Beyond Reopening: How Education Might Emerge Stronger Than Before
By WMHS Co-Principals Jean Berthiaume & Kate Grodin

As we move beyond the opening of school and our fall student centered family conferences, there is so much that is emerging for us as we have fast tracked the transformation of education. We would be the first to recognize that our hybrid model is not perfect and there is certainly room for improvement, however, there are some encouraging signs of societal transformation that compliments a more student centered learning environment.

School transformation is something that Winooski and so many other schools across the nation have worked at for many years. At the same time schools have remained consistent and similar to our own experience when we went to school. Along comes COVID-19, and school transformation is forced and kicked up into high gear and certainly a lot faster than ever before. Fortunately, some incredible work done before school closure has positioned us fairly well for this moment in time. We have already transformed from an antiquated, subjective, and at times punitive grading system to a proficiency learning system that strives to make learning more transparent to students and families, where feedback and practice are valued. We have become trauma informed to better support our students. Now, we are focusing on transforming teaching and learning so that we are inclusive of the diverse backgrounds of our community and on attending to inequities within our school from policies to curriculum. Student voice has emerged at this point as a power force for positive and overdue change!

Today we are seeing signs that students are more focused on learning and that students for whom school did not work for before are doing better. Before our shift to hybrid learning and our pod-advisory classrooms, students had to manage the hidden social curriculum and then attend to their academic learning. Now, students are more than ever the center and focus of their learning, engaging their teachers in their personal learning endeavors, taking advantage of dual enrollment classes (high school and college classes), participating in community based learning experiences, and getting more creative and collaborative with their teachers on their educational paths. Relationships are the foundation of much of the early success of this model of teaching and learning. Teachers are building relationships and are becoming increasingly the first point of contact for our families.

We are seeing many students benefiting and reaching beyond the limitations of a traditional schedule. Students are coming to school at a more reasonable hour of the morning in line with the research about when adolescents should start school. Each and every student is seen and greeted upon arrival to the school, offered breakfast, and able to settle in before learning. Behavioral issues have declined significantly. We acknowledge and respect that students will make mistakes as misbehaviors are genuine opportunities for teaching or reteaching. However, the lack of misbehavior this fall, reflects a positive manifestation of practicing the social curriculum when it is explicitly taught. Additionally, social anxiety has seemed to diminish and students appear to be more present.

In closing, we are appreciative of the newfound public recognition of how essential schools are in our society and we have been provided an opportunity to leverage this support for making our schools stronger. We see this in our partnerships with service organizations who have always been incredibly important in our efforts to support our students as well as new education allies who are emerging from parents to social welfare organizations—to support children’s learning like never before. Innovation has moved from the margins to the center of our education system, and there is an opportunity to identify new strategies, that if sustained, can help young people get an education that prepares them for our changing times.

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November Early Dismissal and Parent-Teacher Conference Days
JFK student parent/teacher conferences will take place on November 23 and 24. All Winooski students will be dismissed at 11am on those dates.
School Budget Planning During a Pandemic
By Matt MacNeil, Board of School Trustees

It's budget season again and the board and administration are again at work trying to maximize the education experiences and opportunities for our community. Before I became a School Trustee, I would read about any given year's School Budget proposal and wonder to myself, 'where did that number come from?' As a board member, the budgeting process has been an ongoing learning curve. Understanding how public education is funded at a district in Vermont is not exactly an intuitve exercise. If you ever looked at an educational budget proposal and experienced some confusion in tracking where the money is coming from and going to, don't worry, you're not alone.

Last year in the newsletter, I highlighted three factors that greatly impact every aspect of school budgeting including the tax impact felt by citizens. These three factors are:

1) Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) - According the Agency of Education, CLA is a method of ensuring that each town is paying its fair share of education property tax to the state's Education Fund.

2) Equalized Pupil Count - According the Agency of Education, Equalized Pupil Count assigns weights for different types of pupils, is designed to reflect the per capita spending on students who fall under varying criteria.

3) Special Education Funding - There has been a considerable amount of press regarding potential changes to the funding mechanism for special education in Vermont (check out https://education.vermont.gov/ to learn more about each of the above).

