

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS!



MAY 2021

celebrating Our Achievements!

Evolving our Proficiencies to Be Better Aligned to our Graduate Expectations

By Jean Berthiaume, WMHS Co-Principal

In so many ways, COVID-19 has stolen memories and experiences from us that will never be replaced. Yet it has also given us an opportunity to learn more about ourselves, those around us, and our culture. This spring we have been focused on making the most of this year with a mindset to roll up our sleeves to make things better and more familiar for next school year.

Prior to the pandemic we understood that our proficiency based learning system here at WMHS was not easily understood by all stakeholders and that our system was more further along than other middle and high schools in Vermont. That being said, our proficiency based learning system continues to be in a state of evolution. This spring we are focused on evolving our system to make it less complex and more transparent and understood by students, families, and educators. This is our school's promise to our community to ensure that all of our students receive a quality education that aligns itself well with our community's graduation expectations (GXs) that students have transferable skills in the following areas:

- · Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Culture & Community
- Persistence
- · Well-Being
- and Creativity

To make our system less complex we will move away from having a specific level of attainment for which currently 16 out of our 19 graduate proficiencies (GPs



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or content areas of learning) have, which puts greater focus on the proficiencies and not on our graduate expectations (GXs). Instead, we will establish the following 6 curriculum areas as career and college readiness and require a specific level in the following areas, like our national standards do: Critical Reading & Writing, Science, Math Reasoning, Speaking & Listening, Historical Inquiry, Civics. Our other GPs and their progressions will guide learning experiences or required course learning experiences for graduation. Most importantly all learning will provide students the opportunity to practice the important transferable skills connected specifically to each of our GXs.

In terms of our GXs, we need to ensure that these transferable skills are being practiced in every learning experience. Each learning experience will be an opportunity to learn and practice GXs skills for student's success in completing a capstone project. We are carefully considering how to move away from 6 capstones for graduation and determining how we focus on a few capstone requirements. These capstones are designed to provide students with an opportunity to self assess and showcase their skills by demonstrating to our community their learning of our essential GX transferable skills for college and career readiness.



NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE

Newest School Board Member Shares Their Story

By Kamal Dahal, Board of School Trustees

My life experience has continually tested the limits of my determination. As a new board member to the WSD I look forward to meeting the challenges with the same resolve I carried with me through the Bhutanese refugee camp in Nepal, the adjustment it took once I arrived in the United States, and through the struggles of my educational journey.

In July 1992, while my mother was pregnant with me in Bhutan, the King of Bhutan announced that any Bhutanese citizens with Nepalese origin who professed to be Lhotshampas (southerner) would be evicted out of the country. My family (southerners) fled along with the rest of the Nepalese people for Nepal. One month later, we arrived at the Bhutanese refugee camp in Nepal where I was born. My mother said I was lucky to be born in the camp because most children who were born during the evacuation died.

Life in the camp was very hard. Beginning when I was ten, my friends and I met every morning at the bank of the Tamai River and carried rocks to the shore. Once they dried in the heat of the Nepalese sun and were no longer slippery, we hammered them into pebbles, panting and coughing from the dust which grew hotter and thicker with every blow. A construction company on the other side of camp paid 5 cents for each bucket. I never imagined that I would do anything more with my life, for me or my family, than reduce rocks to rubble and carry bucketfuls across the refugee camp in Nepal.

In 2008, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced that the United States of America would open its doors to the Nepalese refugees. After six months of grueling interviews and medical examinations, my family was notified that our plane would leave for the US in ten days. The night before we left, I met my friends in the woods. I knew I would never see them again, and we cried. I vowed to them that I would not squander this opportunity. For the first time in my life, I dared to broaden the horizons of my dreams. I told them of my ambition to someday be successful and support not just my family, but the country that embraced me without hesitation. I was 16.

Our plane arrived in Rochester on September 17, 2008, and a shuttle from Catholic ministries brought us to our apartment. Only my brother, sister and I knew any English, and what we knew was minimal. This became an obstacle for us all. For me, the ruthless bullying of my classmates at High School became more than I could bear. Nobody could believe I had never seen a football, never seen a computer, or even television (or electricity, for that matter). As my family faced more financial challenges, I left High School and enrolled at the nearby Community College to earn my GED and begin my college education.

Unfortunately, my family also suffered from the sudden relocation. My father became a victim of depression and was admitted to the hospital late one night while I was at school. My resolve to support my parents strengthened with every obstacle. I



guarded against falling into despair as my father had.

Instead, I sought to rise above each obstacle with increasing tenacity to help my parents move to Vermont. I believe that Vermont, and Winooski in particular, was the place where I and my family truly belong.

With the completion of my college life and gaining some real work experiences, I am once again broadening the horizons of my dreams with the decision to be on the WSD board. I am honored to be on the board because it gives me an opportunity to serve my community. Going back 15 years, I would have never imagined myself completing college or holding a professional job, let alone be on a school board. Several unlikely turns and twists in my life have landed me on this board today. Thus, I will not squander this unlikely opportunity to serve the community. I look forward to engaging even more with the community and listen to everyone's voices.

SBAC Testing Schedule

By Michael Eppolito, Director of Curriculum, meppolito@wsdvt.org

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test assesses students in grades 4-5 in both Math and English Language Arts (3rd grade testing took place at the end of April). Additionally, 5th grade students will take the Vermont Science Assessment (VTSA) to assess their content knowledge and proficiency skills in science. Please encourage your children to work hard on the tests and get a good night's sleep before the testing.

See below for the assessment schedule and let me know if you have any questions.

4th Grade

• SBAC Testing - Monday, May 3rd - Friday, May 7th

5th Grade

- SBAC Testing Monday, May 10th Friday, May 14th
- VT Science Assessment Testing Monday, May 24th -Thursday, May 27th

6th - 8th Grade

- SBAC Testing Monday, May 17th Friday, May 21st
- VT Science Assessment Testing (for 8th Graders only) -Monday, May 17th - Friday, May 21st

9th Grade

 SBAC Testing - Wednesday, May 19th & Wednesday, May 26th

11th Grade

VT Science Assessment Testing - Wednesday, May 19th

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT

Construction Updates — May 2021

By Emily Hecker, WSD Communications Director

Construction is moving quickly in the new middle school area. The drywall is nearly complete and paint is already being applied. The outside of the new addition is starting to look like the final product. The bathrooms are being tiled and prepared for plumbing finishes.

In the new elementary school wing, the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing rough-in is just about complete, and the drywall is nearing completion.

As we shared last month, the new gym and new maintenance building are currently being used as temporary classroom and office space. The cafeteria renovation has begun! Demolition teams have cleared all partition walls, ceilings, flooring, etc. from the space originally used as the district offices, but more recently used as the Health Office. The Health Office has moved to the former JFK Main Office. And the JFK Main Office has moved to the old Health Office before it moved to the former Central Office. Yes, it's a bit like a complicated game of Tetris but so far everything is going very smoothly thanks to the extraordinary organizational skills of Executive Assistant Krista Parisi and Wellness

Coordinator Jaycie Puttlitz. The great news is that students will be able to enjoy meals in the new cafeteria when school starts back next fall!

The ReArch construction team is gearing up for a very busy summer, where they will be starting the addition on the main entry and the renovations on the existing gym, locker rooms, existing Performing Arts Center (which will become a black box theater/choir room), and the new Performing Arts Center.



Stevya Mukuzo and Abeer Al Zubaidy in their temporary office space in the new gym.



A classroom space set up for students in the new gym for their return after April break.



The construction wall where the new cafeteria will be located

WINOOSKI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent of Schools

Sean McMannon: 655-0485 smcmannon@wsdvt.org

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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

Tori Cleiland, *President*, 802-655-7678 tcleiland@wsdvt.org
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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.

www.wsdvt.org

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.

"District News!" is published by the Winooski School District, 60 Normand Street, Winooski, VT 05404. Anne Linton Elston, Editor. Phone: 802-655-0942. Email: newsletter@wsdvt.org

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN THE WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Winooski Restorative Justice for Multicultural Youth Project, launched in 2020, is a collaboration between the Winooski School District, Spectrum Youth and Family Services, UP for Learning, and the City of Winooski with funding from the Vermont Department of Children and Families and an anonymous donor. This monthly column will highlight the Restorative Justice work happening across the district among different groups. For more information please scan the QR code to visit our website.



