, as people may not be able to pay their rent or mortgages. Commission members think this is an issue to pay attention to as things change, so we know how big an impact this could be, and will be monitoring information on evictions, foreclosures and unemployment in the City to look for upcoming challenges. To support the last item, Community and Economic Development Officer Heather Carrington will be seeking external funds for a consultant to gather data to share with the Commission.

If you are having trouble paying your rent or mortgage, there are many supports available:

- financial assistance for mortgage payers: [vhfa.org](http://vhfa.org)
- financial assistance for landlords and tenants: [vsha.org](http://vsha.org)
- application and legal assistance: [vtlawhelp.org](http://vtlawhelp.org)
- other resources: [vermont211.org](http://vermont211.org) or dial 2-1-1

The Housing Commission meets on the 4th Monday each month and meetings are open to the public. Please get in touch if you have any input or questions on the work of the Commission! My email is [jduncan@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:jduncan@winooski.vt.gov).



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channel 17/217/317  
YouTube &  
[www.ch17.tv](http://www.ch17.tv)

# Winooski Senior Center

By Barb Pitfido, Senior Programs Manager

## Senior Support Line

If you or an older Vermonter you know needs resources, assistance, call us at 802 655 6425 or email us at [seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov). Please know we are here for you. Let's stay connected and stay safe...together!

## Limited Re-opening Programming

We have established protocols and procedures to ensure everyone's safety using The State of Vermont's Senior Center Re-Opening Guide. These include pre-screening of all participants with touch-less temperature checks, physical spacing, attendance logs, and mandatory facial coverings for everyone.

## Alfresco Cafe

NEW! We are hosting an outdoor cafe on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 – 11 AM (weather permitting). Coffee, tea, wonderful breakfast treats and fruit will be served under our umbrellas and tents. This program will run with limited attendance outside on the patio, and with additional seating in the gardens and the shady lawns. We invite you to come and chat with us, your friends and neighbors. Tour the Community Gardens and our Perennial Flower Farm, and play some fun lawn games that follow physical distancing policies. Please call us for a reservation: 802 655 6425.

## Meals on Wheels Program

If you know of an older Vermont who has special nutrition requirements or is having difficulty with meal preparation, please call Age Well at 802 863 0360 to find out the eligibility requirements. No one is denied meals due to an inability to donate. Volunteer drivers are always needed. We are currently looking for volunteers to assist in processing and packaging meals daily from 8:30 AM – 10 AM. Interested? Visit [winooskivt.gov/volunteer](http://winooskivt.gov/volunteer) to apply today.

## More than a Meal Program

In partnership with Age Well, we are offering Older Vermonters (60+) a free nutritious meal on Wednesdays. We want to continue to support you being well at home and provide you with an opportunity to stay connected to your

community while enjoying a healthy and deliciously prepared meal, and some goodies from us! We offer contactless delivery to your Winooski home or apartment building entrance. Curbside pickup is also available. Reservations must be made by Noon the Friday before the scheduled Wednesday meal. Please call us at 802 655 6425 or email us at [seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov) for the weekly menu and all the details.

## Community Gardens

The Senior Center Community Gardens are open and growing like crazy! Check our Facebook page for great photos and updates: [facebook.com/winooskiseniorcenter](https://facebook.com/winooskiseniorcenter)

*The Winooski Senior Center...the most exciting place in Winooski!*

## Connect with us anytime:

Visit: 123 Barlow Street

Phone: 802 655 6425

Email: [seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@winooskivt.gov)

Web: [winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter](http://winooskivt.gov/seniorcenter)

Facebook: [@winooskiseniorcenter](https://facebook.com/winooskiseniorcenter)



# Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for September

By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

<b>Wednesday, September 9th</b>	1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Pantry staples, meat and eggs
<b>Saturday, September 12th</b>	9:30 am to 11:00 am	Fresh fruit, veggies, bread and deli items
<b>Wednesday, September 23rd</b>	1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Pantry staples, meat and eggs
<b>Saturday, September 26th</b>	9:30 am to 11:00 am	Fresh fruit, veggies, bread and deli items

We want to continue to thank all of our volunteers, businesses and donors helping us provide food to Winooski residents! We could not do this without you. We continue to see large numbers of clients each week and are grateful we have the resources to serve their needs.

We want to be sure that anyone experiencing financial difficulty during this pandemic feels welcome. We are here to help. Shaws, Hannaford and Commodities markets provide wonderful fresh food on Saturdays.

**Please note: Our Wednesday hours are from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.** We will stay open until everyone in line before 3:00 pm. is served. **Our Saturday schedule is the same as it was in August.** We will be open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday. Families may come both Saturdays but only one Wednesday.