And because nothing about 2020 has been easy, there is another important factor to consider this year, COVID-19. I was fortunate to be able to be able to review the potential impact of the pandemic on school budgets with Winooski's outstanding Finance Manager, Nicole Mace. Nicole related that in her perspective, COVID-19 is expected to have a substantial effect on the Education Fund in FY 22. According to Nicole, the State is predicting a $67 million deficit in the Education Fund due to lower than expected sales tax and meals and rooms tax revenues. While the Legislature has indicated that it does not expect local school districts to make up that deficit through higher tax rates or lower spending, there is no clear path for resolving the revenue shortage. Nicole went on to point out that this issue could be resolved by an additional COVID stimulus package passed by the U.S. Congress, if it provides needed revenue to state and local governments. Unless or until that happens, there is a lot of uncertainty regarding how Vermont's education funding system will be affected by the shortage of revenue due to the economic slowdown caused by COVID.

Despite this added complexity, our administrators and staff undergo a painstaking process to allocate every single dollar of funding to the exact areas that we believe will provide the highest educational value to our students and families. The ultimate goal is a budget that creates the conditions for WSD to flourish an innovative education system that holds Winooski as an educational destination for families. At the same time we constantly attempt to balance attainment of that goal with keeping a watchful eye on maintaining the affordability for life in our great city. Clearly this is no easy task. The challenge is only magnified by the multitude of complexities within educational funding, all the while wrapped in a pandemic.

This is where you come in. We want community feedback to help us meet our budgeting goals. We welcome your feedback and wisdom. Please feel free to reach out to myself or any board member with any thoughts, ideas and questions you may have. Or better yet, come join us for our budgeting meetings. Details including times and locations will be available in Front Porch Forum (and the school website).
News and Notes from WSD
By Emily Hecker, WSD Communications and Development Director

The Winooski School District
Is Hiring!

The Winooski School District, like many other districts across our state, needs qualified Instructional Assistants and Support Staff.

If you, or someone you know, are looking for meaningful work and to make a difference in the life of a Winooski student, please consider applying.

The rate of pay starts at $16/hour, includes full benefits for full-time work, and schedules follow the school-break calendar.

Virus spread risk at holiday celebrations

As many of us begin to plan for fall and winter holiday celebrations, the Center for Disease Control offers important considerations to help protect individuals and their families, friends, and communities from COVID-19. Read more here: https://bit.ly/2Fx6F3D.

Show your spirit in style!

The Winooski Parent Teacher Organization is excited to announce that you can now buy Spirit Wear online (www.wsdvt.org/spirit-wear-available-online).

There are a variety of sizes and styles available for elementary students right up to staff.

Order online and have your purchases shipped directly to you. A portion of all sales goes to the Winooski School District PTO to keep support for our school and kids going.

Travel Safely Over November Break

The crisp air and jaw-dropping foliage are signs that November break is fast approaching. The WSD urges all of our staff and families to exercise caution when making plans to visit friends and family over the break.

The Vermont Department of Health maintains a website of places that are safe to travel to without quarantine. The site also offers guidance about the quarantine protocols in place for visitors from other states. The State of Vermont has determined that any county with less than 400 active cases of COVID-19 per one million residents is now eligible for quarantine-free leisure travel. The Agency will update the map below each Tuesday identifying quarantinable states, counties, and regions. Find more information at https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel.

Celebrating virtually or with members of your own household poses low risk for spread. In-person gatherings pose varying levels of risk. Consider the risk of virus spread based on event size and use of mitigation strategies.

Remember, travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

You can get COVID-19 during your travels. You may feel well and not have any symptoms, but you can still spread COVID-19 to others. You and your travel companions (including children) may spread COVID-19 to other people including your family, friends, and community for 14 days after you were exposed to the virus.

Your travel plans may impact our school community when the November break is over and we all return to school together. Stay safe and stay healthy!
Aid for Struggling Vermonters
By Emily Hecker, WSD Communications and Development Director

During these difficult times, new financial help programs are available to many Vermonters. The state does not want people to be struggling to pay bills, so please apply, even if you don’t usually get public help. Vermont Legal Aid has more information on these programs at https://vtlawhelp.org/.

Vermont Legal Aid is also able to help individual tenants and homeowners. Call us at 1-800-889-2047 or go to http://vtlawhelp.org. For the fastest response, leave a message explaining what you need in a sentence or two.