Providing Space for Youth to Share Their Stories

By Carly Ngo and Kayla Loving

"All of my work is through the eyes of students," said Mary Simons from Conversations from the Open Road. As a youth advocate for the Youth-Adult Restorative Justice Team, Mary's main objective is to create awareness and communicate the work of the team to the larger audience. One of her primary methods in collecting authentic community experiences has been creating videos in which cultivating safe spaces for members on the team to tell their life stories is prioritized.

Before starting Conversations from the Open Road, Mary was an educator for many years. She decided to shift away from teaching because it didn't offer enough space to build relationships. She received her graduate degree in Education and Politics, and for her thesis she interviewed Vermont teachers about their perspectives on education. After working as an education consultant, she met with a mentor who encouraged her to create a program that modeled what she believed in – co-learning with students about culturally relevant issues. As a result, Conversations from the Open Road was conceived in 2011. It's a road-trip experience where students in "student journalism, digital media crew [are] probing the challenging issues and individual stories in our communities". In the past, they've traveled to and reported on a tiny house community, the justice system in New York City, the fishing industry in coastal Maine, and the addiction crisis in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mary's continued connection to Winooski has been through her high school counselor, Heidi McLaughlin. Heidi has not only been a tremendous supporter of Mary's work, but she has also planted the necessary seeds to help further Mary's work. Lindsey Halman from UP for Learning and one of the facilitators of the youth-adult team attended a presentation by Mary and some students she was working with. Lindsey noticed how Mary's focus on story-telling could help deepen the work of the youth-adult team and invited her to join.

Mary's work with the youth-adult team has been new for her. In the past, her role usually consisted of directing, organizing, and helping students figure out how they would like to share what they've learned. With the youth-adult team, Mary has been developing videos of conversations she's had with students about safety and belonging in the Winooski community. "It's embedded in the research cycle and helps everyone learn about the youth on the team." It supports expanding the student's understanding of belonging and uplifts their voices and powerful stories by encouraging them to speak their truth.

Mary met with each student individually either over Zoom

or outdoors around a campfire for approximately 45 minutes. She proposed a set of six questions to ask each student and suggested follow-up questions to delve even deeper. She gave each of them space to share their stories by asking guiding questions regarding how they grew up and what made them feel like they belonged when they were young. Lastly, Mary edited the conversations into short three to seven minute videos.

Mary loves learning from students and hearing their raw stories. "The youth show that there's [an] amazing heart in the Winooski community." Mary hopes to channel their energy and give them the space to cultivate their compassion and passion for a safe and inclusive community.

Check out the videos Mary has made by scanning the code below:



"I want to make Winooski a better place for anyone -Black, white, any color." -Passy Matendo

"IT'S NOT HARD TO FIND SOMEONE THAT SPEAKS YOUR OWN LANGUAGE TO TALK TO. THAT'S SOMETHING GREAT ABOUT WINOOSKI." -LUMIERE MBLIZI

"I miss fetching the water with my friends. Fetching the water would be like our social media cause you're walking and telling stories." -Nadine Ikizakubuntu

> "To me belonging is where people can come together and talk about anything and it doesn't feel like someone is left out." -Shristy Pradhan

"When people talk about relationships, they say the most important thing is communication, but it's not - it's comprehension - understanding what they're saying and really taking that in. -Dahler Moo

"To feel like we all belong, we would all have to be at peace, talking together, and not excluding anyone." -Xander Schattenkerk

Meet Katherine Blair, Director of Support Services & Early Learning

By Emily Hecker, WSD Director of Communications



For those of you who don't know Katherine already, we asked her a few questions so you can get to know her better.

How long have you been working at the WSD?

I'm finishing my 18th year. When I was initially hired, I was a special educator at the elementary school. I've worked every grade level. At first, I was a general special educator for three years. Then, the elementary school started up the Alternative Special Education program, so I started and taught that program for several years. After that, I was a general special educator for five years, and then I became the District Evaluator for all students throughout the district for Kindergarten through age 21.

Are you excited about learning certain aspects of your new role? How are you handling the transition?

Yes, I'm very excited about the new role. It's a huge job. Robin Hood (who is retiring from the Director of Support Services and Early Education position this year) has been a huge support. I finished my administrative internship with Robin last school year and learned a tremendous amount having her as a mentor.

Because I have worked at the WSD for so long, I already know a lot of the families and students, and I know the district's system. I expect this background knowledge will help make my transition to the new role smooth.

What do you hope to accomplish your first year in your new role?

I hope to keep everything going as smoothly as it has been with Robin! I want to build relationships. I want to look ahead — because special education changes a lot and recovery after COVID-19 will be a huge part of next year. I need to figure out exactly what we need to do to support our students and teachers to get past this extremely challenging time.

Will families who know you still be able to work with you?

As District Evaluator I am in contact with families frequently. This new role will be different. I will still have some personal interactions but it will be a little different. The Director of Support Services role is focused on advocacy and working with the special educators and the teaching teams to make sure they are meeting the needs of the students and families.

Parents know they can always call me if they have problems or questions. I envision I will continue my open door policy: if people have concerns or questions they can pop in and talk to me when they want.



You will also be in charge of the WSD's Early Learning Programs. After the completion of the Capital Project construction the district will be doubling PreK classes. What is your experience with Early Education?

Prior to coming to WSD I taught preschool for 11 years, so I strongly believe in the importance of early education. I'm committed to making sure our system is as strong as it can be and offering what we need to for our youngest students. Early education is the foundation we are building for our entire learning community.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Personally, my proudest accomplishment is my daughter. I raised her as a single parent and I'm extremely proud of her accomplishments and the person she has turned out to be.

What do you do for fun?

I love being outside and being active. I run and exercise a lot. I do yoga too - that's my stress reliever. I also enjoy reading, watching movies and spending time with friends and family. I'm pretty low-key!

Why do you heart Winooski?

I love the close knit community and the diversity and being part of a school that's very different from many other schools in Vermont. And I love our Special Education team. We have outstanding teachers and people who really work together well as a team.

I'm really excited and very grateful for the opportunity to serve Winooski's students and families!

LEGAL NOTIFICATION

Winooski School District Destruction of Records

Per the Vermont State Board of Education the Special Education Office of the Winooski School District hereby gives notification of the destruction of Special Education records of many students who graduated or attended the Winooski Schools during the following school years:

• 2013-2014

Be advised that select information from these Special Education records may be useful later for non-educational purposes such as qualifying for social security benefits.

If you wish to collect these records before they are destroyed, please contact Sandy Castle at 802-383-6009 or at scastle@wsdvt.org. The deadline is 30 days from this ad.

WSD Alumni Profile: Jessica Perrotte

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 of a person who should be featured, please email Emily Hecker, ehecker@wsdvt.org.

What do you currently do for work?

I'm a teacher at the Winooski School District. I've been there since 1998, so for 23 years! I've taught some of my current students' parents. I've also had friends who I went to school with, and I taught their children. It's these close knit connections that I just love.

Jessica Perrotte Class of 1992

there was the connection of the

I love giving back to the community that has given me so much. My husband is a WHS graduate as well and we couldn't imagine being anywhere else. Growing up, I had friends from all over the world. I learned from an early age that it is okay to think and learn in a different way. It is not only okay -- it is wonderful to be different.

It made us better humans and we wanted that for our kids as well. When I went on to college, I was better prepared because I was already flexible and open minded.

Tell us more about your life after high school.

After graduating, I went to UVM and got my degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Drama Arts. Theater made sense to me, because what is being a teacher if you're not "on stage" vying for your "audience's" or students' attention?

Next, I went back for my masters in Reading. This year, I've had to adapt again because I'm teaching first grade remotely through VTVLC. We were required to get our online teaching license. So, now I'm an Online Teaching Specialist. You adapt, you survive.

What's one of the fondest memories you have from your time at WHS?

In high school we used to have a lot of student voice and

choice for what we did for our extracurriculars and how we raised money for projects. One year we raised money through something we made up called "Mr. Spartan". It was like an old-fashioned beauty pageant but this time, the boys were trying to win the title of Mr. Spartan. The guys came up with comedy skits and held fashion shows for formal wear, advertising local prom rental places. It was a really fun, silly event and it went on for years.