Please wear your mask and come get some fresh air and some great food! Our volunteers look forward to serving you. A heads up that the City has resumed paid on-street parking.

**Food Shelf Policy:** Winooski residents may access the pantry staples one Wednesday each month. Folks may come every Saturday we are open to stock up on bread, pastry and some fresh fruit and veggies. Hannaford's and Winooski's own Commodities Market supply Saturday's food. New clients should bring proof of Winooski residency such as a utility bill. Any Winooski resident in need is welcome. We are here to help support you. For questions call 802-318-0460.

**Where to find us:** The Winooski Food Shelf is located in the United Methodist Church at the corner of West Allen and Follett Streets at 24 West Allen Street. There is a bus stop on that corner. We do not provide rides so please bring a wheeled cart or suitcase and some bags to lug your food home. The church phone number is 802-655-7371

**Cash donations needed:** The Food Shelf is growing rapidly. More and more of the food must be purchased since donations of food items cannot

meet demand. Checks can be mailed to: The Winooski Food Shelf, P.O. Box 53, Winooski, VT 05404. You may also go on-line to our Web Site and make an electronic donation.

**Donation Drop Off Locations:** The Winooski Senior Center is currently closed. Please visit our other donation drop off locations: Commodities Natural Market, 65 Winooski Falls Way, phone: 448-3340, or J & J's Corner Market, 12 Malletts Bay Ave., 654-8003. Thank you for caring about your neighbors!

Fresh produce donations are welcome! Please wear a mask, use clean tools and use clean containers while harvesting your donations. We can accept fresh food on days the food shelf is open (come an hour before each opening if possible). Our clients really appreciate your efforts.

## Give Howard Center a Call – Help is Here

By Adam Brooks, Assistant Director of Communications

**First Call for Chittenden County - Crisis Hotline:** We serve clients and the community regardless of age or diagnosis. Our trained, professional staff are available 24/7/365, regardless of the type of service. When you call First Call, you can expect phone support, crisis intervention and assessment, referrals to appropriate services, and connection to follow-up care. We will collaborate with emergency responders during a crisis as needed.

Please remember that during

a medical emergency call 911 immediately.

**Access and Intake– Resources and Assistance:** When someone calls 802-488-6000, an Access Specialist will provide support, conduct a brief screening, schedule an intake assessment, and provide information about other community resources. In addition, the caller will be paired with an Intake Navigator who will provide interim support and services while on a waitlist or eligibility for services is being



determined. This will ensure that even while on a waitlist, prospective clients will receive support. Access and Intake operates Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm and Saturday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm.



## New Signage at Our Lady of Providence Brings Sparkle to Façade

*Text and photo by Gail Callahan, Communications Director*

There is a new sign on the block, and it boasts an additional moniker for a familiar neighbor. The new, polished look sits on a sign, identifying Our Lady of Providence. The contemporary token went up in early June on the two-story, brick façade structure. The words, “Residential Care Facility,” were added to the symbol to identify the West Spring Street’s mission. “No one knew what (OLOP) was, since it just said, Our Lady of Providence,” said Facilities Director Chantel Berard. “The sign stands out, and now people know what the facility is.” The sign’s understated and tasteful design underscores the facility’s dedication to caring for the elderly. “The new sign brings subtle recognition to our identity and purpose,” said Executive Director Mary Belanger. In the past, the building served as a school and convent. Berard and Jack O’Brien, who retired recently, worked on the sign, Berard said, adding it took about 10 days to construct it, balancing their other duties at OLOP with crafting the item. The old sign was incorporated into the new one, Berard said, adding that plywood and 2 x 4s were some of the materials used to make the informational piece. The letters on the sign are gold and raised so that the words are noticeable.

The lettering matches the gold cross adjacent to the sign and is the result of a mixture of love, and tender care.

“The sign was made from scratch,” added Berard.

## Winooski Mutual Aid: Fostering Solidarity through Reciprocity

*By Gwennie Talbot*

COVID is hard. As the summer passes by, we continue to collectively process this massive shift that has affected every corner of our lives. We’re continuously realizing just what a moment in history this is and reckoning with the fact that the world after COVID will be all but unrecognizable. All the while, our community continues to struggle to get access to fresh food, childcare, or money to pay rent and bills, not to mention give hugs and kisses to our friends and family.

Of course, grief and hardship have always had a way of alchemizing beauty, connection, creation, and joy, and COVID has certainly been no exception. One particular movement that embodies all of the above - and that’s experiencing a resurgence during this time - is Mutual Aid. The Wikipedia definition states, “mutual aid is a voluntary reciprocal exchange of resources and services for mutual benefit. Mutual aid projects are a form of political participation in which people take responsibility for caring for one another and changing political conditions.” In other words, mutual aid societies foster community safety and support in a way institutional structures aren’t able. They fill in the gaps and dismantle the bureaucratic barriers erected by existing structures. They are for everyone, by everyone.