1. Help with past-due rent
For help with past-due rent, Vermonters should apply for the Rental Housing Stabilization Program through the Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA). Tenants and landlords apply for this program at the same time. There are no income limits. VSHA pays landlords directly to bring the tenant’s rent account current. This program will last until December 30 or until the money runs out. You can get help now, and apply again if you still need help later. Learn more about this help for paying past-due rent on our website or reach us for help.

2. Moving to a new home
Some people need to move because of life safety problems with their rental unit, the rent is too expensive, they have trouble with the landlord or other tenants, or the unit is too big or too small. If you need to move and have found a new landlord, apply together for the Money to Move Program at vsha.org. The program can cover the money needed to move in, such as first and last month’s rent and security deposit. It also may cover rent payments through the end of this year. Learn more about this help on our website or reach us for help.

3. Emergency housing for people who do not have a home
The Department of Children and Family’s (DCF) Economic Services Division is extending housing supports for homeless households. For more information or to apply, contact the Benefits Service Center at 1-800-479-6151. Follow this link for the program rules: https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CVD19/ESD/Temp-Housing-COVID19.pdf.

If you stay in a shelter or motel, you need to participate in “coordinated entry.” Through coordinated entry, you will be assigned a housing case manager who will help you access subsidies and programs to help you get permanent housing. To learn more about coordinated entry, call 2-1-1. If you worked with your case manager to apply for a subsidy or other program and your application was denied, call Vermont Legal Aid at 1-800-889-2047.

4. Past-Due Utility Bills
The Department of Public Services (DPS) can help pay past-due utility bills. The bills can be for electric, natural gas, landline telephone service or regulated private water bills (not municipal water). Homes and small businesses are eligible. There are no income limits, and you don't have to have a disconnect notice. However, your difficulty paying the bill must be linked to COVID. The funding only covers arrearages after March 1, 2020. If you need help to fill out an application online, contact your local community action agency. Learn more on the Department of Public Service website.

5. Mortgage Assistance Program (and maybe Property Tax Assistance)
This program can pay up to six past-due mortgage payments on your home. It is available to all Vermonters who:
- are at least 1 month past due on mortgage payments
- have a COVID-related hardship, and
- meet the income requirements.

Even people who have mortgages in forbearance are eligible. If you have a mortgage and are behind on property taxes that you pay directly to the town, you may also be eligible for assistance. Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) is taking applications for the Vermont COVID Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program. (You do not need to have a VHFA mortgage to be eligible.) Learn more about the mortgage assistance on our website or reach us for help.

HEALTH CORNER
By Elizabeth Parris, School Nurse

Traditionally, November is a time for reflection and a time to remember the things you are most thankful for. Today, that's what I want to do. As school nurses working in the middle of a pandemic, we are often asked how it's going at the school. My response is always the same. It's going really well and the students are doing an amazing job. I am so impressed with their ability to wear masks, follow the markings on the floor and maintain distance from others. We are so thankful to be a part of their lives and this community. Parents, thank you for a job well done! You are raising wonderful children!

Lastly, what would a note from the health office be without reminding everyone to contact your doctor and see if the flu shot is right for you. Wash your hands often, wear your masks and have a wonderful month reflecting on the things that matter the most to you!
Building a Better School - November Update:
Middle High School Students Tour the Capital Project

By Emily Hecker, WSD Communications and Development Director

It would be hard to miss the construction work happening all around the WSD building. The campus is a hive of activity with huge machinery and workers digging, pouring concrete, erecting steel, and laying bricks, all with coordinated precision, detail, and speed.

The WSD Leadership Team recognized that there were exciting opportunities for student learning and career exploration happening right outside the classroom. ReArch Construction Company is also committed to getting Winooski students and staff involved with the massive, $57.8M project as much as possible. ReArch Assistant Project Manager and Winooski resident, Daylo O’Hara Whalen, said, “I’m a firm believer that a successful project is based on the end user’s satisfaction, so getting these folks excited about the project and advocating for it themselves is very important to me.”

During the month of October, WMHS students were invited on perimeter tours of the Capital Project construction site. Students were able to see the work taking place around the campus, discuss the various roles of each subcontractor that make a project successful, and see architectural renderings to help visualize the end goal of the project.

Students are engaged and excited about the project. “I am proud to be at Winooski,” said Shabani Omar, a high school student. “I am excited to see the new middle school and excited to see what the high school will look like.” Student Ellie Muzaliwa said, “I am excited to see the new gym and PAC.”