What's the most valuable thing you learned as a WSD student?

Class of 1992 When I went to school our budgets never passed.

We never had enough money for textbooks. One year there was going to be a really big strike. My parents, and other Winooski teachers, went above and beyond to get their students the necessary resources. I remember thinking that no matter how much money you have you can still get a really good education.

Now that I'm a teacher, I always bring in food and supplies. I've never given out a list of supplies for students to buy. We don't do that anymore. Parents don't need to purchase anything for their students to learn. I remember going to the school and having friends who didn't have enough and I didn't want any of my students to feel they didn't have enough.

What advice do you give current WSD students?

Talk to your counselors early in high school about your interests. They can help you figure out what programs you might want to go into after high school or what colleges to apply to. There are so many ways to get college loans and scholarships. And, look into trade schools and apprenticeship programs. There are lots of opportunities in the trades and you can make really good money.

Why do you heart Winooski?

It's been my family's home, my parent's home, my grandparent's home. Home is where your heart is and I can't imagine my heart being anywhere else.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winooski PTO Update

By Kate Simone

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions in school this year, the Winooski PTO has been working hard to keep supporting our students, teachers, and staff. We held a drawing for gift baskets full of goodies this fall for teachers and staff to let them know how much we appreciate all their hard work this year! And recently, PTO member Joe Smith hosted this year's version of Celebrating Winooski's Talent (visit the Winooski PTO Facebook page

for some highlights)!

Now that the weather is getting nice, stay tuned for upcoming fundraising efforts that will benefit the students next year when we are again able to host inperson events:

- Dog Show
- Fun Run
- Golf Tournament

The PTO has a lot of exciting plans for the 2021-22 school year. Check out our

web site (https://www.wsdvt.org/parents-families/pto/) and our facebook page to see what's coming next. If you'd like to get involved with other parents and teachers, we meet on the third Wednesday of the month during the school year. If you're interested in learning more, email us at pto@wsdvt.org. We'd love to hear from you!

SCHOOL MATTERS — K TO 12

Making Change through Art & Politics

By WHS House A Teachers

In April, Winooski High School House A students had the opportunity to meet virtually with local artist Misoo Bang to discuss her work and how she uses art to make a statement. Students asked Misoo questions about her process and techniques, the value she sees in using art to create change in the world, and advice she has for student artists.

House A students also met virtually with Congressman Peter Welch. House A has been learning about how to engage in issues that are important to them and how they can use their voices to make positive change. Students asked Congressman Welch a variety of questions, such as his views on college tuition, immigration, transgender rights, climate change, and the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes.















Afterschool Programming: "It opens their worlds..."

An Interview with Literacy Teacher Jean Plasse, by Nancy Keller

Jean Plasse is the literacy teacher for Winooski Middle School's Newcomer program, a classroom devoted to students who are emergent English language learners. In a recent conversation with me, Jean explained how participating in WSD's 21C Afterschool programs has made a positive impact on her students' growth as English readers and writers.

In which after school programs have your students participated?

Last year, Bria Yasic (a former WSD ELL teacher) taught an afterschool program called, *English Games*, and over the summer, she did a science club and it was on Zoom because she saw a need for developing our student's background knowledge in science. They read books and played games, such as *Kahoot*. Today the students who were in Bria's classes always pick one of the games that Bria chose. It got them through the remote time.

This fall Maeve Polman (a WMHS teacher) came on board with the Library-Welcomes-You Program. She started the program by asking students, "What do you want to learn? What do you want to do?" They replied with reading, running, skiing, and painting and then Maeve made it happen and continued to do whatever they wanted. She reads books, plans some activities, gets them active with running or cross country skiing.

The program happens every day afterschool and remotely on Wednesdays for 1.5 hours. On some days there are more students than other days, but most children stay after school and hang out with Maeve. Yesterday they were working on the nutrition lesson plan that we had started in class and they were into it, so they were just able to continue their project after school. Maeve is very flexible, and is younger, so gets them.

In addition to Bria and Maeve, my students have participated in a variety of afterschool school programs over the years such as *Metro Rock, Knitting Club, Gardening Club*, the *Sewing Club*, and *Martial Arts*.

So how does participating in all of these activities help develop your students' literacy skills?

I think background knowledge is developed in after school programs. So much early reading is about context, about a student's understanding of the world around them.

For example, here is a book about sledding, so when they went sledding this year, they physically knew about sledding and they could use this understanding to read beginning literature.

Another example was with bubbles. Yes, bubbles. For some students who are new to the United States, there are not a lot of opportunities to encounter bubbles. In the afterschool program, they were playing with bubbles, and then later on one of the literacy tests there was an item about bubbles. Those who had played with bubbles in the after school program were able to make the text-to-self connection and were able to score higher on the test.

The extra life experience offered in the after school programs helps them connect to books. Many of the beginning reader books are developed for those students in an American culture, so those emergent readers from other cultures have a greater difficulty in making the text-to-self connections.

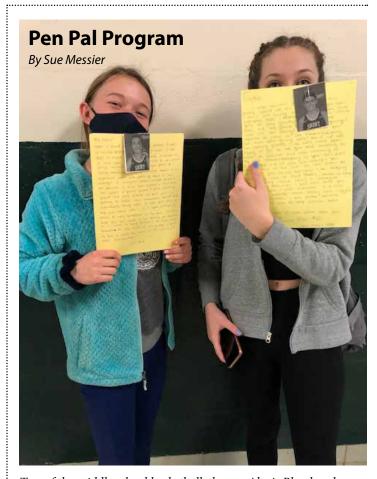
I have also noticed that the kids who tend to participate in afterschool programs are those who ask more questions in class.

And sometimes, it is just having another adult to make a connection for students. Matt Gile, our school's librarian, comes to Maeve's program and reads to them in funny voices. Maeve will bring in books on random things and reads to the students. The students even wrote little books about maple sugaring.

Overall, the students that participate in the free 21C Afterschool programs make more progress in literacy. It comes from reading practice and the development of background knowledge, which is so important. It is not a one-to-one relationship from their language into English which means that they have to experience English. Live in English. Having fun and doing it.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Having an afterschool program that is free and easily accessible is really big or else it would be much harder for my students to get anything. Any sort of experience plants the seed and exposes them to different things. They get a chance to be children which is a connection to literacy. The books are written for children. It opens their world, and as a result, opens their life choices.



Two of the middle school basketball players, Alexis Blend and Fayth White, show off their pen pal letters from their buddies on the Saint Michael's Women's basketball team.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Municipal Update May 2021

By Paul Sarne, Communications Coordinator



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, 9am-3pm 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 encouragedvisit *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*

Utility Disconnections

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

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.

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

- 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

Your City Officials	Email addresses	Telephone	
Mayor Kristine Lott	klott@winooskivt.gov	802-766-1988	
Councilor Hal Colston	hcolston@winooskivt.gov	802-922-2908	
Councilor James Duncan	jduncan@winooskivt.gov	802-310-7103	
Councilor Mike Myers	mmyers@winooskivt.gov	802-355-5348	
Councilor Bryn Oakleaf	boakleaf@winooskivt.gov 802-448-29		
City Manager Jessie Baker	jbaker@winooskivt.gov	802-655-6410	
Visit the city website at winooskivt.gov or call 802-655-6410.			

Keep up to date with announcements and news:



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FOLLOW US ON TWITTER We are @winooskivt

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

Wear a Mask or Face Covering in Winooski



Governor Phil Scott's Statewide mask mandate remains in effect. The mandate 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: winooskivt.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

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 in Winooski

The City of Winooski has partnered with the Vermont Department of Health and CIC Health to provide daily on-going COVID-19 testing in Winooski at the O'Brien Community Center (32 Malletts Bay Ave) Registration is preferred, but walk-ups are welcome. Testing hours and availability vary from month-to-month. To view the current schedule, please visit winooskivt.gov/covid-19.

For registration help in English: Call 211 or 802 828 2828.

For registration help in other languages: Call 802 503 5402 or 802 355 0795

Interpreters will be provided at all Winooski events.