Mutual aid’s history goes back centuries, but in the US, it’s been a crucial social support structure for Black communities since the late eighteenth century. Mutual aid societies provided healthcare and job training, promoted education, published newspapers, and so much more that the US and state governments failed to provide for Black communities. The most commonly known example of mutual aid is the Black Panther Party survival program that served free breakfasts to upwards of 20,000 kids in 19 cities every school day; their program was a

huge inspiration for the USDA School Breakfast Program. Other mutual aid organizations have supported Latinx, LGBTQ, disabled, and houseless communities.

Now, as a result of COVID, Mutual Aid has landed in Winooski. The network is spearheaded by a small group of volunteer community members who come to this work with eclectic skills, backgrounds, and identities. We are WSD educators and parents, mental health workers, homecare providers, immigrant advocates, artists, students, and activists. So far we’ve delivered hundreds of pounds of groceries, collected over \$2,000 in donations, and brought food and supplies to almost 100 people. This was all provided by the pure, unadulterated, no-questions-asked generosity of our community. And we’re just getting started! Winooski Mutual Aid’s magic is its ethos of reciprocity and zero-barrier policy. We operate on the fundamental belief that we are a community and that we are therefore responsible for each other. Furthermore, we believe that somebody who is in need in one way can also provide support in other ways. It’s not charity, it’s solidarity.

So check us out! Visit our brand new website, [www.winooskimutualaid.org](http://www.winooskimutualaid.org), where you can request support, find ways to help, donate, and find out more information about the work we’re doing. We are also excited to be collaborating with multiple organizations in Winooski and are always open to new ideas, so please don’t hesitate to reach out! Call or text us at (802) 234-8287 or email [winooskimutualaid@gmail.com](mailto:winooskimutualaid@gmail.com). Times like these are a beautiful reminder that we all need support, we all have something to offer, and that our community here in Winooski is our greatest asset.

# What's Happening at North End Studios at The O'Brien Center

By Sharon Radtke

North End Studios (NES) have been successfully moving forward during these challenging times through two basic activities...food and music!

NES has been offering a FREE concert series at North End Studios O'Brien Community Center on Wednesday evenings throughout the month of August and will extend these concerts throughout September. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on and a mask to wear and enjoy some free music outside. Food and beverage purchases are available. This FREE September Concert Series will include:



- **September 2 - Troy Millette Band** - Troy Millette is a Vermont singer/songwriter who has performed alongside the likes of Grace Potter, Counting Crows, Rick Springfield, and more!
- **September 9 - Jenni and the Jazz Junketeers** - Jenni Johnson is on a mission to bring back the black female



*Jenni Johnson and the Jazz Junketeers*

blues and jazz singers from the 1920s through the 1940's. This hard-working Burlington chanteuse revives them by performing their songs as they might have sounded decades ago.

- **September 16 - Maiz Vargas with Special Guests** - Costa Rican "Brujo"

Maiz Vargas enjoys sharing his cultural heritage. For this show he will bring a unique group of local musicians together that



includes Eli Goldman on bass and Andy Kareckas (aka Tony Briefcase) on percussion. The band will explore many different styles of music: soca, calypso, and reggae to name just a few.

- NES has been offering **International Take-Out Dinners** at their 32 Malletts

Bay Avenue location every Saturday through the months of July and August, and this service will be offered throughout the month of September. All hot meals are packaged and ready for pick-up outside the NES O'Brien Center with an assigned pick up times! Tickets available now. \$20/adult or \$10/child. Go to [northendstudios.org](http://northendstudios.org) for a list of all September dinners.

North End Studios is offering **online and in-house classes and rental opportunities** are now available in Studio A at 294 North Winooski Avenue and the Ballroom space at the Winooski O'Brien location at 32 Malletts Bay Avenue. All precautions will be taken inside, including limiting capacity, social distancing, handwashing, and wearing masks.

Unfortunately, the Chris Jones and the Night Drivers concert at the NES O'Brien Center scheduled for September 5th has been postponed. We're working on a new date in the spring of 2021.

For a complete list of all NES offerings, go to [northendstudios.org](http://northendstudios.org). You will also find a complete list of ways their organization is working to keep you and your family safe when you participate in their programming.

Call 802-863-6713 or email [info@northendstudios.org](mailto:info@northendstudios.org) to learn more.

## September News from the Winooski Partnership for Prevention

By Kate Nugent

The Winooski Partnership for Prevention (WPP) wishes a very happy welcome back to students, parents, Winooski School District staff and faculty!