The Owner Project Manager for the WSD project, Tom Barden, has worked in the construction industry for half a century. He hopes the project will spark some Winooski students’ interest in considering the rewards and challenges of working in construction. “The construction field presents many interesting challenges including solving engineering problems, scheduling problems and logistics problems,” Tom said. “Solving any of these problems result in being able to see the results of one’s efforts in a physical building, a bridge, a railroad, a roadway, a dam or an energy saving complex.”

Even after 50 years in the field, Tom says each project keeps him interested and on his toes. “The thing I like most about the construction industry is that every project is different from every other project. For example, I was involved in building 21 McDonald’s, and one might think they are all cookie-cutter version of each other. Nothing could be further from the truth, as each one of them was different from each other and each one presented their own set of challenges.”

For those students who might not be interested in a construction or trade career, the project will still make their future in Winooski brighter. While many students are excited about performing at the new Performing Arts Center and eating lunch with friends in the new cafeteria, others are just excited that the Winooski community is investing in a place that brings everyone together.

“It makes me happy to come to Winooski,” said student Claudine Sifa.
Fire Prevention Day  
*By Sara Raabe, JFK Principal*

October 9th was Fire Prevention day. Due to COVID, the Winooski Fire Department was unable to hold their Annual Fire Prevention Open House. However, Assistant Fire Marshal Liam Keating sent our staff fantastic things they could do to educate our students about the importance of fire safety. This year's theme was “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen”. Students and staff learned all about the hazards of cooking and how to prevent fires related to cooking.

We are fortunate that our School Resource Officer, Jason Ziter, is also a Volunteer FireFighter! Jason went into classrooms, and brought all his gear. He talked to students about fire safety and fire prevention. He even got the adults to try on all his gear. They all said it was really heavy!

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21C Afterschool Partners with the VYOA  
*By Suzanne Skafestad, 21C Director*

While afterschool may look and feel a little different this year, our partnership with the VYOA remains the same! The VYOA and Patricia Jancova were open to working with the 21C Afterschool Covid-19 Model to make this class happen. We really appreciate their flexibility and support. Our 3rd grade students are very excited to begin their lessons afterschool.

“What Is Your Smart?”  
*By Tiffany Denmore*

In Mrs. Denmore’s class we know everyone is smart! How smart do you ask? We are so smart that we know there are Eight Ways to be SMART! We learned about the Eight Ways that you can be smart by reading *Ellie Rae Discovers Eight Ways to Be Smart* by Mary R. Massey.

In the book, Ellie Rae discovered that you can be “Art Smart, Body Smart, Nature Smart, Number Smart, People Smart, Music Smart, Word Smart, and Self Smart.” These types of smart are based on Howard Gardner’s Multiple Intelligences.

Everyone then thought about their own strengths and decided what type of smart they are. Did you know that you can be more than one kind of smart? We do now, and are excited to show off how we use them this year.
Congrats to this Season’s Student Spotlights!

By Jessica Bruce, Visual Arts Teacher

Winooski High School teachers and staff would like to recognize and congratulate these fine students for their hard work and dedication to their education this school year. Amidst all the challenges these students face in 2020, they have been rockin’ it!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL

CAMDEN BENOIT has been recognized as a player to watch for the upcoming football season. He competes for the Champlain’s football team.

OJ has done a good job advocating for work and learning materials for himself while also being respectful of all that teachers have on their plates.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL | FALL 2020

PAUL FURUNA has been working incredibly hard at all times and has greatly improved her writing in the last month. Her focus and determination are really paying off. She has big plans for her future and will surely achieve them!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL | FALL 2020

Suvisha has been working hard to make sure everyone in our class can hear and understand our discussion in person. She has also identified 2 new subjects she is interested in learning (Spanish and French) and set up learning experiences to support her this year.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL | FALL 2020

Mohamed is on top of his communication. He is organized, motivated, and self-driven. He has already started interviewing business owners and has shown a great work ethic. We are so excited to see where he goes with this project.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL | FALL 2020

Sahabani has come to school everyday ready to engage and help everyone in class. He is always willing to help others and is kind, positive, and hardworking.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL | FALL 2020

Emmanuel has become a strong leader and helper for everyone in class. He always listens to others and is kind, positive, and hardworking.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL | FALL 2020