Transportation options are available. To schedule transportation to the COVID-19 testing site, please call the Vermont Public Transportation Association at least two days before the appointment: 833 387 7200.

The Health Department recommends testing as soon as possible when:

- you have symptoms of COVID-19
- you are referred by your health care provider
- a person in your workplace or household, or a person you attended an event with, tests positive for COVID-19
- you plan on going to a social gathering with people you don't live with (other than recreating with one masked person outside). You should get tested before the gathering, right after, and again on day 7.

If you often gather socially with people you don't live with, you should get tested weekly.

College students returning to Vermont from out of state should quarantine and be tested on or after day 7 of quarantine after returning home.

Travelers to Vermont and Vermonters returning from out of state must follow quarantine requirements. You have the option to get a test on or after day 7 of quarantine and end your quarantine early with a negative test result.

Testing is provided at no cost. When you register you will be asked for insurance information – but, insurance is not required for testing, and you will not receive a bill or be charged a copay. The

Health Department encourages people to provide their insurance information when registering. Because the companies can be reimbursed for their charges, it offsets some costs to the state, allowing the Vermont Department of Health to continue offering widespread testing.



COVID-19 Vaccines

The State's COVID-19 vaccine initiative continues! To learn more about the process and eligibility, please visit healthvermont.gov/myvaccine or call 855 722 7878. To speak with someone in a language other than English, call this number, and then press 1.

Mayor's Update

By Kristine Lott, Mayor

Hello Winooski, I am extremely proud to announce that the City of Winooski has hired an Equity Director! Please join me in welcoming Yasamin Gordon to the team. Yasamin brings a wealth of experience



and passion to the position – please see our introduction of Yasamin later on in the newsletter. While on the topic, I want to share with you that the City Council, Staff, and commission members participated in Structural Competence and Cultural Humility training to learn about historic inequities that persist today. The training was led by Maria Mercedes Avila, Ph.D., a leading equity expert from the Governor's Workforce

Equity and Diversity Council. It was an incredibly valuable experience and I am thankful that so many of my colleagues participated.

In other news, our City Manager Jessie Baker will be leaving this month for a new role serving the City of South Burlington. We have appointed a search committee for hiring our next City Manager, which includes representatives from Council, Staff, the Winooski School District, residents, our business community, and a service provider for our new American neighbors. While the committee does represent varied voices, it does not include every voice in Winooski, so we really hope for members of the public to engage in this process. City Manager Search Committee meetings will be publicly warned on winooskivt. gov - please sign up for our email updates to get these meeting notifications. The committee's first task is to determine the competencies we want in our next City Manager. What kinds of professional experiences do you want our new City Manager to have? In addition to committee meetings, residents can also submit feedback by email or reach out to me directly. In the meantime, we'll appoint two co-interim City Managers from our Leadership Team to bridge the gap between Jessie Baker's departure on May 15 and the hiring of our new City Manager. Jessie has been a wonderful City Manager who made a positive impact on Winooski. I am sad to see her go and she leaves big shoes to fill, but I'm excited about interviewing great candidates who will bring a new perspective to Winooski.

Next, I'd like to give you a sound mitigation update. The Burlington International Airport plans to install a new noise monitoring system in July 2021. The system will include a monitor right at City Hall (27 W. Allen St.) and an online portal will be available for the public to access local data. They are also beginning design work for the noise insulation program, which should become available to some homes in Winooski in 2022. We will help advertise that program once they begin enrolling residents. To learn more, please visit btvsound.com.

Finally, in COVID-19 news, we continue to advocate for testing, vaccination, and other public health

approaches. I want to thank all of you for continuing to follow the State's health and safety guidance and make note of the amazing work done by our community partners in this effort. We are committed to holding the values of a safe, healthy, and connected community for everyone. To see the current testing schedule and Winooski-related updates, please visit winooskivt.gov/covid-19. If you are eligible for vaccination, please visit healthvermont.gov/myvaccine to learn more and sign up. Things are looking up as we move into spring - I'm excited for a return to outdoor events, for the reopening of the Myers Memorial Pool, and other fun community events as public safety guidelines allow! In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy.



Farewell from Jessie Baker, City Manager

Dear Neighbors,

May 15th is my last day as City
Manager of Winooski. It has been
the honor of my career to serve this
community with our team of professional
staff, committed elected officials, and
strong community partners. As I look
back on the last four years, I'm humbled
by how much we have accomplished.
Through community conversations, goal
setting, and the use of municipal best
practices, together we have:

- Adopted a new comprehensive plan for the City, setting the course for the next five years guided by our shared community vision.
- Focused on equity and inclusion efforts to ensure that we provide services in an accessible way to all and that we move toward a future where those making community decisions accurately reflect the demographics of our community.
- Supported our growing business community by creating the Winooski Small Business Loan Program and strengthening our partnership with

- Downtown Winooski.
- Modernized our Wastewater Treatment Plan with our Headworks Rehabilitation Project.
- Completed construction on the Myers Memorial Pool scheduled to open this June!
- Embarked on the Main Street Revitalization Project set to start construction in 2022.
- Embedded case workers in our Police
 Department to ensure that residents
 receive mental health and substance use
 services quickly and efficiently through
 the Community Outreach Team.
- Implemented a Local Options Tax and brought in over \$12M in grants and low interest loans as a step to diversify our revenue streams and lower the burden on tax payers.
- Created a path forward to fully retire the Tax Increment Financing debt in 2024 and return \$1M in revenue to the City's General Fund.
- Re-branded, launched a new and improved website, increased our communication channels, and established new ways to engage our residents.
- And we have weathered COVID-19 and are poised to come out of the pandemic stronger than ever.

I am so thankful for the trust you placed in me and your collective efforts to implement these community improvements. I want to especially thank Mayor Seth Leonard, Mayor Kristine Lott, and the ten City Councilors I have worked with over the years. Each of you have given of yourselves to guide me and the community through changes and big decisions. I'm thankful for your counsel, your commitment to Winooski, and your service to make Winooski an even better place.

Every day I have learned from staff, elected officials, and residents of Winooski and am a better manager for these lessons. Winooski is an incredibly special place. I'm thankful to each of you who choose to call Winooski home and make it a bit brighter and stronger for your involvement in the community. I look forward to continuing to live in Winooski and look forward to seeing you around town from time to time



Welcoming Yasamin Gordon, Winooski's New Equity Director

The City of Winooski is excited to welcome Yasamin Gordon (she/her) as the City's first Equity Director on May 10th! Yasamin brings a passion for, and experience in equity and inclusion advocacy, as well as community outreach and restorative practices, to the Winooski team and community. Most recently, Yasamin held the positions of Lead Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coach for the Champlain Valley School District and Planning Room Director for Shelburne Community School, where her work included developing and implementing a district-wide DEI Coaching model. In addition, Yasamin brings training in Equity Leadership and experience as both a community and professional Equity Facilitator to her new position.

Throughout her career, Yasamin has been actively involved in the development of initiatives that foster a culturally inclusive and equitable environment, and has been heavily involved in the interruption and dismantling of systemic racism.

As Equity Director, Yasamin will focus on the implementation of the Working Communities Challenge Grant, as well as develop and implement a community engagement strategy to increase participation in local government among under-represented populations and achieve fair and equitable outcomes for all residents.

Yasamin shares the following message: "My aim is to use the Equity Director Position to ensure that every human within the Winooski community has what they need, to feel like they belong and to know that their voice matters".



Main Street Revitalization Contact Info Request

The Main Street Revitalization Project is targeting a construction start in the spring of 2022. Maintaining clear communication with residents and property owners during the project is a priority for the City. Therefore, we are requesting contact information from each household and business located within the current project area. If you own or rent a residence or business in the current project area (see map at winooskivt.gov/ mainstreet) the Department of Public Works will be leaving door hangers with a request for contact information. You can receive future updates about the project by doing one of the following:

- If you have internet access, please complete the online info intake form at winooskivt.gov/mainstreet.
- If you do not have internet access, please call 802 734 0022 leave a voicemail with your name, street address, and daytime phone number.