ATI (Above the Influence), the WPP's middle school youth prevention leaders' program, is going to be a bit different this year, and we look forward to carrying out projects in a safe, physically distant, masks-on way that help keep each other healthier. Stay tuned for more information on our website, from our electronic newsletter, and from WSD. All are welcome!

This summer, the WPP launched a campaign to help parents help parents.



With many thanks to the community leaders who participated, we are able to share practical, local connections for parents navigating the pre-teen and teen years trying to keep their kids healthy and safe as they become independent young

adults. 99% of addictions start before age 21—we can prevent addiction, together.

The WPP currently has openings on the Board of Trustees. We are especially looking for someone who works with children and youth in the medical field, and someone with accounting expertise. We have one youth board member opening, as well, open to a high school first year, sophomore, or junior. The Board plays an important role in this work, helping to make organizational management decisions that strengthen its capacity, help raise awareness of the value of the organization, and find new opportunities. Please contact us for more information.



## HEALTH CORNER

By Elizabeth Parris, School Nurse

Hello Winooski families, we have missed you! We hope that you were able to enjoy our beautiful VT summer while in the midst of the global pandemic.

We have a lot of information and updates to share with you, so let's get started.

### Welcome Julie!!

Julie Pecor is our new health office assistant. She will be with us Monday-Friday from 9am-2pm. We are happy to have her join our team.

### We're Moving!

While we have had many great memories in our "tiny home" health office, due to COVID-19, we are relocating to the central office suite space.

### Medications and Emergency Action Plans

Parents/Guardians of students with chronic medical conditions or that take daily medications at school are asked to contact their child's doctor and request the following information

- Medication orders from the doctor
- Medical emergency action plans
- Please deliver prescription medications in the original pharmacy labeled bottles

A member of the health office team will reach out to you about scheduling at time to drop off the requested items

### All Things COVID-19

Our goals are to: **STOP** COVID-19 from entering the school buildings, **DECREASE TRANSMISSION** and **IDENTIFY** potential cases quickly. Paramount to our success is your decision to stay home if you are feeling sick.

### Health Screenings:

Every day, upon arrival to school the students will have their temperatures taken and asked the following questions: Do you feel unwell with ANY of the following symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4F or greater, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell)

A nurse will triage and assess any individuals who are feeling unwell or present with any symptoms of COVID. A clinical decision will be made about next steps with guidance from the Vermont Department of Health.

### How to's of Hand Washing:

- First wet your hands with water
- Add soap
- Scrub hands on all surfaces for 20 seconds
- Rinse off soap and water
- Dry hands with paper towel
- Turn off faucet with the paper towel

### Facial Coverings and Personal Protective Equipment

All staff and students are required to wear facial coverings while in the building, as well as outside where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

### Student Dismissal

We ask that you pick up your child as soon as possible or within 30 minutes after a call is received that student will be dismissed due to illness. Parents/Guardians will need to call the health office at 802 383-6094 or 802 383-6040 to alert staff that they are in the parking lot. A member of the health office team will escort your child outside.

### COVID Coordinator Hotline 802-556-2243

Liz or Katharine will be available between the hours of 3pm and 7:30am Monday-Friday and 24 hours on Saturday and Sundays for calls pertaining to COVID-19 exposure or symptoms. This service will begin on August 17, 2020 and remain in effect until further notice.

### Health Office Contact Information

Landlines: 802 383 6094 and 802 383 6040

Fax: 802 383 6017

Liz's Email: eparris@wsdvt.org

Katharine's Email: kmonje@wsdvt.org

Julie's Email: jpecor@wsdvt.org

We look forward to seeing all of you in September!

### Tooth Tutor

By Tracy Towers, RDH

### School Linked Dental Program

As you know, I am the Dental Hygienist for the Winooski School District. My job is to make sure that

each of our students has a dental "home" and has seen a dentist at least once during the school year. I also help coordinate our School Linked Dental Program with Vermont Dental Care.

My focus remains on making sure all of our students maintain good Dental Health; it has an overall effect on our General Health, they are related in every way. So during this time especially, it is important to maintain excellent dental health.

Please fill out your back to school information accurately, including month of last dental visit and current dentist. I will be following up with you in the Fall to verify information.

At this point we are still unsure about the status/logistics of our School Linked Program with Vermont Dental Care. I will have more information for you in the coming weeks.

All dental offices are now OPEN in some capacity at this time. If you or your child requires dental treatment, please call your dental office to set up an appointment. Keep Smiling!





**WINOOSKI SCHOOLS**  
*We are the future.*

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**Students and Staff Raise Black Lives Matter Flag on Winooski School Campus**

On August 7th, Winooski students raised the Black Lives Matter flag at our school district.

Watch the flag-raising ceremony on our Facebook or Instagram pages @ WinooskiLearns.