Shahani has come to school everyday ready to engage and help everyone in class. He is always willing to help others and is kind, positive, and hardworking.
The Library Welcomes You
By Suzanne Skafestad, 21C Director

The Library Welcomes You afterschool program has begun with students from Ms. Plasse and Ms. Mezetovic's newcomer class participating Monday-Friday, 2:35-4:00. The students have been engaged in fitness, literacy and art activities after school. Here's what the students have to say:

• “After school: it is very good!”
• “Next time, we will run a whole lap without stopping! We can do it!”
• “I love to run!”
• “We run, we read, we make boxes and candles. We play games and we practice social distancing. We like it!”

Ms. Poleman remarked, “Who knew staying after school could be so fun?! The students who stay are rays of sunshine and we laugh a lot while we run and dance and play games. We plan to make some spooky art in the coming weeks.”

Support Winooski Students, While Saving Money!
Courtney Poquette, High School Business Teacher

This year our fundraising efforts in the Business Department will look different, while we wait to return to “business as usual.” We are still able to offer the SaveAround Coupon Book, but this time it will be all online and the shipping will be FREE. These books are filled with coupons to local businesses and restaurants as well as some national chains. There are over $2,000 in coupons in each book, plus an app for even more savings. The best part is your purchase supports Winooski students with 40% of each purchase returning to the school! You can find the link to our school’s fundraising page here https://www.supportourgroups.com/GN/76111

Our fundraising was cut short for our Hamilton trip in the spring, but we plan to continue fundraising and use these funds once we know we can take this trip.

If you have any questions, please contact cpoquette@wsdvt.org. Thank you for your support.

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 helping neighbors in need, free furniture, lost pets, tradespeople recommendations, and all kinds of good stuff at www.frontporchforum.com.
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
- phones are answered at City Hall between 7:30 and 4:30
- online business is strongly encouraged - visit 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

Parking and Code Enforcement

Parking is being enforced downtown. We encourage people to use the ParkMobile app as much as possible, available at 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 have restarted inspections with safety procedures in place. Housing complaints 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.

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.

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
- Portalets at Landry Park are not provided, so please plan accordingly

For current updates, resources, and municipal service information please visit winooskivt.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: winooskivt.gov/remoteresources

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

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

Business owners can also access their Winooski Business Portal for an extensive list of resources for businesses: 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 winooskivt.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

- 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 as 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.

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
- healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/homeowners
- healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/landlords-renters
- healthvermont.gov/interest-groups/building-professionals-realtors
- healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/resources
- cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html
- epa.gov/coronavirus

COVID-19 Testing

For an up-to-date local testing schedule, please visit winooskivt.gov/covid-19

Testing at Walgreens in Essex Junction
Walgreens at 9 Susie Wilson Road, Essex Junction, is conducting drive-thru COVID-19 testing. See if you qualify and schedule an appointment by visiting walgreens.com

Testing at Kinney Drugs COVID-19
Testing for anyone ages 2 and older is now available at several Kinney Drugs locations across Vermont. Appointments are required - visit kinneydrugs.com to sign up.

Mayor’s Update

Hello Winooski,

City Council began our annual budgeting process by focusing on goal setting for the Fiscal Year 2022. As always, voting on this budget will take place on Town Meeting Day in March. Councilors have discussed the severe economic...
Municipal Infrastrucure Updates

Project Hickock Street Reconstruction Project
In progress for next season.

Upon completion of this project, parking spaces will be added to the lot.

Winooski voters approved a bond for Hickock Street Reconstruction Project.

Hickock Street Reconstruction Project
The project is anticipated to be complete by Thanksgiving.

Important Dates

- November 26 & 27: City Hall Closed
- November 15: Tax and Utility Bills Available
- November 11: City Hall Closed in Observation of Veterans Day
- November 2: City Hall Closed in Observation of Election Day

2020 General Election

Voting locations:
- Winooski High School (accepting payments on Monday, November 2)
- 7am-7pm at the Winooski Senior Center
- Election results can be obtained at electionresults.vermont.gov.

Myers Memorial Pool Renovation

The outdoor pool will be open during the summer season.

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Malletts Bay Avenue.
Please visit https://ridegmt.com/ for service changes and alerts.