If you are a property owner, please review the latest draft of the project's Right of Way plans at winooskivt.gov/mainstreet. The City will require a temporary easement or permanent easement or both from most property owners in the project area. Please contact us at your earliest convenience to discuss the ROW process: 802 734 0022 / mainstreet@winooskivt.gov



Winooski Concrete Repair Project

Please see the following construction update from the Vermont Department of Transportation:

- U.S. Route 7 and West Allen St. (Winooski Rotary)
- Projected Completion: October 2021 Traffic Impact: Once this project

commences, work will be completed at night, from approximately 7 PM – 6 AM. Work in the parking stall areas in front of the businesses from West Canal Street to the post office (behind the small concrete islands) may not commence until 9 PM. Single lane traffic will be in effect at night during active construction. All lanes and parking areas will be fully opened each morning prior to the contractor leaving for the day.

For the project fact sheet and updates, please visit *vtrans.vermont.gov*.

Questions regarding this project can be sent to Natalie Boyle, EIV Public Information Consultant: 802 855 3893 / nboyle@eivtech.com

F-35 Town Meeting Day Ballot Item Update

On March 16th, 2021, the City of Winooski sent a communication, as per the request of the voters of Winooski, to Governor Phil Scott and our representatives requesting the halt of F-35 training flights in our densely populated community. You can view this communication at winooskivt.gov/soundmitigation.

The letter has been received by the Governor's Office and was copied to the following officials:

- Senator Patrick Leahy
- Senator Bernie Sanders
- Representative Peter Welch Major
- General Gregory Knight
- Mayor Miro Weinberger
- Mayor Kristine Lott and the Winooski City Council

Senator Sander's and Congressman Welch's offices have acknowledged receipt of the communication, though no formal responses have been received to date. We will continue to share updates should further communication be received. Questions regarding this update can be sent to Mayor Kristine Lott: klott@winooskivt.gov

Community Services Updates



Thrive Summer Camp

Thrive After School proudly presents our 2021 Summer Camp! This program is designed to engage kids (grades K - 5) in outdoor exploration, STEM activities, artistic expression, trips to the pool, and fun in the sun.

- 6 weeks of camp
- 6.21.21 7.31.21
- full day weeks, \$160/wk & half-day weeks, \$100/wk
- To sign up, visit *winooskivt.gov/thrive*We have an amazing schedule of activity weeks planned!

Week 1 - **Slime Time** - Explore and learn about all things messy, slimy, and sensory.

Week 2 - Aquatic Adventures - We'll learn about amazing aquatic ecosystems and the animals that live in them, as well as spend plenty of time cooling off with water balloons, boat-building challenges, and watercolor arts.

Week 3 - **Animal Planet** - This week at Thrive we'll play animal trivia, learn about adaptations, and go on our own mini-safari to survey the species that live in Winooski.

Week 4 - **Edible Engineering** - Engage in hands-on activities that are both delicious and fun. We'll build and use solar ovens, design structures using

edible ingredients, and explore chemical reactions that create tasty treats.

Week 5 - Fairy Tale STEM - We'll read and explore different fairy tales and design our own versions of wolf-proof houses, beanstalk parachutes, rainbow

towers, and more!

Week 6 - Makerspace Creations -Our classroom will transform into a maker space, complete with a 3D printer. Students will think like inventors and artists as they make robots, racecars, rollercoasters, and their own 3D-printed creations.

As a licensed program, we accept state subsidies to cover the cost of Thrive. Some scholarships are available to meet additional financial needs. Questions regarding this program can be sent to Kate Anderson, Children and Family Programs Manager: kanderson@ winooskivt.gov.

Winooski Memorial Library

Browse and Borrow

The Winooski Memorial Library remains open by appointment for 30 minute "Browse and



Borrow" sessions. Visitors and staff are required to wear masks and maintain a minimum 6' social distance while inside the library at all times. Visits are limited to one individual or household/family group, and a family group is up to four people who all live together in the same household. Children under 10 must be accompanied at all times by a parent or caregiver 16 and older. Visit to check out books, access computer and printing, and to use the copier.

For full details and to make your reservation today, please visit winooskivt. gov/library or call 802 655 6424.

Cook the Book Virtual Cooking Series

Calling all aspiring chefs, home foodies, or those new to the kitchen - join our virtual cooking series and learn to prepare a healthy and delicious recipe in real time with a local chef! Our featured May guest is Alganesh Michael, Founder of A Taste of Abyssinia, who will be introducing participants to Ethiopian and Eritrean recipes and ingredients. Free to take part, email or call Nate Eddy, Library Director, at neddy@winooskivt.gov / 802 655 6424



Winooski Reads Book Group

The Winooski Library is excited to offer a chance to participate in our new Winooski Reads Book Club for adult readers (18+)! Join your friends and neighbors for a lively discussion of each month's selected title and share your thoughts, insights, and reactions to the book. Free to take part, email or call Nate Eddy, Library Director: neddy@ winooskivt.gov / 802 655 6424

Memorial Park StoryWalk®

The Winooski Memorial Library and Winooski Recreation and Parks have teamed up to provide a brand new StoryWalk® installation at Memorial Park! StoryWalk® is an innovative and delightful way for children - and adults - to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Laminated pages from a children's book are attached to wooden stakes, which are installed along an outdoor path. As you stroll down the trail, you're directed to the next page in the story. Learn all about local forest habitat during an adventure stroll along Memorial Park - readers of all ages are invited to follow along with Over in the Forest: Come and Take a Peek, a counting book about animals and their woodland habitats. While you're counting squirrels and turtles and deer in the book, keep an eye out for them in the park! How many real animals did you find? Available April 21 - May 2, 2021 This is a drop-in, self-guided program. Enter Memorial Park from the Forest Street

entrance. Questions? Call or email Nate Eddy, Library Director: 802 655 6424 / neddy@winooskivt.gov

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.



Virtual Dungeons and Dragons

Welcome to the world of cooperative narrative role play where the story is told by participant players! Build amazing worlds and learn all about collaborative storytelling through our series of information and gaming sessions. This program is designed for youth ages 10 -18 and parents are welcome to participate. Join us via Zoom on Mondays from 4 -6pm (elementary) and 6 - 8pm (middle/ high school). To sign up, call or email Josh Neilson, Youth Services Coordinator: jneilson@winooskivt.gov / 802 655 6424



Virtual Academic & Career Support

The Winooski Memorial Library is proud to continue to provide academic & career support for students!

Our Virtual Academic & Career Support is here to help you with your challenging assignments for class and life. Are you stuck on an assignment? Trying to write an essay for your college applications? Applying for a job? We've got the support you need - experienced community volunteers and tutors from the University of Vermont's Education Program will personally help you with your academic and professional development.

Monday-Thursday, 4:30pm-7:30pm Virtual/remote sessions via Zoom* Now featuring special breakout sessions-give your brain a break and enjoy one of our special activities!

Pictionary Tuesdays / 3-4:30pm-Play a round of Pictionary with us. In this quick-draw classic, the guesses can be just as hilarious as the sketches. You only need your imagination.

Karaoke Wednesdays / 3-4:30pm-Sing your favorite songs karaoke-style with your friends.

Jeopardy Thursdays / 3-4:40pm-Tutors will test your trivia knowledge in this gameshow favorite.

To sign up, call or email Josh Neilson, Youth Services Coordinator, at jneilson@ winooskivt.gov / 802 655 6424

*Participants will receive a custom Zoom link and password for attendance before the session begins.



Outdoor Storytime

Starting in May and throughout the summer, join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 AM for our Outdoor Storytime program! We'll be reading our favorite books, singing songs, doing a little dancing, and sharing in fun. Masks and social distancing required. Weather permitting. No registration required. Find us behind the library on the lawn!



Tabletop Games

Bring your friends, bring your family, or just bring along yourself to play some tabletop games on Thursdays at noon, starting in May. This all-ages program invites community members to enjoy gaming with friends and neighbors - we'll have cards, dominoes, chess, cribbage, and more! Have a favorite of your own? Introduce us to something new! We hope to see you there. Masks and social distancing required. Weather permitting. No registration required.

Recreation and Parks



2021 Myers Pool Passes Now Available

The City of Winooski is excited to announce that 2021 seasonal passes are now available for the Myers Memorial Pool. To get your season passes today, please visit winooskivt.gov/pool.