**Vermont Department of Transportation (Vtrans) Projects**

- **Exit 16 DDI (Diverging Diamond Interchange) - exit 16ddi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov**

  Please see the above Vtrans project webpage link for updates and an overview of this project located in the vicinity of the Exit 16 interchange at I-89 in Colchester on US Route 2/7 (just north of the City of Winooski limits). You can also sign-up for email updates under the "Stay Informed" page. As described in the most recent update, they anticipate work starting in spring 2021 for utility relocations and ledge removal.

- **US 2/7 Concrete Roadway Repairs**

  We are currently coordinating with Vtrans on a project to repair the concrete road joints located on the southbound section of the circulator and within a portion of West Allen Street. We are also working with Vtrans to potentially replace the remaining concrete roadway north of the circulator to approximately Mansion Street with bituminous asphalt pavement. Replacing this section of concrete roadway with asphalt would eliminate the joints and improve the ride quality for this section of Main Street. We anticipate the concrete repairs will start spring 2021 and the asphalt replacement project the following year in 2022. For both projects, the City will continue to work closely with Vtrans to coordinate this project with the proposed Main Street Revitalization project and other development work within City.

**Community Services Updates**

**Thrive After School Program**

Thrive continues to run after-school programming for JFK Elementary students. Thrive is a state-licensed, 3 STAR childcare/enrichment program that runs from 3-5:30pm. We partner with the Winooski School District to provide a community 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. Students in grades K-5 can attend Thrive After School on their 4 in-person learning days once the new schedule begins. The cost is $72 per week, and we accept state childcare subsidy as well as offer scholarships to families in need. Thrive follows all health and safety guidance from the CDC and Vermont Department of Health as well as Winooski School District rules. Visit winooskivt.gov/thrive to learn more and enroll!

**Winooski Memorial Library**

The Winooski Memorial Library is working on a plan to safely bring back the Academic & Career Support program in partnership with the Winooski School District. Details will be available soon - learn more at winooskivt.gov/library, follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/winooskilibrary) or email volunteer@winooskivt.gov to learn more.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Homework Help Community Tutors:**

Under the direction of the Winooski Memorial Library, Homework Help Tutors provide basic instruction in a variety of content areas to local middle and high school students so that students can master skills needed to succeed in school and beyond. This year's sessions will be held virtually on Zoom to provide a safe way for tutors and students to connect! Tutors will need access to the internet and a device that can utilize Zoom. Tutoring sessions are Monday through Thursday from 4pm to 7pm. Tutors sign up for at least one 1.5-hour session per week. We are also flexible with schedules and will try to work with you.

**Meals on Wheels Driver:**

Under the direction of the Winooski Senior Center, Meals on Wheels Volunteers help to combat hunger and to provide a lifeline and companionship for under-resourced community members who might otherwise be isolated. Meals on Wheels are delivered every weekday, Monday through Friday from 9:30am - 11am. You will need access to your own vehicle. We currently have a need for drivers on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays.

**Meals on Wheels Food Processor:**

Packers and food processors will aid in packing meals to be delivered to our Meal recipients. Meal components are delivered to the Winooski Senior Center every morning Monday through Friday, and packing takes place onsite from 8:30am - 9:30am. No vehicle needed.

**Introducing Nate Eddy, Winooski’s New Library Director**

The Winooski Memorial Library is excited to announce our new Director, Nate Eddy!

Nate comes to us from the Free Library of Philadelphia with 15 years of library experience including a BA in English from UVM and a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

Nate’s career has a strong focus on strategic planning, creating programs and services, and increasing access/engagement with new American communities. Please help us welcome him to Winooski!

“I’m thrilled to be joining the team at Winooski Memorial Library and so looking forward to getting to know this amazing community. Vermont is a special place for me, having been born and raised in Rutland, and I’m so excited to be home again and working in such a diverse and growing city. And while these are different times for us all, I’m confident the library will continue to shine and be there as always to meet the needs of our patrons both existing and new. Can’t wait to see you soon!”
As we continue to practice steps to stay safe and work on decreasing the spread of COVID-19 in our community, we are wanting to stay connected with you! Seniors and older Vermonters can call our dedicated support line: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10am - 2pm / 802 655 6425 / Voice Mail 24/7.

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.

Senior Exercise
Starts January 5, 2021 - Following safety protocols for participants, we will resume our Senior Exercise Program on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am. Follow along with Barbara Jordan's video and work on balance and stretching. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Call us at 802 655 6425 for a reservation to participate, space is limited.

Bone Builders Exercise
Following safety protocols for participants, we are once again hosting United Way’s Bone Builder Exercise Program on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3 – 4pm. Participant numbers are limited and you must have a reservation to attend. RSVP Bone Builders is an exercise program designed to prevent (and even reverse) the negative effects of osteoporosis. The program is based on research conducted and published by Tufts University which shows that strength training just twice a week dramatically reduces the risk of fractures due to the disease. Call us at 802 655 6425 for a reservation to participate.

Pen Pal Program with Winooski Youth
Starts November 2020 – The Winooski Senior Center and the Thrive After School program are partnering to offer a new intergenerational pen pal program! Each month, participants will be presented with a prompt. Following the prompt, both seniors and students will write a personalized letter to their pen pal. Staff will deliver the letters between the Senior Center and the school. No stamps required! This is an excellent opportunity to connect with a community member that you otherwise might not get to know. Call us at 802 655 6425 for a reservation to participate.

Meals on Wheels
If you know of an older Vermont who has special nutrition requirements or is having difficulty with meal preparation, please call Age Well at 863-0360 to find out the eligibility requirements. No one is denied meals due to an inability to donate.

Happy Fall!
By Martina Kerkering
The school year has started and the first changes have already occurred. Changes can be very stressful on every member of the family. ROUTINES are key to everyone feeling safe and successful. This is true even for the youngest child!

Reach out to Martina with any questions around this topic or to learn about other ways we can support you during these uncertain times! Email: mkerkering@howardcenter.org or text message: (802) 324 6405.
November Update from The Winooski Partnership for Prevention

By Jane Henderson, Grants Manager

Looking for ways to start hard conversations with your kids around substance-use? Follow us online or through our newsletter - we'll be providing tools and resources for parents to begin the dialogue.

Youth Advocacy through Animation

We've been busy creating new online tools for furthering prevention work in Winooski. The most fun part for us thus far has been the creation of our Safe Storage animations (see the one for safe alcohol storage on our FB or IG page). And it got us thinking...what if we provided the opportunity for Winooski students to create animations around why they stay above the influence of substances?

As a result, we’ve teamed up with Scout Digital to offer an “Intro to Animation Creation” event specifically available to local students. Students will also hear from local leaders on the importance - and effectiveness - of youth advocacy! Students will come away with new skills and an animation that represents their creative ideas around prevention.

Have a Winooski student in your life who might be interested? Please reach out to us - all students welcomed!

The Passing of Senate Bill 54

On October 8th, Vermont became the eleventh state to legalize commercial production and retail sale of marijuana. Under this plan, prior to the operation of any licensed cannabis retailer, cities and towns will decide whether to permit commercial activities within their community.

What does this mean for Vermonters?: Although there is still much to be decided with the passing of S54, we are looking to learn from other states who have already legalized marijuana. According to a new study in the Journal of Health Communication by Washington State University researchers, it is the location of marijuana retailers that can influence a city’s youth population to use marijuana. “Study participants who said they lived within five miles of a marijuana shop were more likely to report intentions to use the drug than those who perceived they lived farther away” (WSU).

Smart Approaches to Marijuana, a non-profit organization looking to prevent another big tobacco, released a report on lessons learned from state marijuana legalization. From this report - compiled through publicly available state-level data, reports, and investigatory findings, peer-reviewed studies, and government health surveys - they found that there was a 25% increase in Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD) among 12-17 year-olds in “legal” states. We’ll continue to keep you updated on what S54 looks like in Winooski as well as providing tools for talking to your kids about marijuana. We hope you and your families are all staying safe and healthy this holiday season!

Support Winooski Businesses

Your continued support of Winooski’s business community is so valuable! Please check out the ‘Support Winooski Businesses’ list for information about what businesses are open: www.downtownwinooski.org. We are proud of the Winooski small business community for taking such good care of their employees and customers.
What’s Happening at North End Studios Winooski

By Sharon Radtke

North End Studios at the O’Brien Center in Winooski has been offering International Take-Out Dinners at their 32 Malletts Bay Avenue location every Saturday since July and will carry this forward all the way through November and the holiday season, and on into the new year. November dinners will include: Greek on November 7; Middle Eastern on November 14 and Ethiopian/Eritrean on November 21. All hot meals are packaged and ready for pick-up outside the NES O’Brien Center with an assigned pick up time! Tickets are available at sevendaytickets.com. $20 per person, meat and vegetarian options available.