Passes:

- Adult Season Pass (18-54)-\$60 resident,
 \$75 non-resident
- Family Season Pass (all ages)-\$120 resident, \$150 non-resident
- Senior Season Pass (55/up)-\$45 resident, \$56 non-resident
- Youth Season Pass (17/under)-\$45 resident, \$56 non-resident Payment Plans & Scholarships
- Payment plans are available for all season pass purchases. A down payments of \$5.00 is required for Adult, Senior & Youth Passes and \$20.00 for Family Passes. The remaining balance will be split across 4 payments due 6/1, 7/1, 8/1, and 9/1.

Lap Swim Schedule:

- Weekdays 7am-9pm (Tuesdays-Reserved for women only schedule)
- Tuesdays 7pm-8pm
 Open Swim Schedule:
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday / 12pm-5pm
- Tuesday, Thursday / 2pm-7pm
- Saturday 12pm-8pm
- Sunday 12pm-6pm

Information regarding operational dates and aquatic programming for the 2021 season will be posted in the spring.

COVID-19 Disclaimer: The City of Winooski continues to adhere to the guidance provided by the Vermont Department of Health. While the City plans to operate the Myers Memorial Pool in summer 2021, certain restrictions may be in place. Restrictions include but are not limited to: limited capacity, time slot reservations for open swim, closed locker room facilities, mask requirements, and social distancing. In the event the Myers Memorial Pool is not allowed to operate,

all season pass holders will receive a full refund, or a pro-rated refund if closure occurs after pool operations have begun.

Questions about the Myers Memorial Pool and season pass scholarships can be sent to Jenny Hill, Recreation Programs Manager: jhill@winooskivt.gov / 802 777 1621

Green Up Day

The City of Winooski is proud to join our fellow Vermonters for Green Up Day! Saturday, May 1, 2021 / 9 AM – 12 PM Residents can pick up their Green Up bags at the following locations:

- Winooski City Hall 27 West Allen St. (up to April 30)
- O'Brien Community Center 32 Malletts Bay Ave. (day-of)
- Winooski Armory 50 Park St. @ LaFountain (day-of)

Once you've got your bag, feel free to choose an area of the City or a Public Park to "Green Up".

- Staff and volunteers will be at the O'Brien Community Center handing out bags, safety information, and bottled water.
- Masks and 6' social distancing are required to pick up bags at any location.
- When out and about, please wear your mask around others and keep a 6' distance at all times.
- Gloves and appropriate clothing (for sun and or rain) are recommended.
- Please do not pick up sharp or dangerous objects. Suspicious objects should be reported to the Winooski Police Department by using their nonemergency phone line: 802 655 0221 Disposing of your filled Green Up Day bags:
- A dumpster will be provided in the O'Brien Community Center parking lot for Green Up Bag disposal. You may also leave your sealed bags safely out of the way of vehicles and pedestrians near the location you picked up - the City will be picking up discarded bags after 12 PM and on Sunday, May 2nd.
- If you would like to report remaining Green Up Day bags that we may have missed, please email our Parks Manager, Gwennie Talbot: gtalbot@ winooskivt.gov
- If you find or want to get rid of nonlitter and large items (such as tires and household junk) please bring them to

your preferred trash/recycling center.

 CSWD offers a helpful A - Z list of things they will accept - view at cswd. net.

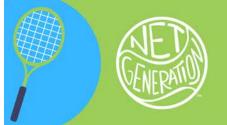
E-Waste Recycling Available:

Our friends at Good Point Recycling will also provide an e-waste disposal option at the O'Brien Community Center. Do you have computer parts, outdated tech, or old electronics? Bring them by they'll be set up in the parking lot!

About Green Up Day:

"Green Up Vermont's mission is to promote the stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways, and the livability of our communities by involving people in Green Up Day while raising public awareness about the health, economic, and visual benefits of a litterfree environment year-round."

Questions regarding Green Up Day in Winooski can be sent to Molly Schneider, Community Engagement Coordinator: volunteer@winooskivt.gov



Tennis in the Park

Winooski Recreation and Parks are excited to announce our partnership with the US Tennis Association and Net Generation's "Tennis in the Parks" program! This program is designed for everyone - youth and adult sessions are available right here in Winooski at Landry Park. Participants will learn the skills to serve, rally, and play using the latest fun and engaging techniques. Led by an approved USTA/Net Generation coach, first-time players can feel confident in their new skills and play fun matches with other players in the program.

- Sign up @ winooskivt.gov/rec
- This program will run from 5/4/21 6/8/21.
- 18+ / Thursdays / \$75
- 6th grade 8th grade / Tuesdays / \$65
- 3rd grade 5th grade / Tuesdays / \$65

This program uses age-appropriate rackets, tennis balls, and court sizes. Participants will receive and keep a new racquet, ball, and Net Generation tee shirt during their first session!

COVID-19 precautions apply: the program will incorporate a small group size, pre-session temperature checks, physical distancing, and masks (required) to support the health and safety of participants and staff.



Middle School Nature Walks

We've partnered with the Winooski Valley Park District to offer a new Nature Walk program for middle school students! Do you love Winooski's parks and nature areas as much as we do? Participants are invited to join us and explore Winooski's best nature walks, parks, and open spaces. This program offers 5 weekly sessions in which our Eco-Educators will teach students to use their senses and basic techniques while we discover and identify Winooski's native wildlife, plants, and trees. Jot your findings down in your very own ecological exploration journal (provided at no cost!)

May 5-26

Wednesdays, 2 - 3 PM @ Casavant Nature Area

Sign up today @ winooskivt.gov/rec

Adult Soccer Tennis

Winooski Recreation and Parks are excited to announce our brand-new Adult Soccer Tennis League! Do you love soccer? Do you love tennis? Are you looking for a new outdoor activity with a friend? We're looking for teams of two to play in our league over the summer. This super fun and dynamic outdoor game combines aspects of soccer, tennis, and volleyball!

- Visit *winooskivt.gov/rec* to sign up today.
- 18+ \$20 residents, \$30 non-residents
- Sundays & Mondays / 6.20.21 7.26.21
 / 6 PM 10 PM at the Landry Park tennis court

Winooski Senior Center

By Barb Pitfido, Senior Programs Manager

As we continue to practice steps to stay safe and work on decreasing the spread of COVID-19 in our community, we want 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.

Meals on Wheels

If you know of an older Vermonter 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.

More than a Meal

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 for the weekly menu and to register for this program.

Pop Up To-Go Cafes

Looking to get outside? Stop by our one of our free once a month Outdoor Pop Up To-Go Cafes. Have a hot drink and bring a home a treat bag. Walk up and pick up or stay in your car and we'll deliver to you. Please wear a mask. Stop by from 1-2pm. Reservations are required. Call us at 802 655 6425.

Sunday April 18th - April in Paris! Sunday May 16th - Cookie Love!

Senior Library Time

Tuesday is Senior Day at the Winooski Memorial Library. Visitors and staff are required to wear masks and maintain a minimum 6' social distance while inside the library at all times. For full details and to make your reservation, please visit winooskivt. gov/library or call the Library at 802 655 6424.

AARP TaxAide

Our partners at AARP TaxAide have come back to the Senior Center this year! They are here for appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays for free tax filing assistance. Call the Senior Center at 802 655 6425 and leave a message, and someone will call you back to schedule your time.

AARP Smart Driver Online Course

When you take the AARP Smart Driver™ online course, you could be eligible for a multi-year discount on your auto insurance. Plus safer driving can save you more than just money. The course teaches proven driving techniques to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road. Taking the online course is convenient and cost-effective. And you get 60 days to complete it! Go to www. aarpdriversafety.org

YOUR LOCAL MEDIA

Watch local programs, regional events, and municipal meetings on cable TV and online. Learn how to make your own community media.



- VERMONTCAM.ORG + Channels 15 (BT), HD 215 (BT), 1074 (Comcast)
- RETN.ORG + Channels 16 (BT), BTV-HD 216 (BT), 1094 (Comcast)
- CH17.TV + Channels 17 (BT), 217 HD (BT), 317 (BT), 1087 (Comcast)









VOLUNTEER CORNER

To learn more and apply for any of our volunteer opportunities, please visit winooskivt.gov/volunteer.

Winooski Run/Ride Club Ambassadors

Under the direction of Recreation and Parks, Run/Ride Club Ambassadors will aid the Recreation Programs
Manager in the creation and facilitation of weekly (weather dependent) group runs/rides. These weekly community exercise opportunities will cater to all skill levels all while remaining local, reminding participants that Winooski has plenty to offer in terms of fun, safe opportunities to get on your bike or go for a run.

Students will journal their findings

in this ecological investigation of their hometown. Ultimately, our volunteer will work alongside Winooski's Youth Programs Coordinator to help facilitate a fun and educational experience for middle schoolers.

Spring/Summer Yoga Instructors

Winooski Recreation and Parks are looking for enthusiastic, creative, and passionate volunteer yoga instructors who can partner with us on an outdoor, public parks Yoga program we're planning for the spring/summer months. Looking to give back to the community? If you are a certified 200-

hour RYT and interested in getting involved, please call or email Jenny Hill, Recreation Programs Manager: 802 777 1621 / jhill@winooskivt.gov.

Meals on Wheels

Our Meals on Wheels program is made possible through our partnership with Age Well and is operated through the Winooski Senior Center. We are currently looking for volunteers to deliver meals in Winooski, M-F. Meal pick up is located at the Winooski Senior Center (9:30am) and the current route takes about an hour.

Howard Center May Update

By Adam C. Brooks, Assistant Director of Communications

May is Mental Health Awareness month and we would like to encourage you to set aside time to think about your own mental health, and the mental health of those you care about. It's been more challenging to connect with friends and family during the pandemic but the nicer Vermont weather give us more opportunity to connect outside safely, and to support one another while enjoying a walk or hike.

It's widely recognized that mental health and physical health are related. The World Health Organization states, "Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Here are tips for taking care of your mental health, by taking care of your physical health:

- · Take a hike.
- Get some sleep.
- Watch what you eat.
- · Avoid smoking.
- Go easy on the alcohol.
- · Reach out.

Howard Center has compiled an array of health and wellness tips that may help you with your mental and physical health goals, including:

"Connect with nature. Enjoy the lake, savor views from a mountain top, appreciate solitude in the woods, work in the garden."

"Sometimes it's the little things that make a difference. Holding a door for someone, shoveling a neighbor's walkway, or contributing food items to a local donation bin — these are just a few things that can help us feel connected with neighbors and community."

These are available at https://howardcenter. org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/



HC_2020_AR-HealthWellness-Deck_WEB.pdf or you may request the deck of tips by emailing abrooks@howardcenter.org.

If you need additional assistance, please contact our Access and Intake Main Number 802-488-6000. They are available M-F 8:00am – 6:00pm and our staff will help you find the services that best fit your need. Our First Call for Chittenden County crisis hotline 802-488-7777 is available 24/7/365.

Winooski Playgroup

By Martina Kerkering

Dear families, caregivers, and kids!
Spring is finally here! Everyone
is getting excited to play outside!
Winooski playgroup is slowly looking
into in-person playtime! Be on the
lookout for dates and times!



In the meantime, please be in touch via email, text messages, or the NEW Facebook group: Let's play. I look forward to hearing from you! mkerkering@howardcenter.org or (802) 324 6405.

Girl Scouts in Winooski — May Update

By Amy Snow Lothrop

Thank you to everyone who purchased Girl Scout cookies, either from us or another Girl Scout. 100% of the proceeds from cookie sales remains right here in our VT and NH council. You funded scholarships, camper-ships, summer camps, uniforms, trips, camping, robotics, archery, higher awards and so much more. Overall, we sold #8,628 boxes of cookies. #310 boxes were part of the Gift of Caring program. This program distributed cookies to first responders in VT and NH as well as the military. Your support allows our girls to thrive in a program designed to build courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place.

The Daisy Girl Scouts of Troop 58806 have been working on their leaves and petals. We earned our safety pin. The girls had to learn how to use 9-1-1 appropriately. We had fun practicing our stop, drop and roll in case we were on fire. We also earned our Use Resources Wisely petal. We looked through our recycling bins and brainstormed ways to use less packaging to leave our world a better place. We enjoyed a video tour of the CSWD to learn how our recyclables transform. We also earned our Promise Center which demonstrated their



Troop 30948 Junior, Cadette & Ambassadors wearing their disguises.

knowledge of the Girl Scout Promise.

The Brownies have been busy earning their Computer Expert, STEM career exploration, My Best Self, My Family Story badges. To earn their Computer Expert badge, the girls went online and learned to paint/draw with an art program. My Family Story is an exploration of who we are. The girls create a family tree story about where they are from. They share their stories and artifacts with each other. My Best Self helps the girls learn what they need to be healthy.

In February, Juniors, Cadettes and Ambassadors worked on the Detective and Special Agent badges. We had fun with a digital escape room (puzzle solving and code breaking), learned how spies use disguise (see photo of the troop members in disguise) We learned some of the spy tactics used in the Revolutionary War, and discussed Body Language. In March we worked on our Drawing badge by developing personal logos, exploring perspective, textures and having fun with Zentangles.

On March 12th, we celebrated the 109th anniversary of Girl Scouting to earn our Girl Scout Way badge. Juliette Gordon Low

was influenced by her friendship with Lord Baden and Olave Powell to develop an organization that fully supported girls in having equal access to opportunity. She returned to Savannah, GA from the UK and founded Girl Scouts in 1912. Over Zoom, we made mug cakes and sang Happy Birthday. We created and decorated Flat Juliettes. We capped off our birthday celebration with a dance party. We attached glow sticks to transform ourselves into dancing skeletons. Lights out and music up! We had a blast.

We are Girl Scouts from Daisy to Ambassador level and open to all girls. If you are interested in joining our adventure, contact Amy Snow Lothrop via WinooskiTroops@gmail.com or 802-373-7288. Stay well.

Book Your Special Event Now with North End Studios at the O'Brien Community Center

Everyone is dreaming about getting back to some sort of "normal" and gathering with family and friends as we did before the pandemic. If you are beginning to think about booking an event for 2021/2022, we would love to help you make that happen!

North End Studios' Winooski location, located inside of the O'Brien Community Center, has a Ballroom for larger celebrations such as weddings or bar mitzvahs, and can also be rented for concerts or other large community or private events. We also have smaller rooms including a Dance Studio, and a Community Room for more intimate gatherings such as birthday and anniversary parties, as well as corporate

trainings, board meetings or workshops.

Also, did you know that North End Studios is home to a Commercial Kitchen? There are very few commercial kitchens in the Winooski/Burlington area that you can rent by the hour. This space is well suited for industry professionals as well as folks looking to start their very own fledgling baking or catering business. This kitchen meets all health department specifications and will get you moving toward your cooking/baking dreams.

For more information, contact our Event Coordinator via email: joe@VPAL-us.org, or by calling 802-863-6713.





Winooski Partnership For Prevention

Winooski Students Write to Local Businesses

Winooski students are combating substance industry tactics that look to encourage underage substance-use. Students involved in the Above the Influence (ATI) after-school program worked together to identify local businesses that place alcohol products next to or within three feet of items intended for youth (such as animal crackers or stuffed animals). As a result of these conversations, students wrote a collaborative letter to Trader Joe's asking that substances – specifically alcoholic beverages - not be grouped with youth products. Within the letter, ATI students called attention to the fact that alcohol and tobacco products are often created using colorful branding and youthinspired flavors in the hopes of developing lifetime users. They additionally argued that certain products can be confusing for young people when labels look so similar. Does your student want to get involved? Reach out to Kate Nugent at katenugent@ winooskiprevention.org.

May Winooski Clean-Up Day and Take-Out Community Dinner

In October 2020, the Winooski Partnership for Prevention and Above the Influence students conducted a clean-up along the pathway to school. The most littered item, by far, were cigarette butts and other tobacco debris. In an effort to make sure that the walk to school is clear of substances, and to ensure that our city's soil and waterways stay clear of hazardous pollution, we'll

be hosting another Winooski Clean-Up Day this month! Following the clean-up, we'll be offering free meals as part of one of our take-out community dinners (highlighting a local chef). The date of the clean-up is still being worked out with the chef, but sign-up for our newsletter at winooskiprevention.org for more details.

Know that you want to join us? Reach out to Jane at jane@winooskiprevention.org to sign-up!