North End Studios has some exciting news to share. The Vermont International Festival will happen despite the pandemic, although it will look much different from past years. For 27 years, the Vermont International Festival has entertained and educated Vermonters about other cultures who live in Vermont by providing three days of international music, dance, crafts and cuisine at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction. This year, the Vermont International Festival will be going mostly virtual. Music and dance performances will be featured online throughout the weekend of December 4-6. Performances will represent cultures from around the world. Stories about featured performers will be included throughout the schedule and viewers will be amazed by the variety and quality of international performers living right here in Vermont. Craft vendors will offer their goods in a special virtual Festival Marketplace, beginning in mid-November and extending through the festival weekend and the remainder of the holiday season. This is a great opportunity for VIF customers to do some serious online holiday shopping for unique, international gifts for family and friends. The one live component of this year’s festival will be the 2020 version of the Food Court. The International Take-Out Dinners that have been held at the O’Brien Center since July will be extended and enhanced on the festival weekend offering food from all over the world, including vegetarian and non-vegetarian sample appetizer and dessert plates as well as full dinner offerings from Africa, Asia and South America. For more details about all aspects of the Vermont International Festival, go to vermontinternationalfestival.com.

North End Studios is gradually resuming classes and rental opportunities at their O’Brien Center facility and Studio A in Burlington. All recommended precautions are taken inside, including limiting capacity, social distancing, disinfecting, handwashing, and wearing masks, to keep you and your family safe when you participate in programs at the two locations.

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

Our Lady of Providence Director of Health Services Uses Her Love of Knitting to Benefit the Community and Residents

By Gail Callahan, Communications Director

Ann Marie Sullivan’s love of knitting stretches back to her childhood when her mother taught her how to cast on.

“I’m in love with crafts,” said Sullivan, who became director of the department earlier this year. “I love knitting and (followed by) quilting.”

Sullivan put her crafty skills to use during the height of the pandemic when she introduced knitting to an Our Lady of Providence resident.

Sullivan touts the therapeutic benefits of knitting, calling it a healthcare tool.

“There’s a psychological benefit of knitting,” Sullivan said. “It’s a type of meditation, and it helps with hand-eye coordination and helps slow dementia.”

Esther “Dennie” Work is thankful Sullivan shared her knitting talents. Work called the pandemic and its ensuing lockdown “difficult days.”

“A friend (Ann Marie) taught me how to put the skill of knitting to good use,” Work said. “It served to take my mind off myself and to relax while making knit dish clothes, which were colorful and distracted me during this difficult time.”

Sullivan is pouring her talents into Warm Up America! The non-profit organization donates knitted and crocheted items to people in need.

Above: OLOP Director of Health Services Ann Marie Sullivan models a knitted face mask that includes a filter pocket inside.

Left: Ann Marie Sullivan shows a sampling of items she’s knitted, some of which will go to Warm Up America!
Well, the Holidays are here! The Food Shelf volunteers are busy preparing for Thanksgiving. Clients should plan to pick up their turkey when they come to either the November 4th or November 11th pantry day (we are not handing out turkeys on a special day this year, like we used to). They will receive their monthly box of food plus turkey and fixings.

**We could really use help supplying Thanksgiving fixings:** small turkeys, turkey breasts, packets of gravy, boxed stove top stuffing mixes, cranberry sauce, canned green beans, canned peas and we need lots of store bought packaged cookies. Other items always in need are: cooking oil, canned diced tomatoes, tomato paste, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and disposable razors. Size 4 and 5 diapers are a big hit right now!

We are providing food to about 250 families each month -- about 1,000 people in those families. We are seeing many young families with babies. Many jobs have been lost. We are here to help during this difficult time. We hope anyone experiencing financial difficulty will come and check us out.

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

**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.

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**TOWN MEETING TV IS NOW ON COMCAST CHANNEL 1087**

Find Town Meeting TV on Comcast Channel 1087, BT channel 17/217/317 YouTube & www.ch17.tv
Winooski Boys Varsity Soccer • Fall 2020 • GO SPARTANS!

Photos by Rebecca Savage