Talking to Your Student About Alcohol

In order to keep Winooski youth safe, parents and caretakers must be starting a conversation around alcohol-use. According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, kids who drink are more likel

and Alcoholism, kids who drink are more likely to be victims of violent crime, to be involved in alcohol-related traffic crashes, and to have serious school-related problems.

Developing open, trusting communication between you and your child is essential to helping him or her avoid underage alcohol use. Looking for ways to get the conversation started? Scan the QR code (using the camera on your phone) or visit our website to see resources for parents.





Winooski Food Shelf Schedule for May

By Linda Howe, Winooski Food Shelf Coordinator

Saturday, May 8th	9:30 am to 11:00 am	Fresh food and diapers	
Wednesday, May 12th	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Pantry staples, eggs, meat and diapers	
Saturday, May 22nd	9:30 am to 11:00 am	Fresh food and diapers	
Wednesday, May 26th	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Pantry staples, eggs, meat and diapers	

Spring is here! We are looking forward to restarting our Saturday distributions outside where clients can select their own food items.

Food Shelf Policy: Winooski residents coming for the first time should bring proof that you live in Winooski such as a utility bill or rental lease. Winooski residents may access the pantry staples one Wednesday each month. They may also come both Saturdays to stock up on bread, pastry and some fresh fruits and veggies. Shaw's in Colchester and Winooski's own Commodities Natural Market help supply Saturday's food.

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 website: winooskifoodshelf. org and make an electronic donation.

Donation Drop Off Locations: Please do not leave food on our doorstep when we are closed. Instead, please bring unexpired and unopened food donations to: Commodities Natural Market, 65 Winooski Falls Way, phone: 448-3340 or to J & J's Corner Market, 12 Malletts Bay Avenue, phone: 654-8003. We especially need toiletries: toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, shampoo, disposable razors and toilet paper. Thank you for caring about our neighbors!

Food Shelf Volunteers Needed

If you have some free time and would like to do some pickups and deliveries, pack food boxes, set up for food shelves or serve our clients, please reach out to us at our e-mail address: winooskifoodshelf@gmail.com. We have a great group of volunteers but always need more. We especially need help serving clients on Wednesdays. Volunteers should be able to lift 25 pounds.

HEALTH CORNER

Happy Spring from the Health Office!

By Katharine Monje RN BSN, School Nurse

There is a lot happening around here as we enter the last weeks of the school year.

As vaccination administration continues, Vermonters are progressing through the state's reopening plan Middle School students are now in person learning 4 days a week. Please screen your kids at home for fever and any signs or symptoms of covid. If your kids are unwell, please do not send them to school. Call the WSD COVID-19 Hotline with questions at 802 556 2243.

Here are some highlights from the state's school guidelines:

1. COVID Symptom Screenings

There will no longer be temperature checks upon entering the school building. Parents, students and staff are expected to screen prior to arrival for the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Fever >100.4F
- · SOB difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain or body aches
- · Headache
- · Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea (frequent loose or watery stools compared to ones normal pattern)

One staff member will continue to monitor the entrances for proper mask wearing and hand sanitizing

Daily staff attestation form is no longer required, but staff are expected to perform a self-screening prior to coming to work each day.

2. Travel Guidance Changes

- Unvaccinated individuals may travel without quarantine.
- No quarantine required with a negative covid test result within 3 days of arrival in or return to the state.
- The choice to test is on the honor system and will not be monitored by the COVID Coordinators.

3. Mitigation measures

- Masks and physical distancing will still be required when in the presence of those outside your household
- Unvaccinated staff or students who have been identified as a close contact should quarantine

4. Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Surface transmission is not the main route of transmission.
- Cleaning surfaces with soap or detergent and not disinfecting is enough to reduce the risk in most situations.
- School shall continue to follow regulations regarding cleaning and disinfecting.

- Cleaning and disinfection products should not be used by children or near children
- Desks that students eat at should be cleaned with soap and water. Students are allowed to clean their own desks with soap and water

5. Physical Distancing and Use of Cohorts

- Adults and adult staff within schools should maintain a distance of 6 feet from other adults as much as possible
- Teachers and staff should continue to maintain a distance of 6 feet from students. However, brief periods of close contact are permitted
- All students must be spaced a minimum of 3 ft apart to the extent possible
- When eating: PreK-6th grade must maintain 3ft of distance and 7th-12th graders 6ft of distance.
- All students may mix classes for educational purposes, as needed. Schools should ensure careful attendance records are kept.
- Libraries can be used like any other indoor space

6. Cases of COVID-19 in School

- Unvaccinated staff or students who have been identified as a close contact should quarantine
- Open outside doors and windows and use ventilating fans to increase air circulation in the area
- The decision to close schools or certain classrooms for inperson instruction will be made by the local Superintendent or head of school after consulting with the Department of Health
- Decisions to close for in-person instruction will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

IMMUNIZATION REMINDER:

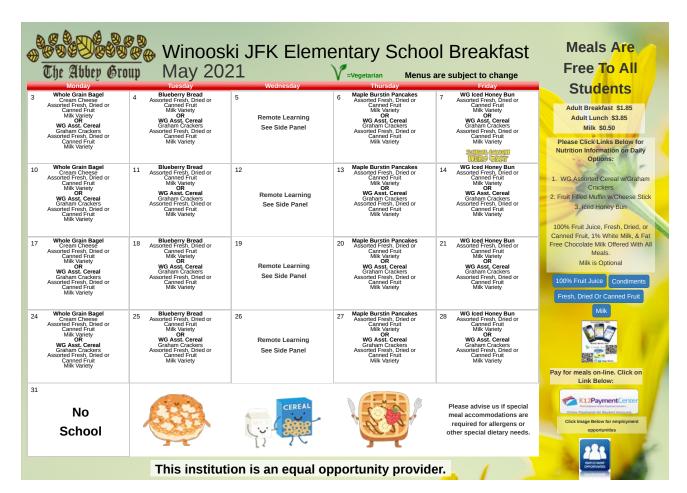
All students entering the 7th grade in the fall of 2021 will need to provide proof of two additionally required immunizations:

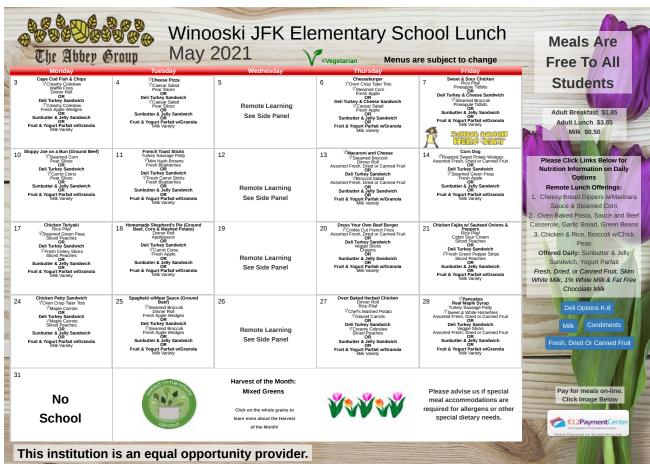
- Varicella 2
- Tdap booster

If your child has had these vaccines, please provide proof to the Health Office. Our hours are Monday through Friday 8am-3pm. Our fax number is 802.383.6017. If your child has not had these required immunizations, then please schedule an appointment with your child's primary care provider.

If your child was previously exempt from immunizations please make sure the Health Office has an up to date copy of exemption on file. The paperwork can be obtained from our office or by visiting *healthvermont.gov*

As always, please feel free to contact the health office at 802-383-6094 with questions!







Newsletter of the Winooski School District

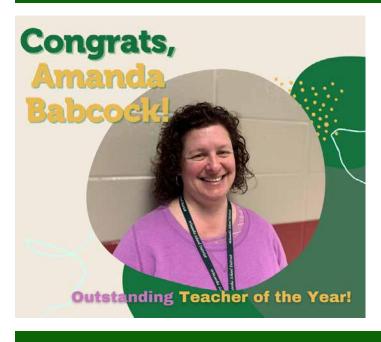
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Congratulations to Amanda Babcock and Matt Gile!





Winooski School District's Outstanding Teachers of the Year!